

GAME OF THRONES

THE REIGN OF DAVID

King At Last!

Key idea:

David is an example of the patient endurance of faith that is required to receive God's promises and fulfill our calling.

Key text:

2 Samuel 2:1-5:5 (2 Samuel 5:1-5)

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood. ² In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'" ³ When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴ David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. ⁵ In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

Key points:

1. The time when David is anointed as king over all Israel was the end of a very long process.
2. Even though David was an Israelite, had successfully led the people in battle, and had been chosen and anointed by the LORD to be king, it took years before the promise and call were fulfilled.
3. The time from when Samuel anointed David and declared him Yahweh's choice to be king and the fulfillment of this call took almost two decades, much of which seems to be full of difficulty and failure.
4. God used the time between promise and fulfillment to allow David to mature, increase in responsibility, grow in perseverance and character, and realize his need to seek God and trust in the Lord's power rather than His own.
5. God often accomplishes His work in stages rather than all at once

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. The time between David's anointing in 1 Samuel 16 and his anointing in 2 Samuel 5:1-5 is about two decades. Why is it important for us to understand this?
3. How difficult do you find it to live in the time between God's call and promise, and the time of fulfillment?
4. Why does God often take such a long time to fulfill His promises and call for us? What is He trying to accomplish in this interval?
5. Can you think of an example of a long period of waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled in your own life? How did you respond to the delay in fulfillment?
6. On Sunday Bret said: "There is no shortcut - growth in character requires persevering through suffering, difficulty, and disappointment." What do you think about this statement? What is your internal response to this idea?
7. Do times of difficulty and delay tend to make you press into God and seek Him more, or to discourage you and cause you to grow distant in your relationship with God? Can you think of examples of either (or both) of these responses?
8. David was anointed three times (1 Samuel 16; 2 Samuel 2:4; 2 Samuel 5:3). The first anointing gave the promise, the second a partial fulfillment, and the third the full fulfillment. How do you respond when God's promise seems to be only partially fulfilled? Does this make you want to press on for the full realization of the promise, or to settle for partial fulfillment?
9. On Sunday Bret said: "The delay in the fulfillment of God's calling is not a reason to despair; it is a season to prepare!" What do you think of this idea? How can you prepare now for callings that have not been completely fulfilled?

Preview of next week:

Title: A Powerful Kingdom

Text: 2 Samuel 5-10 (2 Samuel 8:1-15)