

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

## I. Intro - Will God's Call Be Fulfilled?

- A. December 1 is 25 years since I became an elder and teaching pastor at BRCC
- B. I had first heard God tell me this was my call over 12 years before!
- C. A long path, with many turns - I almost lost hope and gave up
- D. This is often true in the call of God in each of our lives
- E. Today: King At Last - and David's long path there!

## II. David the King of Israel

- A. The end result - David anointed as king of Israel  
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. <sup>4</sup> David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup> In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. 2 Samuel 5:3-5
  - 1. The elders of Israel come to David at Hebron
  - 2. They make a covenant before the LORD
  - 3. They anoint David as king over all Israel
  - 4. The key point - David is finally king over all Israel

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron....  
<sup>3</sup> When **all** the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron... <sup>5</sup> In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over **all** Israel and Judah thirty-three years. 2 Samuel 5:1, 3, 5

5. The kingdom is united and David is king

- B. David was now king and on his way to a long and successful time in fulfilling God's call, but that was the result of a long process. This is often how God's work is accomplished in our lives.

## III. David's Long Path to Kingship

- A. Three reasons for David to be king  
All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, **"We are your own flesh and blood."** <sup>2</sup> 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.'" 2 Samuel 5:1-2
  - 1. We are the same flesh and blood (v1)
    - a. David was a true Israelite - not a Philistine!
    - b. But this would be tested as Benjamite's and other tribes pulled away from Judah
  - 2. You led us into battle for years - and successfully! (v2)
    - a. David led them into battle and was successful
    - b. David had consistently defeated the Philistines - who eventually defeated and killed Saul  

The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with more success than the rest of Saul's officers, and his name became well known. 1 Samuel 18:30

### 3. You were chosen by the LORD

- a. This is recounted in 1 Samuel 16
- b. God had taken David the shepherd boy and told Samuel to anoint him as the next king
- c. This is really the most important of the reasons!

### B. A long path to kingship

1. All three of these reasons had been true for years!
2. Consider all that had passed since David's anointing
  - a. David had fought and defeated Goliath
  - b. David had led Israel's armies to many victories
  - c. David had spent years being persecuted and chased by Saul
  - d. After Saul's death David had been anointed king over Judah - but the rest of Israel still did not anoint him king  

In Hebron **he reigned over Judah seven years and six months**, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. 2 Samuel 5:5 (also see 2 Samuel 2:4)
  - e. The rest of Israel still followed Ish-bosheth and there was conflict between Judah and Israel (see 2 Samuel 2-4)
  - f. Even when Ish-bosheth is murdered it appears that Israel waited a few years before recognizing David as king
  - g. Entire process apparently took about two decades!
    1. Saul had been dead for over 5 years (possibly 7)
    2. It even appears likely that Saul's son Ish-bosheth had been dead for a few years!

### 3. Think how difficult it must have been for David to wait for God's call to be fulfilled!

### 4. The long years between God's promise and call for David must have been full of temptation to force the fulfillment, mixed with times of despair that the promise would never be fulfilled!

### C. Why did it take so long for God's call for David to be king to be fulfilled?

1. The time between the promise and fulfillment allowed time to mature so David could rule well  
An inheritance quickly gained at the beginning will not be blessed at the end. Proverbs 20:21
  - a. David was young, full of faith, and developing good character when he was called by God
  - b. But years of life and hardship allowed a far greater maturity and wisdom which are necessary for a good leader
2. The time between the promise and fulfillment allowed time for increasing levels of responsibility  
Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. Luke 16:10
  - a. David grew in responsibility as a shepherd
  - b. David killed Goliath in single combat
  - c. David served in Saul's court
  - d. David served as a leader over the army
  - e. Without this time of maturing, David would have been much less successful as a king.

3. The time between the promise and fulfillment allowed time for growth in perseverance and character

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:3–4

- a. There is no shortcut - growth in character requires persevering through suffering, difficulty, and disappointment.
  - b. True leadership requires character, so God in His mercy usually requires a significant time between the call and the fulfillment
4. The time between the promise and fulfillment allowed time for David to learn to seek God and trust in God's power rather than his own  
In the course of time, David inquired of the Lord. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked. The Lord said, "Go up." David asked, "Where shall I go?" "To Hebron," the Lord answered. 2 Samuel 2:1
    - a. Years of struggle and difficulty had taught David to not rely on his own wisdom and strength, but rather to seek God
    - b. Without significant periods of trial and difficulty we tend to overestimate our own abilities and fail to seek God for wisdom and strength.
  5. God often accomplishes His work in stages rather than all at once
    - a. David had been called to be king in 1 Samuel 16, and was first anointed as the future king then
    - b. After years of growth and refinement, David was anointed as king over Judah (2 Samuel 2:4)

- c. After several more years of testing and refinement, God's promise and call were finally fulfilled as David was anointed as king over all Israel (2 Samuel 5:3)

- D. The result: David was a man well prepared to be king  
All the people took note and were pleased; indeed, everything the king did pleased them. 2 Samuel 3:36

1. This is spoken about how David responded to the murder of Abner, but it meant to be read as a general statement
2. David's wisdom, character, and trust in God, refined by years of suffering and waiting, were evident to all
3. This is what paved the way for the fulfillment of God's call and promise in David's life

#### IV. Applying the Word

- A. Am I discouraged by the circumstances as I wait for God to fulfill His call and promise in my life?
  1. God has various callings for each of us - relationships, work, ministry, etc.
  2. Sometimes it seems as if these will never be fulfilled. It must have seemed that way to David!
  3. Example of my own calling - and years of waiting!
  4. Am I discouraged and doubting?
    - a. Are you discouraged by circumstances? God's call and promise will come to pass!
    - b. Does it seem God's plan for you has been sidetracked? Keep following Him, and He will finish the work!
  5. Am I using this time to prepare for God's call?

- a. The delay in the fulfillment of God's calling is not a reason to despair; it is a season to prepare!
- b. Am I letting this time be a season of growth?
- c. Am I letting this time cause me to seek God and trust Him more?

6. Don't give in to discouragement and despair - fix your eyes on Jesus, press into Him, cry out to Him, and trust Him to fulfill His work in you!

B. Am I discouraged regarding the state of our world?

- 1. Look around - it can be discouraging!
- 2. Does it seem like God's plan has been derailed?
- 3. Do the circumstances cause seeds of doubt to arise in your heart?
- 4. God will fulfill His Word!
  - a. The Gospel is actually spreading like wildfire around the world!
  - b. God is not slow in keeping His promise - His Word will be done!
- 5. This is not a time for despair - but a time to prepare!
  - a. Draw near to God daily in Word, prayer, fellowship
  - b. Let the Spirit form you into the character of Christ
  - c. Tell the Gospel to others and pray for them!
  - d. Gather with the Church to be renewed in faith and hope!

C. The Table of Hope

- 1. This Table is here to renew our hope!
- 2. This Table strengthens us to endure - until He comes!

### King At Last!

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

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Communion

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; character; endurance; hope; leadership; calling and work

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

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