

# SECOND SAMUEL

## Chapter 5

*David Anointed King of Israel*

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Behold, we are your bone and flesh. 2 In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.’” 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. 6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, “You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off”—thinking, “David cannot come in here.” 7 Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. 8 And David said on that day, “Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack ‘the lame and the blind,’ who are hated by David’s soul.” Therefore it is said, “The blind and the lame shall not come into the house.” 9 And David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built the city all around from the Millo inward. 10 And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him. 11 And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house. 12 And David knew that the LORD had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel. 13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 And these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ithar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

**5:1–24:25** Beginning with ch. 5 there are sections of 2 Samuel that have parallel passages in 1 Chronicles (they are listed at the sectional headings). In some instances these parallel accounts are nearly identical; in others there are variations. (CSB)

**5:1** *All the tribes of Israel.* Representatives of each tribe, including elders and armed soldiers (see 1Ch 12:23–40). (CSB)

*your own flesh and blood.* The representatives of the various tribes cite three reasons for recognizing David as their king. The first of these is the acknowledgment that David is an Israelite. Even though national unity had been destroyed in the civil strife following Saul’s death (2:8–3:1), this blood relationship had not been forgotten. (CSB)

They have the same forefather, Jacob. (TLSB)

**5:2** *it was you who led out and brought in Israel.* The second reason for recognizing David as king (see 1Sa 18:5, 13–14, 16, 30). (CSB)

*the LORD said to you.* The third and most important reason (see 1Sa 13:13–14; 16:1, 13; 23:17; 25:26–31). (CSB)

*You shall be shepherd.* Specific prophecy is not found in the preceding accounts, but it is consistent with other prophecies (cf Nu 27:16–17; 1Sm 13:14; 25:30; Ps 78:71). (TLSB)

**5:3** *the king made a covenant with them.* And the people obligated themselves before the Lord to carry out their mutual responsibilities. Thus, while David was king over Judah as the one elevated to that position by his tribe and later became king over Jerusalem by conquest (vv. 6–10), his rule over the northern tribes was by virtue of a treaty (covenant) of submission. That treaty was not renewed with David’s grandson Rehoboam because he refused to negotiate its terms at the time of his accession to the throne (1Ki 12:1–16). (CSB)

*before the LORD.* They called on God to witness this covenant. (TLSB)

*they anointed David king over Israel.* The third time David was anointed. (CSB)

Probably through the high priest, whose duty it was. Cf 2:4; 1Sm 16:13; 1Ch 12:38. (TLSB)

**5:5** *Jerusalem.* More central location for David’s new capital. (TLSB)

*Israel and Judah.* The specific relationship of David to these two segments of his realm appears to have remained distinct. (CSB)

**5:6** *Jerusalem.* One of the most significant accomplishments of David’s reign was the establishment of Jerusalem as his royal city and the nation’s capital (see Introduction: Contents and Theme). The site was first occupied in the third millennium B.C. and was a royal city in the time of Abraham (see note on Ge 14:18). It was located on the border between Judah and Benjamin but was controlled by neither tribe. At the time of the conquest both Judah and Benjamin had attacked the city (see notes on Jdg 1:8, 21), but it was quickly lost again to the Jebusites (Jos 15:63) and was sometimes referred to by the name Jebus (see Jdg 19:10; 1Ch 11:4). The city David conquered covered somewhat less than 11 acres and could have housed not many more than 3,500 inhabitants. By locating his royal city in a newly conquered town on the border between the two segments of his realm, David united the kingdom under his rule without seeming to subordinate one part to the other. (CSB)

*Jebusites.* A Canaanite people (Ge 10:15–16) inhabiting the area in (Jos 15:8; 18:16) and around (Nu 13:29; Jos 11:3) Jerusalem. (CSB)

*the blind and lame can ward you off.* Jerusalem was a natural fortress because of its location on a rise surrounded on three sides by deep valleys; so the Jebusites were confident that their walls could easily be defended. (CSB)

A taunt meaning anyone could defend their strong position. (TLSB)

**5:7** *stronghold.* Probably the fortified city itself. (CSB)

*Zion.* The first occurrence of the name in the OT (its meaning is unknown). Originally the name appears to have been given to the southernmost hill of the city on which the Jebusite fortress was located. As the city expanded (from the days of Solomon onward), the name continued to be applied to the entire city (see Isa 1:8; 2:3). (CSB)

Apparently the Jebusite name for the hill and walled settlement. By taking this city, David fulfilled God’s command and promise to drive out the Canaanites (cf Ex 23:23). (TLSB)

**5:8** David *said on that day*. 1Ch 11:6 may be combined with this verse for a more complete account. Joab's part in the conquest of the city demonstrated again his military prowess and reconfirmed him in the position of commander of David's armies. (CSB)

*water shaft*. Although the Hebrew for this term is obscure, it appears that David knew of a secret tunnel (now discovered)—perhaps running from the Gihon spring outside the city into the fortress—that gave access to water when the city was under siege (see 2Ch 32:30). (CSB)

Probably "Warren's Tunnel," a narrow opening cut through the rock to obtain water from the Gihon spring when the city was under siege. (TLSB)

*blind and the lame*. An ironic reference to the Jebusites (cf. v. 6). (CSB)

David mocks the Jebusites' boast of v 6. (TLSB)

*The 'blind and lame' shall not come into the house*. The proverb may mean that the Jebusites did not have access to the royal palace, though they were allowed to remain in the city and its environs. (CSB)

**5:9** *the stronghold*. Original walled Jebusite city. (TLSB)

*the city of David*. The Israelites often named cities after themselves. (TLSB)

*supporting terraces*. Stone terraces on the steep slopes of the hill, creating additional space for buildings. (CSB)

*Millo*. Lit, "an area that is filled in," i.e., a rampart or citadel. (TLSB)

**5:10** *greater and greater*. David enjoyed increasing political and military success. (TLSB)

*God of hosts*. The Lord, with armies of angels at His command, is all-powerful. (TLSB)

**5:11** *Hiram king of Tyre*. This Phoenician king was the first to accord the newly established King David international recognition. It was vital to him that he have good relations with the king of Israel since Israel dominated the inland trade routes to Tyre, and Tyre was dependent on Israelite agriculture for much of its food (also true in the first century A.D.; see Ac 12:20). A close relationship existed between these two realms until the Babylonian invasions. (CSB)

King Hiram's delegation, workers, and materials show that David's reputation was great. (TLSB)

*Tyre*. An important Phoenician seaport on the Mediterranean coast north of Israel (see Eze 26–27). (CSB)

**5:12** *David knew that the LORD had established him as king*. In the ideology of the ancient Near East the king's possession of a palace was the chief symbolic indication of his status. (CSB)

*for the sake of his people Israel*. David acknowledged that his elevation to kingship over all Israel was the Lord's doing and that it was an integral part of his continuing redemptive program for Israel—just as the ministries of Moses, Joshua, the judges and Samuel had been. (CSB)

David credited his success to the Lord. (TLSB)

**5:13** *David took more concubines and wives.* Probably to establish political relations with the Jebusites. Yet, the Lord’s command was that Israel’s kings were not to “acquire many wives” (Dt 17:17). (TLSB)

**5:14–16** *Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon.* Sons of David and Bathsheba. (TLSB)

**5:14** *Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon.* 1Ch 3:5 designates Bathsheba as their mother. (CSB)

**5:1–16** After defeating the Jebusites, David makes Jerusalem his capital over all Israel. The Lord causes this for the sake of His people. When success comes our way, let us not boast and demand recognition. Jesus, the Son of David, humbled Himself unto death, even death on a cross, for the sake of sinful people like us. • Lord, make me humble and give me Your blessings in Christ Jesus. Amen. (TLSB)

### *David Defeats the Philistines*

**17** When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. **18** Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. **19** And David inquired of the LORD, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?” And the LORD said to David, “Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.” **20** And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, “The LORD has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood.” Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim. [c] **21** And the Philistines left their idols there, and David and his men carried them away. **22** And the Philistines came up yet again and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. **23** And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, “You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees. **24** And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the LORD has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines.” **25** And David did as the LORD commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.

**5:17** *When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king.* Chronologically it is likely that the Philistine attack followed immediately after the events of v. 3 and before the capture of Jerusalem (vv. 6–14). The Philistines had not been disturbed by David’s reign over Judah, but now they acted to protect their interests in the north, much of which they dominated after the defeat of Saul (1Sa 31). (CSB)

When David was at Hebron, the Philistines considered him an ally because he was warring against King Saul. Now that he was king over all Israel, they changed their minds. (TLSB)

*stronghold.* Probably a reference to the desert area in southern Judah where David had hidden from Saul. This action of David suggests that he had not yet taken Jerusalem. (CSB)

Probably from the heights of Hebron to Jerusalem. (TLSB)

**5:18** *Valley of Rephaim.* Northwest of Jerusalem. (TLSB)

**5:19** *David inquired of the LORD.* Likely through the priest. (TLSB)

*up against.* The Philistines may have held high ground near the valley. (TLSB)

**5:20** *the LORD has burst ... Baal Perazim.* As a true theocratic king, David attributes the victory to the Lord and does not claim the glory for himself. (CSB)

Lit, “Lord of the breakthrough,” so named because David easily broke through the enemy lines. Located near the Valley of Rephaim. Called Mount Perazim in Is 28:21. (TLSB)

**5:21** *abandoned their idols there.* As the Israelites had taken the ark into battle, so the Philistines carried images of their deities into battle in the hope that this would ensure victory. (CSB)

*carried them away.* In compliance with the instruction of Dt 7:5, they also burned them (1Ch 14:12). (CSB)

To rid the land of idols (cf Nu 33:52) by burning them (1Ch 14:12). (TLSB)

**5:23** *he answered.* As had been true in the case of the conquest under Joshua, the Lord ordered the battle and he himself marched against the enemy with his heavenly host (see Jos 6:2–5; 8:1–2; 10:8, 14; 11:6). David’s wars were a continuation and completion of the wars fought by Joshua. (CSB)

**5:24** *sound of marching.* The heavenly host of the Lord going into battle. (CSB)

**5:25** *Geba to Gezer.* C 20 mi. (TLSB)

**5:17–25** The Philistines, disturbed that David is now king over all Israel, attack him twice and are defeated. David inquires of and relies on the Lord for victory. For our plans to have God’s blessing, we must call on Him and submit to the judgment of His Word. Yet when we are weak, the Lord Himself will fight for us, especially against sin, death, and the devil. • Lord Jesus, be my King and burst through all enemies that would separate me from You. Amen. (TLSB)