

1 Chronicles

Chapter 11

David Anointed King

Then all Israel gathered together to David at Hebron and said, “Behold, we are your bone and flesh. 2 In times past, even when Saul was king, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD your God said to you, ‘You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over my people Israel.’” 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel.

11:1–2Ch 9:31 Initial stages of David’s reign. At the end of the 7½-year struggle for the throne (which is telescoped in 1Ch), elders from the whole nation came to Hebron and “anointed David king over Israel.” The battle of Gilboa (1 Sm 31; 2Sm 1), is not mentioned in 1Ch. The Chronicler has David immediately proclaimed king by all Israel. Absent is any detrimental information about David’s character. The prophetic promise to David was fulfilled “according to the word of the LORD by Samuel” (11:3; cf vv 9–10; 12:18, 23). Throughout his rise, the people support him until, at the end, every tribe is united as one nation under one king. At the stronghold, David was supported by the northern tribe of Gad (12:8–15) and by the southern tribes of Benjamin and Judah (12:16–18). At Ziklag, he was supported by the southern tribe of Benjamin (12:1–7) and the northern tribe of Manasseh (12:19–21). At Hebron, his support broadened to include both Israelites and non-Israelites (11:10–47) and, from among the Israelites, contingents from every tribe (12:22–37). David’s reign at Hebron for 7½ years is reported in 2Sm 5:4–5. (TLSB)

11:1–3 The material here parallels that in 2Sa 5:1–3, but is recast by the Chronicler in accordance with his emphasis on the popular support given David by “all Israel” (v. 1). While the Chronicler twice mentions the seven-year reign at Hebron before the death of Ish-Bosheth and the covenant with the northern tribes (3:4; 29:27), these incidents are bypassed in the narrative portion of the book. Most striking is the elimination at this point of the information in 2Sa 5:4–5. Rather, the Chronicler paints a picture of immediate accession over “all Israel,” followed by the immediate conquest of Jerusalem (see Introduction: Portrait of David and Solomon). The author once again assumes the reader’s knowledge of the parallel account.(CSB)

11:1 *Hebron*. your bone and flesh. Members of his family are thereby inseparable. (TLSB)

11:2 *led ... shepherd*. People long recognized Saul’s lack of leadership and that the Lord had chosen David, though they do not explicitly use the title “king” here. (TLSB)

11:3 *before the LORD*. With His approval. (TLSB)

11:1–3 The Chronicler announces and celebrates David’s enthronement, overlooking David’s struggles. Critics may fault the Chronicler’s omission of the graphic details about David’s ascent. Yet all of us, like the Chronicler, tend to look back on the past with nostalgia and celebrate the good rather than the bad. In fact, the record of God’s blessings to David was what the Chronicler’s readers needed to remember most. When failures and trials would overwhelm us, the Lord focuses us on His mercy, which can carry us through. • Lord, I repent of my failures, though I cannot number them all or bear to dwell on them. Focus my heart, dear Lord, on Your great mercy. Amen. (TLSB)

David Takes Jerusalem

4 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, that is, Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land. **5** The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, “You will not come in here.” Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David. **6** David said, “Whoever strikes the Jebusites first shall be chief and commander.” And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, so he became chief. **7** And David lived in the stronghold; therefore it was called the city of David. **8** And he built the city all around from the Millo in complete circuit, and Joab repaired the rest of the city. **9** And David became greater and greater, for the LORD of hosts was with him.

11:4–8 Account of all Israel’s acceptance of David (vv 1–3) is followed by the story of the capture of Jerusalem. (TLSB)

11:4 *Jebus*. Cf 2Sm 5:6–10. Gr Naz: “[O] grand and renowned temple, our new inheritance, whose greatness is now due to the Word, which once was a Jebus, and has now been made by us a Jerusalem” (NPNF 2 7:394). (TLSB)

11:5 *stronghold of Zion*. Archaeologists have found a substantial stone wall at Zion. (TLSB)

11:6 Account is structured with several omissions from and additions to the 2Sm account. The Jebusites’ taunt that the blind and the lame could ward off David’s entrance to the city (2Sm 5:6) and then David’s subsequent order to attack “the lame and the blind” (2Sm 5:8) are left out. (TLSB)

Joab ... went up first. This detail prepares the reader for Joab’s later role as David’s commander and his role in rebuilding the city after the capture (v 8). (TLSB)

David's Mighty Men

10 Now these are the chiefs of David's mighty men, who gave him strong support in his kingdom, together with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel. **11** This is an account of David's mighty men: Jashobeam, a Hachmonite, was chief of the three. He wielded his spear against 300 whom he killed at one time. **12** And next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite. **13** He was with David at Paddammim when the Philistines were gathered there for battle. There was a plot of ground full of barley, and the men fled from the Philistines. **14** But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and killed the Philistines. And the LORD saved them by a great victory. **15** Three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David at the cave of Adullam, when the army of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. **16** David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem. **17** And David said longingly, “Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!” **18** Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and took it and brought it to David. But David would not drink it. He poured it out to the LORD **19** and said, “Far be it from me before my God that I should do this. Shall I drink the lifeblood of these men? For at the risk of their lives they brought it.” Therefore he would not drink it. These things did the three mighty men. **20** Now Abishai, the brother of Joab, was chief of the thirty. And he wielded his spear against 300 men and killed them and won a name beside the three. **21** He was the most renowned of the thirty and became their commander, but he did not attain to the three. **22** And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was a valiant man of Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds. He struck down two heroes of Moab. He also went down and struck down a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen. **23** And he struck down an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits tall. The Egyptian had in his hand a spear like a weaver's beam, but Benaiah went down to him with a staff and snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear. **24** These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and won a name beside the

three mighty men. 25 He was renowned among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. And David set him over his bodyguard. 26 The mighty men were Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem, 27 Shammoth of Harod, Helez the Pelonite, 28 Ira the son of Ikkesh of Tekoa, Abiezer of Anathoth, 29 Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite, 30 Maharai of Netophah, Heled the son of Baanah of Netophah, 31 Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the people of Benjamin, Benaiah of Pirathon, 32 Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite, 33 Azmaveth of Baharum, Eliahba the Shaalbonite, 34 Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shagee the Hararite, 35 Ahiam the son of Sachar the Hararite, Eliphai the son of Ur, 36 Hopher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite, 37 Hezro of Carmel, Naarai the son of Ezbai, 38 Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Hagri, 39 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai of Beeroth, the armor-bearer of Joab the son of Zeruah, 40 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite, 41 Uriah the Hittite, Zabad the son of Ahlai, 42 Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite, a leader of the Reubenites, and thirty with him, 43 Hanan the son of Maacah, and Joshaphat the Mithnite, 44 Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite, 45 Jediahel the son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, the Tizite, 46 Eliel the Mahavite, and Jeribai, and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite, 47 Eliel, and Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

11:10–47 Honor roll of David’s military men follows immediately upon the telling of his accession to the throne and acquisition of his capital, whereas in Samuel this roster appears as an appendix to the account of his reign (2Sm 23:8–39). This topical, rather than chronological, sequence determines the order in which events are reported. The muster rolls in ch 12 are also not found in 2Sm. (TLSB)

11:10–41a In the Samuel account this list of David’s mighty men is given near the end of his reign. The Chronicler has moved the list to the beginning of his reign and has greatly expanded it (11:41b–12:40), again as part of his emphasis on the broad support of “all Israel” for the kingship of David (v. 10). (CSB)

11:10 *mighty men*. These men distinguished themselves in David’s service not only at the time when all Israel made him king, but also before he was king and later in his reign. (TLSB)

11:11 *Hachmonite*. A clan or family name. 300. Or, 800 (2Sm 23:8); difference may have arisen through scribal inaccuracy. (TLSB)

killed at one time. Not necessarily a singular effort of Jashobeam, but the result of his leadership (cf 1Sm 18:7). (TLSB)

11:13 *barley*. Or, “lentils” (2Sm 23:11). A copyist could easily confuse the Hbr words because of their similar spelling. (TLSB)

11:14 *he ... his*. Shammah (2Sm 23:11–12) is the subject of the verbs here and the main hero of the exploit. (TLSB)

11:15–19 David recognizes that he is not worthy of such devotion and makes the water a drink offering to the Lord (see Ge 35:14; 2Ki 16:13; Jer 7:18; Hos 9:4). (CSB)

David’s noble character shows he is devoted to the Lord and to his people, thus the ideal king. (TLSB)

11:18 *poured it out to the LORD*. Greg: “[David] poured it out as a libation to the Lord” (NPNF 2 13:66). (TLSB)

11:19 *drink the lifeblood*. See note, Gn 9:4. Greg: “He, who to his guilt previously feared not that the blood of dying soldiers should be shed, afterwards considered that, were he to drink the water, he should have shed the blood of living soldiers” (NPNF 2 13:66). (TLSB)

11:20 *Abishai*. His feat and that of Benaiah (vv 22–25) are reported in 2Sm 23:18–23. (TLSB)

11:26–47 Roster of mighty men is more complete than the list in 2Sm 23:24–39, where 16 entries following Uriah's name (v 41) do not appear. (TLSB)