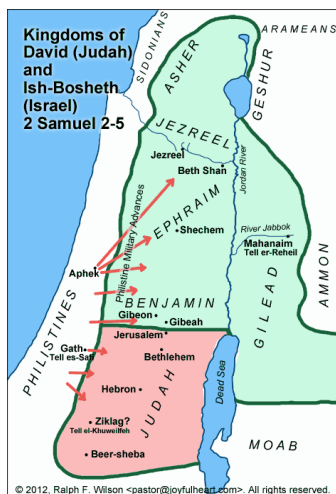


2:1 After this David inquired of the LORD, “Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?” And the LORD said to him, “Go up.” David said, “To which shall I go up?” And he said, “To Hebron.” 2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 3 And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron. 4 And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

We are about halfway through David’s life. He’s about thirty years old here.

he will live another forty or so years

Saul is dead, as is his son and David’s friend, Jonathan.



## Note – Philistines, Ziklag, Hebron, Mahanaim, Gibeon

Judah and Israel are two separate entities

past dozen years, David has lived the life of a fugitive.

Samuel anointed him as next king / Saul has tried to kill him, half a dozen times

David lived as a double agent among the Philistines.

problems even justifying some of things that David been doing.

He’s been on the edge as a double agent

Sometimes he’s crossed the edge perhaps

Everything has now changed

## **I. Kingdom of God Established**

David had learned things in adversity that perhaps he could never have learned in prosperity.

“For one man who can stand prosperity, there will be a hundred that will stand adversity.” Thomas Carlyle

David has been anointed king ever since he was a teenager.

He's thirty years of age.

Known for a dozen years that he's going to be king.

Only obstacle of him being king is Saul. Saul is dead.

But he goes to Lord. He asks the Lord, he inquires of the Lord

He wants God to tell him where he should go.

Hebron maybe even twenty miles southwest of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is nothing - isn't on the map yet

He didn't run ahead of God's providence.

**So many things are done prayerlessly, so many decisions, from trivial decisions to perhaps important decisions.**

probably consulted Abiathar the high priest.

He probably consulted those urim and thummim, those means of guidance for God's people under the Old Testament

Galatians 4, we've grown up now. We are sons in God's house.

He's given us His Word - the Bible to guide us and direct us.

**He has a plan for you and for me**

The kingdom of God comes to Hebron.

Hebron, it's the boonies - a nowhere little town – insignificant

Tiny little tribe of Judah, nothing in comparison to Philistines

“What is the size of David’s kingdom, God’s anointed king?”

It’s small. It’s insignificant. It’s tiny.

It’s nothing like Solomon’s kingdom.

It’s not even like David’s kingdom as we shall see it later

**HUGE POINT > FIRST Time Kingdom of God ON EARTH!!**

**GOD APPOINTED / ANNOINTED King**

“The kingdom of God,” Jesus says, “is like a mustard seed”

that grows and grows and grows and grows

Jesus - Son of David, God’s anointed King

two thousand million Christians in the world today, five hundred million evangelical, Bible-centered Christians in the world today

God plants His kingdom in Hebron, small backwards little town – beginning threats of the Philistines, but they shall not endure.

You plant a little church in the midst of Los Angeles or you plant a church in the midst of New York or you plant a church in Paris or you plant a church in London, you plant a church in communist China, and what does God do?

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed and it grows and grows and grows.

## **II. Kingdom of God Opposed**

But there’s a rival. verses 8 through 11

cousin Abner, cousin that is to Saul, the chief commander, military head-honcho in Saul’s army

Abner – Saul’s Protector – TAUNTED by David when Stole Spear & Water Jug

verse 11 to seven and a half years - this event final two years of that seven and a half year reign of David in Hebron.

took five and a half years for Abner to even begin to think about the future after the massacre of the Philistines.

Abner takes Saul's fourth son. 3 of his sons had died with him on Mount Gilboa.

fourth son, Ish-bosheth, he's forty years old, and he makes him king of Israel.

opposition to the rightful king. The rightful king is David. He is God's king.

He is God's anointed king, but there's a rival to God's king.

It's always the way. It's always the way.

Ish-bosheth has been set up as a puppet king in the north, in a place called Mahanaim.

David at Hebron, has been established formally as king over the southern kingdom of Judah.

Hebron – Kingship 2 Samuel 2.1-7

Ishbosheth – Installed 2.8-11

Abner's Fighting and Failure 2.12-32

(death of Asahel)

Abner's Power Grab and Failure 3.1-11

Abner's Negotiation and Failure 3.12-39

(death of Abner)

Ishbosheth – Eliminated 4.1-12

Hebron – Kingship 5.1-5

8 But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim, 9 and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel. 10 Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David. 11 And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six

months. 12 Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon. 13 And Joab the son of Zeruiah and the servants of David went out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. And they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool. 14 And Abner said to Joab, "Let the young men arise and compete before us." And Joab said, "Let them arise." 15 Then they arose and passed over by number, twelve for Benjamin and Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David. 16 And each caught his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side, so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called Helkath-hazzurim, which is at Gibeon. 17 And the battle was very fierce that day. And Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David. 18 And the three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Now Asahel was as swift of foot as a wild gazelle. 19 And Asahel pursued Abner, and as he went, he turned neither to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner. 20 Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Is it you, Asahel?" And he answered, "It is I." 21 Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and seize one of the young men and take his spoil." But Asahel would not turn aside from following him. 22 And Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I lift up my face to your brother Joab?" 23 But he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the butt of his spear, so that the spear came out at his back. And he fell there and died where he was. And all who came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died, stood still. 24 But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. And as the sun was going down they came to the hill of Ammah, which lies before Giah on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon. 25 And the people of Benjamin gathered themselves together behind Abner and became one group and took their stand on the top of a hill. 26 Then Abner called to Joab, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that the end will be bitter? How long will it be before you tell your people to turn from the pursuit of their brothers?" 27 And Joab said, "As God lives, if you had not spoken, surely the men would not have given up the pursuit of their brothers until the morning." 28 So Joab blew the trumpet, and all the men stopped and pursued Israel no more, nor did they fight anymore. 29 And Abner and his men went all that night through the Arabah. They crossed the Jordan, and marching the whole morning, they came to Mahanaim. 30 Joab returned from the pursuit of Abner. And when he had gathered all the people together, there were missing from David's servants nineteen men besides Asahel. 31 But the servants of David had struck down of Benjamin 360 of Abner's men. 32 And they took up Asahel and

buried him in the tomb of his father, which was at Bethlehem. And Joab and his men marched all night, and the day broke upon them at Hebron.

prolonged period of hostility.

In the final years of Ish-bosheth's reign in the north, while David is in Hebron,

Abner goes south. He goes south to Gibeon, twenty three miles or so from Hebron.

We're not told why.

perhaps attack David's stronghold in Hebron;

perhaps to get some of David's men to come over to Saul's side;

perhaps to establish a base, a stronghold, a military base near to Hebron.

David's nephew, Joab, leads David's men to confront them.

meet around a pool of water, one on one side, one on the other. It's a standoff.

Abner suggests a battle, a contest – twelve men from each side in a battle that would decide the victory. – David v. Goliath SUPER-SIZED!

All twenty-four are dead. Each one kills the other.

It solved nothing, and the battle, in fact, gets worse.

Ish-bosheth's men do badly, very badly, so that Abner begins to go home,

Pursued by these three brothers – Joab and Abishai and Asahel. NEPHEWS

Asahel is a tri-athlete. He's swift. He's like a gazelle. And he just won't quit!

Abner says, "I don't want to kill you, so go after one of the young men and kill him and plunder him," but Asahel continues.

Blunt end of his spear, he prods Asahel, Abner prods him in the stomach, perhaps in a self-defensive move designed perhaps simply to wind him.

Blunt end of the spear goes right through him and kills him and Asahel is dead.

Two brothers, Joab and Abishai, now continue to pursue after Abner and they meet at a certain point where the men of Benjamin have sided with Saul's side.

And there's a standoff.

Abner convinces Joab that there's nothing to be gained here, and in the cover of night, both sides retreat – Abner back up to the north and Joab and Abishai and his men back to Hebron.

360 Benjaminites of Saul's side are dead. Nineteen of Joab's men are dead, including his brother Asahel.

It's just one incident. We read in verse 1 of chapter 3, "There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David." That's just one incident in that long war, that period of hostility between the north and the south.

**SUCCESS of Abner – FOR A SEASON**

**More TERRITORY than David, MORE PEOPLE, MORE FAME**

**ABNER – Like BRIGHT METEOR shooting Across Sky of Promised Land**

**Steps of Rebellion**

1. **Set UP FALSE KING – Power Structure in Rebellion against True King**
2. **ENTICE 10 Tribes to FOLLOW in this Way of Rebellion**
3. **Nothing EXCITING about DAVID – Tiny Village of HEBRON**

**ABNER – Planning, Vision, Charisma, Effectiveness, Organization, Big Plans**

Righteous are you, O LORD, when I complain to you; yet I would plead my case before you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive?  
Jeremiah 12.1

**JESUS is KING NOW – Every Inch of Universe PURCHASED by BLOOD**

### **III. Kingdom of God Received**

WHY DID JOAB & ABISHAI go back to HEBRON?

ABNER & Troops were BEATEN – Far from BASE IN MAHAIHAM

David – Wise King – WILL UNITE ALL ISRAEL

But by CHOICE of the CITIZENS, NOT by COMPULSION

Wants to INVITED as KING – as HAPPENED IN HEBRON

Wants them to FEAR GOD – NOT to Fear DAVID

Story of David. This is the story of how God is going to fulfill His promise to send a Savior, Jesus.

Jesus comes from this story.

Everything that happens to David has something to do with Jesus, the Promised Seed of the woman, our Savior, our Redeemer, our Prophet, Priest, and King.

**The story of redemption isn't the story of enchanted woods and beautiful handsome princes and princesses and magic.**

Story of redemption – you know this is like reality, isn't it? This is reality.

God in His sovereign providence uses people like that. Out of messes like that, out of appalling messes like that, God fulfills His purpose.

If you were trying to write the story of redemption, it would be a fantasy tale. It would be about knights and shining armor and enchanted woods, and not about a story in which there's all this lurid, horrible mess.

“Where is God in our world today?” Where is God's promise?

It was right here. God using even the wicked to fulfill His purposes.

HEBRON David Anointed by PEOPLE / Acknowledging GOD'S ANOINTING

CROWN HIM LORD of ALL



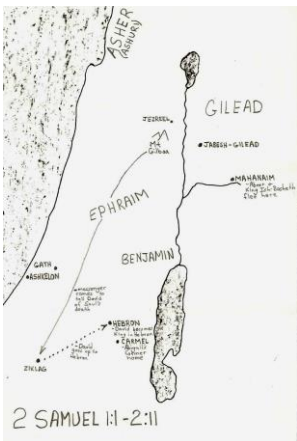
## David KINDLY Calls: POLITICAL, Spiritual, DIVINE Summons

v. 32 And Joab and his men marched all night, and the day broke upon them at Hebron.

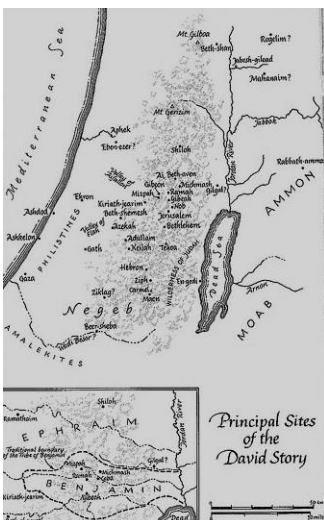
second half of verse 4 through to 7.

4 When they told David, “It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul,” 5 David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, “May you be blessed by the LORD, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him. 6 Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing. 7 Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.”

### MAP – East of JEZREEL



incident with the men of Jabesh-gilead.



end of 1 Samuel - Philistines had killed Saul and Jonathan and two others of his sons, they took their bodies and they hung their bodies on the walls of Beth-shan.

Saul had saved Jabesh-gilead way back in 1 Samuel chapter 11 from that hatchet man, Nahash the Ammonite, and they're returning the favor.

Twenty mile journey to recover the bodies of Saul and his three sons and bury them in Jabesh-gilead

David is thanking them for their bravery and for their courage.

6, "May the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you, and I will do good to you because you have done this thing. Now therefore-"

David's a politician - need the support of Israel - supporters of Saul

Invites these men of Jabesh-gilead to his side.

"Let your hands be strong and be valiant for Saul your lord is dead and the house of Judah has anointed me as king."

It's all very cordial. It's all very understandable.

What will the men of Jabesh-gilead do? Will they join the ranks of Judah and Hebron?

Hebron was a long way away from Jabesh-gilead. Actually we don't know what they did.

first words from Jesus' mouth are, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand. The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The rule of God has come and it's come through Jesus, God's King.

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and

lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”  
 Matthew 11.25-30

## SOVEREIGN – SAVIORS – SUMMONS – SENTENCING

Jesus says, “I build My church,” and He builds His church –

where does He build His church? In enemy occupied territory. He builds His church against, right up to the gates of hell. There’s always an enemy. There’s always opposition to the kingdom of God.

Genesis 3 - the seed of the serpent fighting and opposing the seed of the woman.

Daniel 2 kingdom of God is like little stone, but it grows and grows and fills the whole earth.

King will say, “Ask of Me, ask of Me, and I will give you the uttermost parts of the universe for your inheritance.”

Acts 1 “Lord, will you this day restore the kingdom to Israel?”

There are about as many things wrong with that question as there are words in the question, but the crucial thing is they understood one thing, that Jesus had come to establish His kingdom. He’d come to plant His kingdom.

**“Which kingdom do you belong to? Which king do you give your allegiance to?”**