

# BIBLE BRIEFING

## *“Régime Change”*

Second Samuel 5:1-10

### Introduction

David had been anointed the rightful king over Israel by the prophet Samuel some fifteen years earlier. He was hounded and hunted by King Saul. After the death of King Saul, David was received as king over Judah. For seven more years, the rest of the tribes of Israel did not receive him. He did go on, though, to become king over a united Israel. His forty-year reign is the subject of Second Samuel.

I'm fascinated by these stages or degrees of kingship. They can be correlated to our own experience with Jesus Christ:

1. When you become a Christian, Jesus is your rightful king.
2. Even though He is your rightful king, there are areas of your life where self and sin continue to rule – like Saul's rule over Israel.
3. Eventually, Jesus will be king over all. You will be fully sanctified, and you will be wonderfully glorified, when you are in His presence in Heaven

I want Jesus to be king over more-and-more of my life. This transition of David's – from king over some to king over all – can encourage us to enthrone Him more-and-more as we dethrone self and sin.

First you see a King Enthroned; then you see a Stronghold Dethroned.

### #1 A King is Enthroned (v1-5)

The other tribes recognized the pretend king, Ishbosheth, a son of Saul. Ishbosheth's murder is recorded in 2 Samuel chapter four - so now the tribes turn to David.

2 Samuel 5:1 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we *are* your bone and your flesh.

2 Samuel 5:2 Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.'"

If they knew all this, why did they wait to anoint David king? We do the same if God shows us an area of self or sin that He wants to deal with but we resist. We try other methods, for various reasons.

For example: A whole generation of Christians has grown up being told that spiritual disciplines alone are no match for modern syndromes and disorders.

2 Samuel 5:3 Therefore 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.

First Chronicles 12:23-40 describes the great assembly that gathered in Hebron to recognize David as king over all Israel. In addition to the elders of Israel, the passage describes the impressive army that came to Hebron, and numbers the ranks at over 340,000 men.

It was a joyous and memorable coronation. There should be something special about certain memorable occasions. Take a wedding, for example. Notwithstanding you might not be able to afford everything you'd like, you should go out of your way to commemorate that special day.

2 Samuel 5:4 David *was* thirty years old when he began to reign, *and* he reigned forty years.

2 Samuel 5:5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.

David spent at least 15 years in preparation for the throne of Israel. Think how long an athlete trains for an event that might last only minutes! Your service for God should be like that. Learn to enjoy your spiritual training.

A king was enthroned. He reigned over all the land.

Spiritually speaking: Jesus is Lord and King over your life. You may enjoy complete and total rest and victory over self and sin.

Practically speaking: You still discover strongholds that resist Him.

What should you do? **You should dethrone those strongholds!**

## #2 A Stronghold is Dethroned (v6-10)

It seems odd, but until this point in biblical history, the city of Jerusalem had never been conquered by the Jews. The city from which the king was to reign remained an enemy stronghold.

The conquest which had baffled the Israelites through their whole history became amazingly easy when David was their king.

It is a great word of encouragement to us. Whenever you identify some stronghold of self or sin, its conquest can become amazingly easy when Jesus is your king.

Our text describes the struggle to dethrone the stronghold.

2 Samuel 5:6 And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here."

Their enemies were emboldened by having for many years repelled any and all efforts to be overcome. They mocked David, declaring that the weakest among them could defeat the Jews. A **lame** man, or a **blind** man, could easily repel the Israelites.

Is there something you have been struggling with? Either recently... Or for many years? It mocks you, saying, "*What kind of a Christian are you, anyway?*" You seem lame, or blind, in dealing with it.

2 Samuel 5:7 Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).

It was just that simple. Doesn't it make sense that conquering strongholds with Jesus would be simple?

Let's take a look at exactly how Jerusalem was conquered:

2 Samuel 5:8 Now David said on that day, "Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the blind, *who are hated by David's soul*), *he shall be chief and captain.*" Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house."

Scholars take this literally to indicate that David's soldiers entered the city through a water shaft and, once inside, conquered from within.

Water shaft... Entered in... Conquered from within.

When you became a Christian, the Holy Spirit **entered** your heart. Jesus once described the Holy Spirit as living **water** gushing forth from within you. You **conquer** your strongholds from **within** by His indwelling and immeasurable power.

This stuff about **the lame and the blind** reminds me of a football coach who cuts out of the newspaper the trash talk of the opposing team, posts it in the locker room, and uses it to motivate his players to victory.

After their victory, it became a kind of saying around Israel. - Whenever anyone doubted their ability to conquer, they would say it to one another.

The Holy Spirit can 'cut' portions of the Word of God and 'post' them in our lives. The strongholds that seem most powerful, before whom we have previously been **lame** and **blind**, are instead revealed as powerless.

I'd like to read a quote from one of my favorite Christian authors, Dr. Alan Redpath. What he said would not be received very well in many of today's psychology-based churches. Here it is:

"I want to say to you in the name of the Lord Jesus that there is no habit that has gone so deep but the power of the blood of Jesus can go deeper, and there is no entrenchment of sin that has gone so far but the power of the risen Lord, by His

Holy Spirit, can go further. In our lives... the habits of years, which have baffled all our efforts and mocked all our struggles, the things which have brought us in shame and confession of failure time and time again to the Lord in contrition and repentance – their power is broken when He is upon the throne.”

Jesus often dealt with cases of longstanding illness or injury. Men and women who had been bound by infirmity and sin, who had been helpless and hopeless, were suddenly healed. When all natural and so-called professional remedies failed, Jesus succeeded.

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. You most likely struggle from sin and not a syndrome.

2 Samuel 5:9 Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward.

2 Samuel 5:10 So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

David enjoyed greatness. He also fell from the Lord. Those painful events are recorded in this book as well.

As king, David was enthroned; but areas of his life remained unconquered. He had a vulnerability for women. His sin of adultery with Bathsheeba led him to murder and almost cost him the kingdom. In many ways it ruined his children.

A king can be enthroned in our lives – King Jesus – but areas remain unconquered. Whatever your vulnerability, it will lead you to a kind of ruin... Unless you recognize it as **lame and blind** and conquer it by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God.

## Conclusion

The natural question to ask is, “How do I accomplish this?” We’d like a list of things to do – a method – for achieving success.

Perhaps it is why we fail. There is no method – not in that sense. The method is to believe that these areas are already conquered and then to walk by faith.

