

THE CROWNING OF DAVID AS KING OVER ALL ISRAEL: THE LORD PROVIDES A SHEPHERD, A LEADER 2 SAMUEL 05:01–05

Introduction

The image of a shepherd looking after his sheep is a strong picture of a leader looking after the people under his care. Any leader — no matter who he or she is — can be compared to a shepherd. A shepherd guides, protects and provides for his sheep. So it is with leaders: leaders are to give direction, make provision and protect the welfare of those under his care.

In the present passage, David became king over all Israel, conquered Jerusalem, and defeated the Philistines. But before any of this happened, David had to be appointed by God. For only those truly chosen and appointed by God are empowered by God to shepherd His people. So it was with David. As the person appointed by God, David had the right to become the ruler or shepherd over the entire nation. And this he did, just as the present passage shows. As the ruler of the nation, he was being given the duties of a shepherd, that of guiding, protecting and providing for the people. This is: *David Became King over All Israel, Conquered Jerusalem, and Defeated the Philistines: The LORD Provides a Shepherd*, 2 Samuel 5:1-25.

- I. David's anointing as king by all Israel: a type of Christ, the Shepherd and Ruler of God's people (vv. 1-5).
- II. David's conquest of Jerusalem and his decision to make the city the capital: a picture of the believer growing stronger and stronger (vv. 6-16).
- III. David's defeat of the Philistines: a lesson on prayer (vv. 17-25).

2 Samuel 05:01–05 David's Anointing as King by All Israel: A Type of Christ, the Shepherd and Ruler of God's People

David was anointed king by all Israel. When Saul was killed seven years earlier, the tribe of Judah had rallied behind David and crowned him king. But the tribes of northern Israel had rallied behind and crowned the son of Saul, Ish-bosheth. Now, since the death of the rival king Ish-bosheth and his commander Abner, the leaders of the northern tribes reached a unanimous agreement: to acknowledge David as their king and to make an appeal for him to reunite the nation under his leadership. To show their desire for a *united nation* and a *united monarchy*, they mobilized their armies and marched them to Hebron to make their appeal for David to become the king over all Israel. Over 300,000 troops were mobilized and marched to show their support for David (1 Chr 12:23-40). This scene is briefly but dramatically presented by Scripture:

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1. The leaders of the northern tribes approached David for one reason and one reason only: to make a strong appeal to him to become their ruler (vv. 1-2). A threefold appeal was made.
 - a. They — both Judah and the northern tribes — were all one family, tribes of one nation. If for no other reason than this, the monarchy and nation should be reunited. After all, they were David’s own flesh and bone, of the very same family as he, the family of Israel.
 - b. David was a proven military leader (v. 2). By far, he was the leading military strategist among the commanders of Israel. Indeed, during Saul’s reign, David had been the very commander who had led Israel on their military campaigns and been victorious over so many enemies. No doubt, this was the strongest reason for the northern tribes’ submitting to David’s rule. For this had been the primary reason why the elders had originally requested the prophet Samuel to appoint a king over them. In desperation, they had demanded a king to build a standing army that could protect and bring security to the nation (1 Sam 8:20).
 - c. Finally, the leaders acknowledged David as God’s choice, that he had been appointed to shepherd God’s people and to rule over them (v. 2). Note, this is the first time that the word “shepherd” is used to refer to a person or ruler in the Scripture. Although Moses, in facing death, had asked the LORD to raise up a man to replace him, a leader who would tend and care for Israel just as a shepherd would tend and care for his sheep (Num 27:15-17). A ruler’s duty is the same as that of a shepherd: to lead, protect and provide for God’s people just as a shepherd leads, protects and provides for his sheep.
 2. Accepting the appeal of the northern tribes, David was publicly crowned king of all Israel (vv. 3-5). When the leaders and troops of the northern tribes arrived at Hebron, David first made a covenant with their official representatives. Then in a public ceremony, no doubt before hundreds of thousands of troops, the tribal representatives installed David as king of all Israel. The Israelites now had a *united nation* and a *united monarchy*. Note that the service had been conducted “before the LORD.” It was both a religious and a political service.

David was thirty years old when he was crowned king, and he ruled for forty years. He reigned over the tribe of Judah for seven years and six months, and he reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel for thirty-three years (vv. 4-5).

Thought 1. By being appointed the shepherd and ruler over God’s people, David became a type of the LORD Jesus Christ. For Jesus Christ is the Ideal, the Supreme Shepherd and Ruler of God’s people.

- (1) Jesus Christ is the shepherd of God’s people. Just as a shepherd leads, protects and provides for his sheep, so Christ leads the people of God, making sure they

are nourished and protected and given the very best care possible. This is the clear declaration of God's Holy Word:

- (a) Jesus Christ feeds the sheep, the people of God, even if He has to gather them in His arms and carry them to the pasture.

Isa 40:11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

- (b) Jesus Christ guides the sheep to the pasture and away from the rough places and precipices of this life.

Psa 23:1-4 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- (c) Jesus Christ seeks and saves the sheep who become lost.

Mat 18:11-12 "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?"

Ezek 34:16 I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak..."

- (d) Jesus Christ protects the sheep. He even sacrifices His life for the sheep.

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Heb 13:20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep.

- (e) Jesus Christ restores the sheep who go astray and returns them to the sheepfold.

1 Pet 2:25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- (2) Jesus Christ is the Ruler over God's people. He is the Sovereign LORD and Majesty of the universe. It is He who looks after and takes care of His followers, working all things out for their good. As the Ruler, He guides, protects and provides for God's people.

John 3:31 "The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all."

Rom 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Rom 8:34-35, 37-39 *Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died more than that, who was raised to life is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love [compassion] of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Rom 14:9 *For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.*

1 Cor 8:6 *Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.*

Eph 1:19-20 *And his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.*

Phil 2:9 *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.*

Col 1:18 *And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

Isa 9:6-7 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. ■*