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2 Samuel 2

“Putting God on Display”

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After King Saul died, there was a power struggle between people who were loyal to Saul and those who were loyal to David, regarding whom should be crowned king. One group included Abner, the commander of Saul’s army, and Saul’s son, Ish-Bosheth. Joab, who was the commander of David’s army, led the other group. As far as God was concerned, the matter was settled approximately 15 years earlier when Samuel the prophet anointed David as God’s choice to replace Saul. As it turned out, Ishbosheth was made king over the northern part of Israel, and David was made king of the southern part (Judah). The capital city of Judah was Hebron. The divided kingdom of Israel would last about 7 ½ years. David was crowned king at age 30 and he ruled for 40 years, but the first 7 ½ years were spent ruling only over Judah.

Two things happened which changed things for the nation of Israel. First, Abner switched his allegiance to David. Second, Ishbosheth was killed by two of his advisors. After Ishbosheth died, most people were in favor of David, so he was crowned king over all of Israel. Immediately after David was made king, he did two important things, one of which we’ll study today: he established Jerusalem as the capital city. Pastor Gary will teach on the second thing he did next week!

David Established Jerusalem As The Capital City Of Israel

1. Jerusalem wasn’t just a plot of vacant land that David decided to build a capital city upon; it was a heavily fortified and occupied city.
2. The name of the city was Jebus,¹ and it was occupied by Canaanites, who were known as Jebusites.

¹ [Judges 19:10](#)

- a. The Hebrew word is Yebus, which means, to trample down or to tread underfoot.
3. The Jebusites were *very confident* about their defensive position, and they even taunted David about it by saying there was no way he would ever be able to conquer them!
 - a. **2 Samuel 5:6** - *"The king and his men marched to Jersusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, 'You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off.' They thought, 'David cannot get in here.'"*
4. Despite its seemingly impregnable appearance, Jerusalem had one weakness, and that was that its water source - the Gihon Spring - was located outside the city walls.
 - a. The spring was accessed from inside the city by a long shaft that had been carved into solid bedrock.
 - b. Joab accepted the challenge and climbed up the water shaft to enter the city and that's how they were able to gain the access needed to conquer Jerusalem.
 - c. **1 Chronicles 11:6** - *"David had said, 'Whoever leads the attack on the Jebusites will become the commander-in-chief,' Joab son of Zeruiah went up first, and so he received the command."*
5. There were more suitable sites for the new capital of Israel, so why did David select Jerusalem?
 - a. If you were to put yourself in David's place, you might logically conclude that it would be best to select a place along a major trade route, or by an ocean, sea, river or lake.
 - b. It seems to make sense that the best place would have been on the Mediterranean Sea, because even the Romans, when Israel was part of the Roman Empire, made Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast its capital city.
 - c. Jerusalem was located on a hill that had some natural fortification value because of its elevation, but there was more to it than that.
6. David picked Jerusalem because of the connection to their spiritual heritage, because it was at this place, about 1,000 years earlier that Abraham was told by God to, as a test of his faith, offer his son Isaac, as a sacrifice.
7. **Genesis 22:1-2** - *"Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' 'Here I am,' he replied. Then God said, 'Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.'"*

8. [Genesis 22:14](#) - *“So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.’ ”*
 - a. The NIV 1984 translation uses the word, provided, but the better translation is the King James Version, which says: *“And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.”*
 - b. The Hebrew word used is ra’ah, which means, “to see, to gaze, or to stare intently.”
 - c. However, it is true that this is a covenant name of God, and it can mean provide.
 - d. Early manuscripts of the Greek Septuagint, a translation of the Hebrew Scriptures written 200 years before Christ, translates the end of this verse as: *“The Lord was seen.”*
 - e. Unfortunately, this verse has been “westernized” and is used to indicate a wealth and prosperity “gospel” when the word “*provided*” is emphasized.
 - f. That being said, it should be clearly understood that everything we have comes from the Lord, because he is the source for everything and he is our provider.
 - g. The greater context of this verse goes beyond the concept of the Lord providing Abraham’s needs.
 - h. What the Lord is really saying is that the Lord is the one who would provide himself, which is why Abraham named this place Yahweh Yireh, not because it was the place where he got something, but it was the place where God provided something.
 - i. In other words, the Bible tells us that it was at this place that the Lord was on display.
9. This is how David understood the meaning of what took place in [Genesis 22:14](#).
10. David knew this was the historical place where God chose to display himself, and his desire was to put God on display!
11. David wanted the nation of Israel, and every other nation for that matter, to see God on display.
12. David’s decision was spiritual in nature, because he intended to take the Jebusite city, because it was the place where Abraham nearly sacrificed Isaac, when God came and displayed himself.
13. Approximately 1,000 years after David, Jesus Christ would be crucified at this very same place, Mount Moriah, and that was the ultimate Jehovah-Jireh, because God displayed himself and provided himself for the whole world.

14. The true meaning of Jehovah-Jireh is understood better when you recognize that God put himself on display when God, in the person of Jesus Christ, when he died on the cross for us.
15. Like David, we need to make it our ambition to always put God on display!
16. As followers of Jesus, this is our mandate as well: to put God on display.
17. St. Francis of Assisi is believed to have said, in one form or another: “Wherever you go, preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words.”
18. **1 Peter 2:9-10** - *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare [KJV - that you may show forth] the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*
 - a. Peter is saying, that our lives should be such that because God has called us and rescued us out of darkness we should always “show forth” and put on display the goodness of God, wherever we go and whatever we do.
19. **1 Peter 2:12** - *“Live such good lives among the pagans [unbelievers] that, though they may accuse you of doing wrong, they may **see** your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”* (Emphasis added)
20. We are to display him in the bad times (poverty, etc.), in the good times (prosperity, etc.), and at all times!
 - a. **John 9:1-3** - *“As Jesus went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.’ ”*
 - b. The disciples seem to have accepted the false teaching of the so-called law of retribution.
21. **2 Corinthians 4:7-10** - *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.”*
22. **2 Corinthians 5:20a** - *“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”*

- a. If you are an ambassador representing a country, you are supposed to properly represent the country, government, and its leader, to others.
 - b. The application for us is that we are to properly represent Jesus wherever we go, whatever we do, and whatever we say.
23. **Hebrews 12:2-3** - *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*
24. **Matthew 5:14-16** - *“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read **2 Samuel 2:8-11, 5:1-10** to provide an overview for this study.
3. Read and discuss **Genesis 22:14**.
 - a. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences concerning messages they’ve heard that emphasize God providing, in the sense of personal blessing, etc.
 - b. How does Pastor Gary’s teaching about the proper understanding of this Scripture change your thinking about the Lord’s provision in your life?
4. Read and discuss **1 Peter 2:9-10, 2:12**, and discuss **2 Corinthians 4:7-10**.
 - a. Share examples of the ways the Holy Spirit has helped you “*show forth*” the goodness of God?
5. Spend time talking about the ways we can be the right kind of ambassador for Christ. (See #22 - #24 above)
6. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: ask for the Spirit’s help to be the right kind of ambassador for Jesus Christ, because it is challenging to be mindful of the things they do and say, where they go and who their friends are; ask for the Spirit’s help to guard their speech and behavior, so

that in any place and any set of circumstances they will “*show forth*” the glory of God and put him on display.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).