

## KING AT LAST

### 2 Samuel 4 and 5

#### Story: "Priming the Pump"

## WAITING

### ➤ Anointed as King...

- when he was a lad
- by Samuel
- lots of promises and potential
- calling/dreams/ambitions/plans/passions/hopes
- given by God
- BUT...

### ➤ A long time coming...

- back to being a shepherd
- serving Saul
- on the run in the desert
- not getting any younger
- King of just Judah 7 years 6 months
- Ishbosheth (Saul's surviving son) king of rest of Israel (weak, puppet of General Abner)
- Civil war
- Assassinations...
- King of the whole kingdom...at last! Reigned for 33 years
- Did he ever despair/think he'd got it wrong/think of giving up?
- Did he ever get frustrated by God's timing?
- "One pump short of diesel"
- And us?

### ➤ Six important lessons

How do we wait? Does the waiting change and prepare us? What sort of people do we become?

## PROMISES

### ➤ Faithfulness

- David kept his promises
  - to Saul **1 Samuel 24: 21**
  - to Jonathan **1 Samuel 20: 12-15**
  - Mephibosheth...**2 Samuel 9: 1-13**
- God kept his promises
- When God puts something in our hearts, the path isn't always easy
- Don't be fooled by the biographies of triumph...
- BUT God's promises can be relied on. **Philippians 1: 6**

*And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

### ➤ **Presumption**

- twice David had Saul's life in his hands, and chose to spare it
- respect for Saul as "the Lord's anointed"
- those who tried to speed up the process, who presumed they could do God's work and hurry his will and timing.
- the Amalekite who killed Saul-executed
- Recab and Baanah, who assassinated Ishbosheth-executed
- Joab, who killed Abner -looked as if he got away with his scheming, but executed after joining Adonijah's revolt **1 Kings 2: 31-34**
- However tempting...don't try to hurry along/manipulate God's work...the results are disastrous.

### ➤ **Completion**

- the failure to conquer the whole land after the Exodus
- Hebron...the first piece of the land owned by Abraham (burial place for Sarah)
- the conquest of Jerusalem...strategically a good capital, at centre of united kingdom
- finishing off the uncompleted work of the conquest
- David's relationship with God is key in the fulfilment of God's promises to the Patriarchs that the nation would have LAND, BLESSING and GROWTH

## **CHARACTER**

### ➤ **Weakness**

- a weakness for the ladies
- seeds of future failure, sin and trouble
- Bathsheba/rebellious, competing sons
- our weakness and sin can spoil God's plan in our life (although God always finds another way to get the job done and is incredibly gracious with us)

### ➤ **Attack**

- the Philistines "let's get him"
- trouble and persecution often follow hard on the heels of the fulfilment of God's promises
- The enemy wants to spoil things, to weaken our faith, to cause us to doubt
- In this instance, the Philistines overplayed their hand, and were subdued
- **Ephesians 6: 10-13**

## ➤ Dependence

- Listening for the voice of God
- God's guidance...
- David: asked what to do; followed the instructions carefully; gave God the credit.
- If we're going to become all God wants us to be we need to do things God's way, in God's time and for God's glory.
- That's what I learn from David's life up to this point...and I learn a lot about myself along the way, and about a gracious God who has invested so much in my becoming the sort of person he wants me to be.