



Lesson 79

David Becomes King of Judah

Story Elements

- **Text:** 2 Samuel 2:1-39
- **Setting:** approx. 1020 B.C.
- **Main Characters:** God, David, Abner, Joab, and Asahel
- **Plot:** David becomes king of Judah; Israel leans precariously towards a divided kingdom.
- **Key word(s):** “ _____ ” (vv 21, 23)
- **Climax:** *2 Samuel 2:22 And Abner said again to Asahel, Turn thee aside from following me: wherefore should I smite thee to the ground? how then should I hold up my face to Joab thy brother?*

A King in Judah (2 Sam. 2:1-7)

1. David’s need to avoid Saul prevented him from living in Judah. With Saul out of the picture, David was at liberty to set up base camp in _____. David did this according to the direction of the LORD (v 1).
2. Upon hearing of the brave and patriotic deed of the Jabesh-gileadites, David honored them and pledged kingly _____ towards Jabesh-gilead.

A King in Israel (2 Sam. 2:8-11)

3. Meanwhile, Abner, the commander of Saul's army, took _____, Saul's only surviving son, and made him king over Israel (minus Judah).
4. Several years passed between the death of Saul and the coronation of Ish-bosheth. This would account for the 7 ½ years of rule for David, compared to Ish-bosheth's _____ years.

A Brother in Danger (2 Sam. 2:12-39)

5. The army of David (led by Joab) and the army of Ish-bosheth (led by Abner) met at the pool of _____ for a showdown.
6. By saying “Let the young men now arise, and play before us,” Abner was suggesting the battle be decided by a _____ contest between chosen warriors.
 - a. Can you think of another example in the Bible where champions were chosen to decide a battle's outcome? _____
 - b. In the battle at Gibeon, all _____ champions perished, so no winner was decided. A fierce battle ensued where David's men overwhelmed Ish-bosheth's army. (v 17)
7. Joab's brothers, Abishai and Asahel, fought alongside him.

- a. Asahel was especially known for his athletic _____. (v 18) Determined to slay the opposing army's commander, Asahel doggedly pursued Abner.
 - b. However, Asahel was not nearly accomplished in combat prowess as he was in speed – he was easily struck down by Abner's _____.
8. From a safe vantage, Abner pleaded for the hostilities to end to avoid a _____ (v 26). It seems that at this point, Joab had not heard that his brother had died at Abner's hands.
9. By the end of the battle, David's men had defeated Ish-bosheth's army with a casualty ratio of _____.

Application

10. David was God's choice for his people; Ish-bosheth was _____ choice. When men rebel against God's anointed, their efforts end in folly and destruction. This is true in our individual choices as well as the whole scope of human history. The Messiah rules and reigns forever.

Psalm 2:1–4

- 1 Why do the heathen rage, And the people imagine a vain thing?*
- 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,*
- 3 Let us break their bands asunder, And cast away their cords from us.*
- 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: The Lord shall have them in derision.*

11. What does David's treatment of the men of Jabesh-gilead show us about his sincerity?

Answer Key

• Key Word(s): turn aside • 1. Hebron • 2. benevolence • 3. Ish-bosheth • 4. two • 5. Gibeon • 6. gladiatorial; a) David and Goliath; b) twenty-four • 7. a) speed; b) spear • 8. civil war • 9. 1:18 • 10. Abner's • 11. It proves that he did not respect the anointed king out of fear of convenience. David continued to honor Saul even after his death