

## Background of where things are at in 2 Samuel 3...



	House of David	House of Saul
Area of reign	Judah	Isreal
King	David	Ishbosheth
Commander of the army	Joab	Abner

### Monday (Read 2 Samuel 3: 1- 11)

David kept his peace, waiting for the hand of God, and for his true and faithful promises; He did not seek to submit the rest of the tribes under his reign, nor to oppose the new king. Ishbosheth on the other hand, started war, persuaded by Abner, who was keen on keeping the kingdom in Saul's house, although he knew that God vowed to give it to David.

There was a long war between the house of Saul and that of David, who persisted on his position of not opposing the king, and of doing anything wrong to the house of Saul. During that war that lasted about two years, David learned patience and waiting, with faith and confidence, for the realisation of God's promises: "David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker". When times get tough in our lives- do we have patience and faith knowing that God knows what is best and will deliver us in His perfect time???



### Tuesday (Read 2 Samuel 3: 12-21)

Ishbosheth kept silent and did not utter a word before the threats of Abner, because he got the throne from his hand, and not from God's hand. Abner sends messengers to David- and promises to bring all the tribes on to David, if the later would have him in his service, and forgive every thing he did. David accepted that proposition, but on the condition that Saul's daughter 'Michal', to be his wife.... Why the condition???

He wanted to make it clear that he was still faithful to his wife Michal, whom he loved; and that was for him of more priority than receiving the throne; If he was not faithful to his wife, how then could he be faithful to all those people. Michal loved him and saved his life from the hand of her father (1 Samuel 19: 11, etc.); and now, he is proclaiming his love to her as his wife, even on the expense of recovering his throne.

#### Did you know...

Grief was a much more public emotion in ancient times than it is today. People demonstrated their feelings of loss and sadness by tearing their clothes putting ashes or dust in their hair and wearing really uncomfortable clothes called sackcloth. These outward signs were used both for mourning a death and for repenting of sin, and they were often continued for several days (2 Samuel 3:31)

### Wednesday (Read 2 Samuel 3: 22-39)

Joab came back with his men from war; and when he heard of what happened between David and Abner, he got mad; as he probably feared that Abner may replace him as the commander of the army. He rebuked David, claiming that Abner is a spy who intends to deceive the king. Joab, behind David's back, sent messengers to Abner, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him privately, and there, stabbed him in the stomach, so that he died for the blood of Asahel his brother; and for fear that he may replace him as a the commander of David's army.

David officially confirmed his position by following Abner's coffin, and by commanding the people to tear their clothes, to gird themselves with sackcloth, and to mourn for Abner. He also personally proclaimed his innocence of that crime, by lifting up his voice and weeping at Abner's grave, and by fasting the whole day. His grief was shared by the whole people. David disregarded that Abner has been his enemy, and only remembered him as a great leader, whom he could have used to fight against the heathens.

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## Thursday (Read 2 Samuel 4: 1-12)

By killing Abner by the hand of Joab, the kingdom of Saul came to an end, as Ishbosheth was not a real king. Having to leave the kingdom with only one heir: 'Mephibosheth' the son of Jonathan; who was lame in his feet, thus incapable of taking the throne.

David confirmed to the two wicked traitors, that he is in no need of their help, as he is leaning only upon the Lord, "Who has redeemed his life from all adversity" ( 2 Samuel 4: 8). He was against the killings of Saul and Abner. So he gave the command to execute them, to let everyone know that David does not reign through shedding innocent blood.

That behaviour pleased God who chose him a king; as well as the Benjamites, when they realised that David did not harbor any bitterness toward Saul's household, but only love and loyalty.

## Friday (Read 2 Samuel 5: 1-16)

David had to wait about 15 years from the time he was first anointed by Samuel to the time he became king over Judah. It was another seven years before David was anointed king over all Israel. This means David waited over 20 years of his life to be made king. David's life during the days teaches us a great deal about "**waiting on the Lord**".

This city was now in the hands of the Jebusites; but how they got possession of it is not known, probably they took it during the wars between Ish-bosheth and David. After Joshua's death, what is called the lower city was taken by the Israelites; and it is evident that the whole city was in their possession in the time of Saul, for David brought the head of Goliath thither, 1 Samuel 17:54. It appears to have been a very strong fortress, and, from what follows, deemed secure by the Jebusites. It was right that the Israelites should repossess it; and David very properly began his reign over the whole country by the siege of this city. `



## Saturday (Read 2 Samuel 5: 17-25)

Hearing that David was now the king of Israel, the Philistines decided to attack. David prayed and asked the Lord if he should fight them. The Lord said yes and David was victorious.

The Philistines came again to attack. Same place, same plan of action. David prayed again. He inquired of the Lord to see what they should do.

Is this something we do? Too often, we have sought the Lord in a new thing. "Lord, how should we respond to this difficulty?" Or, "What would you have us do regarding this matter?" And the Lord has always been faithful to direct us in the right way. However, the next time the same situation rolls around, do we say, "got this covered. God told me what to do before." This can be a big mistake we frequently make. Just because God told you to attack from the front last time doesn't mean that the same applies for this time. Maybe this time He wants you to circle around and attack from the rear. We should always pray to God when ever a problem arises and not take matters into our own hands- just like King David.

## Waiting on the Lord

The delay in David becoming Israel's king is not unusual, but it is typical of the way God brings about His promises and purposes. God is not in a hurry. Throughout the Bible we find God promising things men must wait to receive:

- God promised Abram and Sarai a child, but they had to wait 25 years to get him.
- God made Jacob wait 14 years to get the wife he wanted.
- Joseph had to wait a considerable time to see his father and family.
- The Israelites had to wait 430 years in Egypt, before returning to the promised land.
- For 2,000 years, saints have been waiting for the Lord's return and the coming of His Kingdom.

Waiting is a part of the divine design of things. Waiting is no accident, it is purposed.

Have you ever noticed how many of the Psalms are written during times of waiting? The question, "How long. . .?" is found fairly frequently in the psalms, as is, "wait on the Lord." David is often the author of such "waiting" psalms. Waiting on the Lord is good for us. It helps us to develop patience and endurance. It calls upon us to exercise faith in God's promises and to act on the basis of what God has said, rather than upon what we see. Never lose hope!