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LESSON NINE: TRANSITION FROM SAUL TO DAVID

Reading: 2 Samuel 1-4

Highlights:

2 Samuel 1 – David receives the news of the Death of Saul and his sons, executes the Amalekite who claimed to have killed Saul. David’s tribute to Saul and Jonathan.

2 Samuel 2 – David moves to Hebron, is anointed King of Judah. David recognizes the men who rescued Saul’s boday. Ishbosheth, son of Saul, made king in Israel. Battle between David’s men (tribe of Judah, led by Joab) and Ishbosheth’s men (led by Abner), Abner kills Asahel (Brother of Joab). Truce established between Abner and Joab.

2 Samuel 3 – Abner makes peace with David. Joab kills Abner. David curses the house of Joab, mourns the death of Abner.

2 Samuel 4 – Ishbosheth is killed. David executes his killers.

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Questions:

What was the motivation of the Amalekite who claimed to kill Saul?

How does David reward the Amalekite who claimed to have killed Saul?

What are your impressions of the “Song of the Bow” (2 Samuel 1:19-27), the song David wrote for Saul and Jonathan?

What do you think about David’s question in 2:1? What is he asking? What does this show about David?

How many sons did David have according to 3:2-5?

What dispute did Abner have with Ishbosheth that led him to defect to David?

Why did Joab kill Abner?

What does it show about David that he mourns the death of Abner (end of chapter 3).

Who was Mephibosheth?

As this lesson closes, what notables of the house of Saul have been killed?

What are some of the prominent characteristics of David that you see during this transition of power?

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Worth Considering:

2 Samuel 2:26 Then Abner called to Joab and said, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that it will be bitter in the latter end? How long will it be then until you tell the people to return from pursuing their brethren?"

2 Samuel 3:38 Then the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? 39 "And I am weak today, though anointed king; and these men, the sons of Zeruiah, are too harsh for me. The LORD shall repay the evildoer according to his wickedness."

2 Samuel 4:8 And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to David at Hebron, and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life; and the LORD has avenged my lord the king this day of Saul and his descendants."