

April 7

2 Samuel 5, 6; 2 Samuel 22

Hey there and welcome back to our April 7<sup>th</sup> Accelerator. I am Lisa Ashton and today as we walk through the Bible we will be covering II Samuel 5, 6, and II Samuel 22.

Today we are going to spend a majority of our time talking about the taking of Jerusalem.

II Sam 5 begins with one of David's banner days - the day that he captured the city of Jerusalem from the Jebusites and made it his capital city. The taking of Jerusalem was of immense importance to David, politically, militarily and spiritually. Politically and militarily, this was the one thing necessary to consolidate David's power and unite his kingdom. Spiritually, it may have been the single most important thing he did during his entire reign because of the unparalleled importance of this city. There is no other city in the world of the Bible (not even Rome) that even comes close to rivaling Jerusalem in terms of its importance.

From the political point of view, it was apparent very quickly that David needed a capital that would bring a country that had been torn apart by civil war back together. Judah, and the rest of the tribes were badly divided. If David had kept his capital at Hebron, then the very real perception would have been that Judah had won the civil war and annexed the other eleven tribes to the Kingdom of Judah.

If David had moved his capital over to Ish-Bosheth's city on the other side of the Jordan, he would have been establishing a capital that was really outside of the promised land itself, and it would have undermined the loyalty and accomplishments of the men of Judah who had accepted him as their king when no one else would have him. But, could a neutral site be found? If a neutral site could be found, then everyone might be happy and the kingdom could have a fresh start.

Jerusalem, a city of undeniable importance, had been conquered briefly by the tribes during the period of occupation that had followed the days of Joshua, but it had been lost back to the Jebusites shortly thereafter. It stood atop a hill. It seemed to be nearly impregnable. It's inhabitants taunted David saying "the blind and the lame" could defend its walls. They said he could never capture their city! Jerusalem would make a great choice for a new capital!

Militarily it made a great deal of sense as well, because as long as there was an enemy fortress right in the middle of the country, dominating the ridge that separated Judah from the rest of the tribes, it would be difficult to expand the boundaries of the kingdom in other directions. The army of the king would always have to keep one eye on the threat within. Jerusalem was a perfect choice for David's capital.

Spiritually, it seems clear that from the very beginning, it was God's intention that Jerusalem should be the capital. When we read the book of Genesis together right at

the very beginning of our journey through the Word of God, there were two strong indicators that this would be the case. They were both found in the story of Abraham where nearly the whole of God's covenantal plan for his people is so strongly rooted. First, there was that encounter with the mysterious Melchizedek, the priest-king of Salem. At the very least, Melchizedek was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Hebrews firmly establishes that. At the most, there is speculation that Melchizedek, the king of Salem, which would later be called Jerusalem, was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself in a pre-incarnate appearance as the king of the city. This city being the one which would later become the focal point of His own righteous rule and reign.

The second hint that Jerusalem was already, in the days of Abraham, the city upon which the special benediction of God was going to rest, is found in the equally perplexing account of God calling Abraham to sacrifice his only son Issac on Mount Moriah. It was found in Genesis 22 and, as you will remember from our investigations then, Mount Moriah is almost certainly located in, or very near, the site of present day Jerusalem. It is thought by many that Mt. Moriah and Golgotha are one and the same. But again, I will say this is speculation as well.

God wanted Abraham to understand something of what He planned to do in order to redeem a fallen race of men. And he took him to the same place to carry out his "simulated session" that would one day be the site of the "real" transaction. It was at Jerusalem.

For political, military and spiritual reasons then, Jerusalem was an important place. David captured it and made it his capital. The account in Chronicles makes it clear that Joab was the leader of the group of men who come up through the water shaft and took the city.

Well I think we have talked enough about the city of Jerusalem let's move on to a section of your reading that perhaps was disturbing to you. In II Sam 22 (also from Psalm 18) we read some incredible expressions of David: "The Lord has dealt with me according to my righteousness...I have been blameless before him and kept myself from sin. The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness." I don't know about you but reading those words caused me to pause. How could he say that? Clearly from all we have read about David he has not acted blameless. Now of course, if David is thinking of one particular incident or event, then it may be possible to look back on that one moment in time and say. 'I honored the Lord there and He blessed me for it.' But maybe something else is happening here. It could be that in a moment of inspiration, David, under the power of the Holy Spirit, may be speaking not about or for himself, but for the Messiah -- the coming Son of David who will be able to use those words without any reservation whatsoever. They do "fit" Jesus. It is probably because of this passage that this Psalm has often been viewed as a Messianic Psalm -- a Psalm that points to Christ -- and it is instructive to note that in Romans 15, the apostle Paul quotes from verse 49 of Psalm 18 and applies it to Christ. He believed it was a Messianic passage.

That's it for today folks and be sure to tune in tomorrow as it will be a day of celebration and festivities in the streets for King David. And you may want to wear your dance pants. Why? Well, let's just read it and find out.

Blessings to all you out there listening and watching...from your car, work, home...across the country. Thanks for joining in and this is Lisa Ashton reminding you that the "word of the Lord is upright and all his work is done in faithfulness." Peace.