

**I. Introduction.**

**II. Two Kings. 2:1-11**

- A. David is anointed as king over Judah. 2:1-4a I Sam. 16:13 Gen. 49:9ff
1. David inquires of the LORD and moves away from Ziklag to Hebron. 2:1-3
  2. For the first time the LORD's chosen king visibly rules on earth. Isa. 11:1ff
- B. David reaches out to Jabesh-gilead in the North. 2:4b-7  
What should the men of Jabesh-gilead have done? I Sam. 13:13 Ps. 2:10ff
- C. Abner sets up Saul's son Ish-bosheth as a rival king over the Northern tribes. 2:8-11
1. Abner, who was Saul's uncle and his General, is the power behind the throne.
  2. Abner and Ish-bosheth should have known that they were defying the LORD by setting up a rival king to the LORD's anointed. 3:8-10,18 I Sa. 24:20 Ps. 2:2ff

**III. Two sides in a Civil War. 2:12-3:5**

- A. Judah prevails in battle. 2:12-32
1. Abner precipitates a crisis by aggressively moving towards Judah, so Joab (David's General and nephew) moves up to meet the challenge. 2:12-13
  2. Many die in representative combat, which leads to a more severe battle. 2:14-17
  3. Abner kills Asahel (the brother of Joab), which will lead to a blood feud. 2:18-23
  4. Abner and Joab agree to a truce and withdraw. v. 24-29
  5. Joab and his men come out ahead (360-20). v. 30-32
- B. David's house is strengthened. 3:1-5
1. David's strength is demonstrated by the births of many sons. Ps. 127:1ff
  2. This foreshadows David's tragic weakness. 11:1ff Dt. 17:17

**IV. Two murders by which two obstacles to David's reign are removed. 3:6-4:12**

- A. General Abner defects from Ish-bosheth and joins David. v. 6-21
1. Abner makes a play for more power. v. 6-7 12:8 16:21-22 I Ki. 2:22
  2. Abner vows to deliver the kingdom to David. v. 8-11 3:18
  3. Abner offers to make a covenant with David. v. 12
  4. Why does David demand Michal's return? v. 13-16 6:16,20 I Sa. 18:25ff 25:44
  5. Abner persuades the Elders of Israel to join David. v. 17-19
  6. Abner negotiates a covenant with David who sends him away in peace. v. 20-21
- B. Joab kills Abner. v. 22-27
- C. David responds with indignation to Abner's murder. v. 28-39 Lev. 15:2 26:14ff Dt. 28:15ff Pr. 31:19 Why doesn't David punish Joab? I Ki. 2:5-6,28ff
- D. Ish-bosheth is assassinated. 4:1-12
1. Rechab and Baanah, hoping to gain David's favor, murder Ish-bosheth. v. 5-8a
  2. They try to use theology as a cloak for evil. v. 8b
  3. David doesn't need such 'help' because it is the LORD who delivers him. v. 9
  4. King David exercises justice by putting the traitors to death. v. 10-12 Pr. 16:10 20:8,26 25:5 I Sam. 24:21-22

## V. Application.

- A. What is the LORD doing through all of this warfare and intrigue?
1. The LORD blesses His anointed one who trusts in Him, but His wrath rests on the proud who trust in human strength.
  2. The LORD's purpose cannot be thwarted by man's ambition, folly, or injustice.
  3. The LORD removes every obstacle to David's rule over all Israel. 5:1ff
  4. The LORD does not let Abner deliver Israel to David. 4:9 Mt. 4:8f Ge. 14:22f
  5. The LORD sometimes accomplishes His purposes through sordid means. Rom. 9:17ff Acts 2:23 4:25-28 Gen. 50:20
  6. The LORD gives David the opportunity to show his true regal nature as he gains the kingdom without getting his own hands dirty (or bloody).
- B. Don't make any significant decision in life without seeking the LORD through His Word, guided by His Spirit. 2:1 The ends do not justify the means. 4:10-11
- C. Be patient and wait on the LORD. Ps. 27:14 37:34 40:1-3 I Pe. 2:20 II Pe. 3:3ff
1. Do not be surprised by many trials in life. Js. 1:2ff I Pe. 1:6ff 4:12ff
  2. God's people often have to wait for the fulfillment of His promises. He. 11:13ff,39
  3. Waiting is designed to stretch our faith and to draw us closer to the LORD. 4:9
  4. Like David we have a significant destiny for which we must patiently wait. Phil. 3:20f Ro. 8:25 I Th. 1:10 Luke 12:35ff James 5:7ff Mt. 25:21 I Jo. 3:2
- D. How does this passage point us to Christ?
1. Jesus sought and performed the Father's will in all things. 2:1
  2. Jesus waited patiently for His exaltation, refusing to take any shortcuts. Mt. 4:8f
  3. Jesus' Kingdom started small (and appears to remain insignificant). 2:4 Zec. 4:10
  4. Jesus' kingdom was opposed by those who should have followed Him. 2:8 Jo. 1:11
  5. God used the evil acts of wicked men to accomplish His purpose in Jesus' exaltation through death. 4:8b Acts 2:23 4:25-28
  6. Jesus repudiates evil done by people claiming to advance His cause. 3:28 4:9ff
  7. Jesus does all things well. 3:36
  8. No-one can thwart His kingdom. Those who resist will perish.
  9. He is the righteous King who will bring justice and severely judge evildoers. 4:9-12 Isa. 9:6-7 11:1-5 John 5:22 Rev. 20:12f

## VI. Concluding applications: Submit to God's Anointed King. Ps. 2:1ff Heb. 3:12ff

### Discussion questions

1. How can we emulate David by seeking God's will before making major decisions? 2:1
2. Why was it wrong for Abner to appoint Ish-bosheth as king? 2:8-9  
How do we know that Abner knew it was wrong? Why then did he do it? 3:9,18
3. Was Joab justified in killing Abner? Why or why not?
4. What is the significance of David's response to the murders of Abner and Ish-bosheth?
5. Why doesn't David punish Joab for murdering Abner? 3:39  
Are we sometimes in situations in which we are powerless to enact justice?  
How can we know that we are not sinfully compromising?
6. What is the LORD's purpose in these three chapters?
7. In what ways do you struggle with patience?  
How does David's Christlike example help you to endure?
8. What are the most important ways in which this passage points us to Christ?