

# Through the Bible - 2 Samuel 5:11-7:29 & 1 Chronicles 13-17

8/16/2023 – Joshua Tallent

## Background

- Saul is dead
- David had been made king over the Southern tribes, but the Northern tribes made Saul's last remaining son, Ishbosheth, king.
- **[PPT - Map]** Ishbosheth ruled from Mahanaim across the Jordan river in the region of Gilead.
- David ruled from Hebron. What's special about that place?
  - Abraham settled there, at a place outside the city called the oaks of Mamre, when he arrived in the Promised Land
  - He and Sarah were buried in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, opposite Mamre where he lived.
  - Later, Abraham, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, and Leah were all buried in the same cave. Rachel was not because she died as they were traveling.
  - Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kennizite later captured Hebron from the Canaanites when he was 85 years old
- There was a civil war between the two groups for about 7 years. Then three of David's men killed Ishbosheth, thinking that David would be happy that the son of Saul was dead.
- But David called Ishbosheth "righteous" and had the men put to death for murder.
- Then, the Northern tribes came to David at Hebron and crowned him king over a united Israel.

## Jerusalem

- Then David defeated the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem and made the city his capital.
- 2 Samuel 5:6-7 – Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land; and they said to David, "You shall not come in here, but even those who are blind and those who limp will turn you away," thinking, "David cannot enter here." Nevertheless, David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David.
- **[PPT x6 - Show the pictures of the city of David over the years]**
- Talk about the history, and how the city today is built on top of the city from before

## David Built a Palace

- **[PPT]** The Stepped Stone Structure is a structural wall that appears to have been built over a crevasse in the bedrock, allowing the Palace of David to be situated on top.
- In the time of Jebusite control, this location was outside the city walls. However, 2 Samuel 5:11 tells us that King David built a house for himself after taking over the

city, with the Phoenician King Hiram providing materials, stonemasons, and carpenters. That palace was built just outside the north end of the city, and this massive stone wall was built to cover a large hole in the bedrock and to help support the foundation of the palace.

- Part of how we know it was built outside the city originally is 2 Samuel 5:17 – David went *down* to the fortress.
- Archaeologist Eilat Mazar excavated the area at the top of the Stepped Stone Structure in 2005 and uncovered some of the massive walls of the Large Stone Structure, one of which was 6 meters (18 feet) wide. Those walls interlocked with the Stepped Stone Structure, and combined together the entire structure was the tallest known building in Israel until 1,000 years later when Herod the Great embarked on his own massive building program. Dozens of *bullae* (singular *bullā*, inscribed clay or metal objects used to seal commercial or legal documents) have been found in and around the palace excavations belonging to royal princes and officials, along with ornate ivory utensils and the remains of exotic foods. Based on these findings and the location, Mazar speculated that this structure was David's palace.
- **[PPT]** An earlier excavation at the foot of the Stepped Stone Structure uncovered a proto-Aeolic capital, along with debris and ashlar stones that fell from a structure further up the hill. Proto-Aeolic capitals are large, intricately carved stones that served as toppers for columns and were common elements in First Temple period buildings—so common, in fact, that they are depicted on the modern 5-shekel coin. The capital found here has been described as the most impressive proto-Aeolic capital ever discovered in Israel, and its position at the foot of this palace structure point to how beautiful David's palace must have been.
- **[PPT]** For reference, here is a photograph of a second temple column capital from the Royal Stoa on the Temple Mount. This was created about 1000 years after the one from David's palace.
- **[PPT]** Around the bottom of the Stepped Stone Structure you will see the remains of Ahiel's House and the House of the Bullae. These later structures, likely built during the seventh century BCE, were destroyed when the Babylonians sacked the city in 586 BCE. Archaeologists excavating the House of the Bullae in 1982 found a large stash of *bullae* belonging to individuals who lived in Jerusalem around the beginning of the sixth century BCE. The most famous *bullā* has the inscription "Belonging to Gemariah, son of Shaphan," who is mentioned in Jeremiah 36:11-12 as having gone down "into the scribe's chamber." Meanwhile, Ahiel's House bears many signs of belonging to a wealthy royal official, including the presence of a personal toilet.

## Refresher: The Ark

- What is the Ark of the Covenant?
  - **[picture of the Egyptian ark]** Red chest from the tomb of Tutankhamun, equipped with carrying poles, shown with poles extended.
  - **[picture of the Ark of the Covenant]**

- The central element of worship in the Tabernacle (and later the Temple)
- Exodus 25:16 – “You shall put into the ark the testimony which I shall give you.” – The testimony is the tablets of the covenant, on which were written the Ten Words. Also, the Ark contains a jar of mana, and Aaron’s rod that miraculously budded with almond flowers when his leadership was challenged.
- It wasn’t just about the testimony, though, it was also the place from which God spoke the Torah to Moses.
  - Exodus 25:22 – “There I will meet with you; and from above the atoning cover, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about every commandment that I will give you for the sons of Israel.”
  - Numbers 7:89 – “Now when Moses entered the tent of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the atoning cover that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; so He spoke to him.”
- The Ark is also the place where the blood of the sin offering on the Day of Atonement is sprinkled
- **[Read Leviticus 16:15-16]**
- The blood of the atonement being sprinkled on the Ark is a purification ritual for the Tabernacle, a way to purify the tabernacle from the sins of the people. God required that His House be purified from their impurities.
- **[Map]** The Ark had been in Shiloh, Eli’s sons Hophni and Phinehas took it into battle against the Philistines, Philistines won the battle and stole the Ark, took it to their temple in Ashdod, Dagon fell, hemorrhoids, returned the Ark to Israel, Beth Shemesh accepted it but looked inside, 50,000 people died.
- They sent word to the men of Kiriat-Yearim, telling them about the Ark and asking them to come get it.
- So the men from that town came and got the Ark. They put it into the house of a man named Abinadab, and they consecrated his son Eleazar to watch over it.

## David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem

- David wanted to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. Why?
  - 1 Chronicles 13:2–3 – “If it seems good to you, and if it is from the LORD our God, let us send word everywhere to our kinsmen who remain in all the land of Israel, and to the priests and Levites who are with them in their cities with pasture lands, that they meet with us; 3 and let us bring back the ark of our God to us, since we did not seek it in the days of Saul.”
- What did he do wrong? Put the Ark on a cart instead of having the priests carry it, as God had commanded.
- So Uzzah tried to stabilize the Ark and he died.
- David waited another three months after that before trying to transport it again.
- This time he did it right: Priests carrying it, sacrifices every six steps, with songs and dancing

- Was David naked when he was dancing?
  - No, he was wearing a linen ephod, a religious garment. Ephods were used in many semitic cultures as religious garments
  - David wasn't naked, but he was not acting "kingly" or wearing his royal robes. He was also "dancing with all his strength before the Lord."
  - Michal, his wife, who had been a princess in the house of Saul, did not like this display, and she condemned David for it.
- He set up a tent for the Ark somewhere in Jerusalem. We don't know where it was, but it was not yet at the location of the Temple, (we'll get to that next month).
- 1 Chronicles 16 tells us that the Tabernacle was kept in Gibeon, a city about 5.5 miles north of Jerusalem. It appears that David did not think the Ark would be safe in Gibeon, which was closer to Philistine territory, so he moved it to the safest city in the land: Jerusalem.
- However, the tabernacle was left at Gibeon, probably because there wasn't room for it in Jerusalem. 1 Chronicles 16:39 tells us that David set up the priests to take care of the tabernacle and lead the worship of the Lord, specifically Zadok the priest. Where do we know Zadok from?
- There is a prophecy in 1 Samuel 2:32, God talking to Eli the high priest: "But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always."
  - Who is this prophecy about?
  - If we look forward in our story, the likely candidate is Zadok the High Priest who served in the Tabernacle in the time of David. Zadok does not appear to be from the same line as Eli, and some scholars say that Eli's line may have been descended from Moses, not from Aaron, and were therefore illegitimate. Zadok, on the other hand, did descend from Aaron, and was a legitimate Aaronic priest that David placed back in leadership.
  - We will also be told later that Zadok did not abandon David when one of his sons tried to claim the kingship in his old age, and instead helped David anoint Solomon as King.
  - **[PPT]** The words "my Anointed" is מְשִׁיחִי *m'shichi*, my Messiah, my anointed one. David was the anointed king of Israel, and Zadok walked before David, and as the Anointed, David was also a type of the Messiah who came later from David's line.
  - An interesting historical reference here: The Saducees (*Tz'dukeem*) may have come from the line of Zadok. At the very least they were interested in making people think that. There is a lot of debate among scholars as to whether the Saducees were even from the tribe of Levi.
- The psalm in 1 Chronicles 16 is interesting, partially because it seems out of place in a narrative story. Leads credence to the idea that Chronicles was written by a priest who was responsible for musical service.
- Up through verse 22, this is the same text as we see in Psalm 105. After that, it follows Psalm 96 for a bit, then has some connections to text in Psalm 106.

- **[PPT and Audio: The Lyre Of Megiddo]** An ivory plaque was discovered by archaeologist Gordon Loud in the excavations of a royal palace in the ancient city of Megiddo from the time of David. On that plaque was inscribed the picture of a lyre, which this artist, [Peter Pringle](#), reconstructed. This may have been what the psalms of David sounded like originally as they were played on the lyre.
- Note that while we translate the word כִּנּוֹר (*kinnor*) as “harp,” it is, in fact, a lyre because the strings pass over a bridge. All the “harps” of the ancient Hebrews, were in fact lyres.
- As I was researching this topic a bit, I found a few other musicians like Peter Pringle who have worked extensively to bring the ancient sounds of the psalms back to life.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDzfCJ9SaUE>

## David’s Covenant with God

- We are told in 2 Samuel that David wanted to build a temple to HaShem. He was living in a nice house, and it did not seem fitting that God’s Ark, the resting place of His glory, should be in a tent.
- But God said he didn’t want a house. He liked His tent, and saw no reason to live in a “house of cedar.”
- God said, I don’t want you to build me a house, but I’m going to build YOU a house! A royal line. So he made a covenant with David.
- **What is a covenant?**
- A covenant is a legally binding contract between two or more parties. Covenants have some very important elements, which are true for all of the covenants in the Bible.
  - **[PPT]** Covenants are binding
  - Covenants are inter-generational
  - Earlier covenants do not get overridden by later covenants
  - Breaking a covenant has consequences
  - A broken covenant requires atonement
  - Covenants come with signs that are obligatory for the covenant makers.
- What is the covenant God made with David? **[Read 2 Samuel 7:8-16]**
  - A great name
  - plant the people in the Land
  - no more oppression
  - rest from your enemies
  - a House for David (not literal)
  - David’s son will reign after him
  - he will build the Temple
  - line of the king forever with David’s family
- Why is the covenant with David so important?
  - The clear implication here is that the signs of this covenant go farther than just Solomon. David’s line is established “forever.” The ancient rabbis saw this as a reference to the Messiah.

- What was David's response to this? Humility and a prayer of thanksgiving and praise.
- **[Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29]**

Map link:

<https://biblemapper.com/web/?lat=32.3595&lon=33.8305&zoom=978&photolimit=125&photohide=1&bmid=20000~20007~20008~gilead~&locids=497~553~222~462~189~187~443~382~439~691~863~645~592~&>