

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE DESTINY OF HUMANITY

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PART 24: WICKEDNESS OF HUMANITY

INTRODUCTION

In this message we are going to examine King David's reign over Judah and his ascension to become king over all of Israel. The people of Israel and their leaders were ruthless, merciless and void of all godliness. Political intrigue, bigamy, corruption, bribery, and with no regard for human life was normal in Israel, it was a den of iniquity that God had to contend with in order to fulfill His plan of bringing the Messiah to earth and saving humanity from its sins.

BATTLE OF THE WARLORDS

Both David and Saul had built their power militarily. There were two important warlords, who kept their masters in power. Abner the son of Ner was the general of Saul's army. Joab the son of Zeruah was the commander of David's private army and he later became the commanding general once David became the king of Israel.

Zeruah was a sister to David and she had three sons: Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. We don't have a specific reference telling us that Zeruah was a sister to David, but scholars have accepted this supposition based upon the Babylonian Talmud. The Bible does say that Zeruah and Abigail were sisters. **2 Samuel 17:25**

Thus Joab, Abishai and Asahel were David's nephews and the biblical account indicates they were extremely loyal to him.

With Saul dead, Abner knew there would be war between the house of Saul and the house of David. Furthermore, unless Abner could secure a new king in the lineage of Saul, he would be out of power. Abner used his position to arbitrarily crown Ishbosheth, the son of Saul, as the new king of Israel. **2 Samuel 2:8-10**

Abner and Joab led their respective armies to Gibeon. The two groups were separated by the pool of Gibeon and this is where Abner and Joab began to talk. Abner suggested that 12 men from each side fight a deadly game. The result was that all 24 men were killed. **verses 13-16**

Abner and Joab called for an all-out attack once they saw the young men were dead, there was a fierce battle between the men of Israel and the men of Judah. The end result was that Abner and his army were defeated and had to flee. **verses 17**

Asahel ran after Abner but he was killed with a spear thrust from Abner. **verses 18-23**

Joab, Abishai and the army of David pursued the defeated army until Abner realized he would lose and he successfully tried diplomacy. **verses 24-32**



SHORT REIGN OF KING ISHBOSHETH

God never sanctioned Ishbosheth as king over Israel and his time on the throne was doomed from the start. In reality, Abner was the king and Ishbosheth was merely a puppet. **2 Samuel 2:6**

King Saul had been corrupt like the other leaders in Israel, and in conjunction with wives, he also had concubines to satisfy his sexual lust. Abner was just as corrupt and it did not sit well with Ishbosheth when Abner took one of Saul's concubines. **verse 7**

Abner showed his true self when he magnanimously told Ishbosheth that he should be glad that Abner had not turned him over to David. Ishbosheth was afraid of Abner and held his peace. **verses 8-11**

Abner decided begin negotiating with David in order to secure himself a future position with what he thought would be the winning side. **verses 12**

Ishbosheth reigned for two years and David reigned for 7.5 years as king of Judah out of Hebron. The war between the house of Saul and the house of David lasted 5.5 years, during which Abner ruled Israel by proxy. **2 Samuel 2:10-11; 3:1**

ABNER BYPASSES JOAB

Abner was a fierce warrior and a shrewd politician. He knew from past events that David had a soft heart which could be exploited. Abner decided to deal with David solely and sent messengers asking for David to make a covenant with King Ishbosheth. **verse 12**

David was ready to make a league on the condition that Michal was returned unto him. **verses 13-14**

Ishbosheth could not have cared less about Michal's current husband and Michal was sent to Hebron in order to secure his throne. The Bible doesn't reveal David's motive for Michal's return but it did break up her second marriage. David already had two wives and was rapidly expanding his harem. **verses 15-16**

Abner secretly began negotiating with the elders of Israel to abandon Ishbosheth and make David king of Israel. In order to convince the elders, he quoted a prophetic word from God concerning David. Abner was not a man of God. He was a professional killer and a shrewd politician willing to collude with the enemy. **verses 17-18**

Abner took 20 men and traveled to Hebron to see David in person. David had a forgiving heart and made a feast for the man who had hunted him for years at the behest of King Saul. A deal was made between and Abner left in peace, meaning there would be no retribution from David. **verses 19-21**

JOAB KILLS ABNER

As soon as Joab heard what had taken place, he went to David and rebuked him. Joab was no better than Abner since he also was a professional killer, a politician and a cunning manipulator. Without David's knowledge, Joab sent a messenger to overtake Abner and have him return to Hebron. **verses 22-26**

Joab was waiting at the gate when he saw Abner approaching with his men. He asked Abner to step aside for a private talk and stabbed him as soon as they were out of sight. **verse 27**

ABNER'S FUNERAL

David had a political disaster with Joab killing the de facto leader of Israel. He knew that the elders of Israel would be angry over the ambush slaying of Abner and so David proclaimed his innocence and laid the blame upon Joab and his family. **verse 28-29**

David then ordered Joab and all the people to rend their clothes and put on sackcloth. It must have been awkward for Joab to be part of a state funeral after avenging the death of Asahel. Nevertheless, Joab played along with his uncle in order to avoid retribution. David did not execute Joab because he needed his military skills. **verses 30-39**

ISHBOSHETH'S MURDER

Ishbosheth became very disturbed upon learning of Abner's death. He had two captains at his disposal, Baanah and Rechab, the sons of Rimmon, who each commanded an army unit for Israel. When they heard that Abner was dead, they realized it would only be a matter of time before David became king of all of Israel. Baanah and Rechab conspired to murder Ishbosheth, cut off his head, travel to Hebron and present it to David. **2 Samuel 4:1-2, 5-8**

David knew that he could not politically consent to the death of Ishbosheth, and at the same time be available to become king of all of Israel, so he had these two men executed on the spot.

To make a statement to the elders of Israel, David ordered the hands and feet of Baanah and Rechab be cut off and their bodies hung like criminals for all to see. **verses 9-12**

DAVID IS CROWNED KING

With Saul, Abner and Ishbosheth dead, there remained no able leader in Israel to fight the Philistines and so the elders of Israel came to Hebron and told David they were going to make him their king. It must have been bittersweet when Samuel's prophecy came true for David after ten difficult years. **2 Samuel 5:1-3**

David was 30 years old when he finally was crowned king of all of Israel and he reigned in this capacity for the next 33 years. **verses 4-5**

THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

David's first act was to clear out the Jebusites from the city of Jerusalem. He did not spare anyone, including the blind and the lame. **verses 6-8**

David moved into the city and began to fortify and expand it. He never gave a second thought about the men, women and children he had ordered killed in order to control the city. **verse 9**

God still prospered David despite his use of deception and murder and this ushered in the golden age of Israel. **verses 10-12**

DAVID'S LIBIDO

Satan was able to use David's sexual lust, and instead of drawing close to God, David enlarged his harem of wives and concubines (sex slaves). **verses 13-16**

WAR WITH THE PHILISTINES

The princes of the Philistines remembered they had rejected David and his men from joining their fight against King Saul. They also remembered David was a turncoat and their worst fears had now come to pass. Israel was now consolidated under the kingship of David and the Philistines decided to strike before David got his combined kingdom in order. **verses 17-18**

David lived parallel lives: a sinful life and the other walking with God when things were tough. When David heard about the Philistine army, he sought the Lord whether he was going to win. **verse 19**

Once David received word from the Lord, he attacked the Philistines and overcame them. **verse 20**

The Philistines had taken images of their god Dagon with them and David ordered these images to be destroyed. **verse 21**

The Philistines rallied and came back. David was told to encircle them when he sought the Lord a second time. **verses 22-24**

This time the Philistines were routed and David and his soldiers followed them to their own cities, killing the stragglers as they overtook them. **verse 25**

SUMMARY

Every nation has a fallen angel prince assigned by the Devil, whose job is to rule the nation and conform it to the character of Satan. **Daniel 10:13, 20**

In this segment of David's life, it is possible to see the hand of this fallen angel and the hordes of evil spirits possessing the leaders and bringing them into great wickedness.

- ❖ Abner and Joab were unscrupulous men who did not shy away from anything as long as benefited them.
- ❖ David and Ishbosheth relied upon their generals even when they knew how shaded these men were. The two kings turned a blind eye to their wickedness as long as Joab and Abner provided safety for them.
- ❖ Baanah and Rechab represented the greedy underlings who are willing to betray and commit murder if they can gain from it.
- ❖ David became a shrewd politician who was willing to play a phony game in order to avoid offending the elders of Israel. He lied and played make-believe in order to get his way like most political leaders.
- ❖ David thought nothing about killing off an entire city population in order to acquire the city he wanted for his capitol.
- ❖ When God prospered David, he responded by indulging himself in sexual pleasure and adding women to his harem like a rancher adds cattle to his herd.

As Christians, it would do us well to understand and obey the commandments of the Lord. **Galatians 6:7-10**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?