

David— Shepherd and King

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BIG SANDY, Texas—There are many lessons in the Bible surrounding the history and prophecies of King David of the Old Testament.

Today we will talk about David as a shepherd and a king.

Young shepherd boy

After Samuel went to Bethlehem to look for the future king, Jesse paraded seven of his sons before the visitor (1 Samuel 16:10).

When Samuel asked Jesse if there were any other sons, Jesse admitted that his youngest, David, was watching the sheep (verse 11).

When God let Samuel know that David was His choice, Samuel anointed him with oil (verse 13).

God recognized that some of David’s traits as a successful shepherd translated over to some of his traits as a leader.

2 Samuel 7:8—“Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.” ’ ”

Psalms 78:70-71—“He also chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the ewes that had young He brought him, to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance.”

Anointed three times

We already noticed the first time that David was anointed king (in 1 Samuel 16:13). However, David was acting only as a king-elect. He was not going to assume responsibility until after Saul died.

Once Saul died (2 Samuel 1:1-16), David was anointed a second time. This time he was anointed king of Judah.

2 Samuel 2:4—“Then the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, ‘The men of

Jabesh Gilead were the ones who buried Saul.' "

Ishbosheth (one of Saul's sons) was chosen as king over the tribes of Israel (verse 10).

After Ishbosheth was killed, the elders of Israel anointed David king over Israel.

2 Samuel 5:3—"Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel."

David reigned over Judah in Hebron for 7½ years (verse 4).

David reigned over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem for 33 years (verse 5).

Future prophecies

Notice a few of the prophecies about the throne of David.

Jeremiah 30:9—"But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them."

Ezekiel 34:23-24—"I will establish one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them—My servant David. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken."

Ezekiel 37:24-25—David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children's children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever."

While prophecies like these picture the wonderful leadership of our Savior, they also show that a shepherd boy transformed into a productive king.