

## Exegetical Notes – 2 Samuel 5:1-10

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kyllies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

[charleshjensen@aol.com](mailto:charleshjensen@aol.com)

### 2 Samuel 5:1-10

#### Verses 1-5

<sup>1</sup> *All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. <sup>2</sup> In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’”*

<sup>3</sup> *When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.*

<sup>4</sup> *David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. <sup>5</sup> In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.*

- Following Saul’s death, the tribe of Judah had proclaimed David as its King (see 2 Samuel 2:10-11). The other tribes had followed Ish-Bosheth, Saul’s son and Abner (see 2 Samuel 2:8-9.) Now that both Ish-Bosheth and Abner were dead, the leaders of the 11 tribes which had served them came to David at Hebron to ask David to be their king, too. These tribes acknowledged that they knew it was God’s plan to unite the Kingdom under the rule of David, but for seven years Abner had convinced them to follow him in opposition to the command of God.
- David accepted their offer to become king of the 12 tribes of Israel and was anointed King of all Israel (see 1 Samuel 16:13 and 2 Samuel 2:4).
- David reigned as king of Judah for 7 and ½ years. He reigned over all Israel for 40 years.

#### Verses 6-7

<sup>6</sup> *The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, “You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off.” They thought, “David cannot get in*

**here.”<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion—which is the City of David.**

- David resolved to establish a new capital for the united kingdom. He chose to make that capital the city of Jerusalem. However, Jerusalem was occupied by the Jebusites.
- The Jebusites considered Jerusalem’s defenses to be impregnable. They told David that his siege of the city would not work.
- But David captured the city. He called it the City of David.

### **Verse 8**

**<sup>8</sup> On that day David had said, “Anyone who conquers the Jebusites will have to use the water shaft to reach those ‘lame and blind’ who are David’s enemies.” That is why they say, “The ‘blind and lame’ will not enter the palace.”**

- David knew that the visible defenses of Jerusalem were strong. The weakness in the city defense was the water shaft under the city which brought water into the city. This entrance to Jerusalem was unguarded.
- He invaded the city through the water shaft and so defeated its defenders.

### **Verses 9-10**

**<sup>9</sup> David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the terraces inward.<sup>10</sup> And he became more and more powerful, because the LORD God Almighty was with him.**

- David took up residence in Jerusalem and began to beautify the city.
- He grew more and more powerful because God was with him.

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