

Exegetical Notes – 2 Samuel 5:11-25

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kyllies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

2 Samuel 5:11-25

Verses 11-12

¹¹ Now Hiram king of Tyre sent envoys to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David. ¹² Then David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

- Tyre was a fishing town on the Mediterranean Sea north of Israel. Hiram, its king, sought to make peace with Israel by sending carpenters and stone masons to assist David's expansion of Jerusalem. Undoubtedly, Hiram had heard of David's anointing as king of all Israel and of the defeat of the Jebusites (see 2 Samuel 5:6-10). The steps he took to help David expand Jerusalem were in his best interest. Later Hiram did the same thing to help Solomon build the Temple of God in Jerusalem (see 1 Kings 5:1).
- David took Hiram's help as a sign from YHWH that God had established him as King of all Israel. He understood that God had done this for Israel and not for David.

Verses 13-16

¹³ After he left Hebron, David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him. ¹⁴ These are the names of the children born to him there: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, ¹⁵ Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, ¹⁶ Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet.

- David continued to build his harem. He took more women as his wives and he brought more women into his house as concubines; women who were not his wives but were kept for his sexual pleasure. At that time, the size of the king's harem was a sign of his power and wealth. In the eyes of the world, David was acting like a man of the world. But these behaviors violated the word of God (see Genesis 2:24 and Deuteronomy 17:17). According to the word of God, marriage is between one man and one woman for life. The people of Israel were to be different than the people of

the world. But, in this matter, and in others as we shall see, David disregarded the word of the Lord and followed the practices of the world. This will cause him problems later in his life. He did NOT follow the word of the Lord.

- With his various wives and concubines David had more children.

Verses 17-19

¹⁷ When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they went up in full force to search for him, but David heard about it and went down to the stronghold. ¹⁸ Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; ¹⁹ so David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack the Philistines? Will you deliver them into my hands?"

The LORD answered him, "Go, for I will surely deliver the Philistines into your hands."

- The reaction of the Philistines to David's anointing as King of all Israel was far different from that of Hiram. They brought their full army against David to destroy him.
- David took refuge from the Philistines in the stronghold of Jerusalem. The stronghold was the walled inner city of Jerusalem.
- The Philistine army filled the Rephaim Valley. This valley was the most direct approach to Jerusalem from Philistia. That their army filled the valley shows its great strength. The display was supposed to intimidate David.
- But David inquired of the Lord about the matter. He asked God if he should attack the Philistines and if he would be successful in battle against them. God told him to attack the Philistines and that he would defeat them.
- Even though David was not a perfect man, he was the man of God's choice to lead Israel at this moment in time.

Verses 20-21

²⁰ So David went to Baal Perazim, and there he defeated them. He said, "As waters break out, the LORD has broken out against my enemies before me." So that place was called Baal Perazim. ²¹ The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them off.

- David attacked the Philistines at Baal Perazim. Baal is the name of the chief god of the Philistines. Perazim is the picture of a dam breaking open before a flood. The name of the place implies that Baal, the god of the Philistines would break through like a flood.

- In this place David declared that YHWH (notice the way the word LORD is spelled. It is not the Hebrew word, Adonai, which appears in the text, but the name of God, YHWH) was victorious. Where Baal should have prevailed, the Philistines were defeated. David renames the place YHWH Perazim, YHWH has broken out.
- That the Philistines abandoned their idols there, images of Baal and other Philistine gods, shows that YHWH has triumphed.

Verses 22-25

²² Once more the Philistines came up and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim; ²³ so David inquired of the LORD, and he answered, “Do not go straight up, but circle around behind them and attack them in front of the poplar trees. ²⁴ As soon as you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the poplar trees, move quickly, because that will mean the LORD has gone out in front of you to strike the Philistine army.” ²⁵ So David did as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Gezer.

- But the Philistines launched a counter attack. They spread out again for battle.
- David again inquired of the Lord. The Lord told David to attack again, but not from the front. David was to circle behind the Philistines and attack them from behind.
- There was a grove of Baka trees there. These were trees from which sap was collected. When the wind blew in these trees, The Philistines would think that another army, besides that of Israel, was coming to attack them from behind.
- David did as YHWH told him to do. The Philistines were thrown into confusion and soundly defeated by Israel.

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