

2 Samuel 5:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

Analysis

David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

This verse contributes to the narrative of David Becomes King of Israel, emphasizing God establishing His chosen king. David's anointing as king over all Israel fulfills promises made years earlier (1 Samuel 16:13). The conquest of Jerusalem and establishment of it as capital demonstrates God's blessing. Military victories over Philistines show divine enablement. Theological themes include God's faithfulness to promises, the importance of proper locations for worship, and divine empowerment for tasks God assigns.

Historical Context

The historical setting of 2 Samuel 5 occurs during David's reign (circa 1010-970 BCE) over Israel's united monarchy. Archaeological discoveries, including the Tel Dan inscription mentioning the 'House of David,' corroborate biblical historicity. Ancient Near Eastern customs regarding God establishing His chosen king provide crucial background. The geopolitical situation involved regional powers—Philistines, Ammonites, Arameans, Moabites, Edomites—as David consolidated and expanded Israel's territory. Cultural practices concerning kingship, warfare, covenant relationships, family dynamics, and religious observance differed significantly from modern Western contexts, requiring careful attention to avoid

anachronistic interpretation while extracting timeless theological principles applicable across cultures and eras.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen your understanding of God establishing His chosen king?
2. What does this verse reveal about God's character, and how should that shape your worship and obedience?
3. In what specific ways can you apply this truth to your current circumstances and relationships this week?

Interlinear Text

בָּי	שָׁנָה	שְׁלֹשׁ	יָמִים	מֶלֶךְ	אֶרְבָּעָה	שְׁבַע
old	was thirty	years	David	and he reigned	forty	years
H1121	H7970	H8141	H1732	H4427	H705	H8141

מֶלֶךְ

and he reigned

H4427

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 29:27 (Kingdom): And the time that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 26:31 (Kingdom): Among the Hebronites was Jerijah the chief, even among the Hebronites, according to the generations of his fathers. In the fortieth

year of the reign of David they were sought for, and there were found among them mighty men of valour at Jazer of Gilead.

Luke 3:23 (Parallel theme): And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,

1 Kings 2:11 (Kingdom): And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.

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