

# David's Accession to Kingship Over Isra'el

## Second Samuel 3:6 to 5:25

The story of how **David** became **king** of all **Isra'el** essentially follows the same formula already established in the account of **his** accession to the kingship of **Y'hudah** (1:1 to 3:5). Both begin with a warrior trying to gain **David's** favor (an unnamed **Amalekite** in 1:1-13; **Sha'ul's** army commander **Abner** in 3:6-21) and continue with the execution or murder of the warrior (**the Amalekite** in 1:14-16 and **Abner** in 3:22-32), followed by a lament voiced by **David** (over **Sha'ul** and **Y'honatan** in 1:17-27 and **Abner** in 3:33-34).

Near the center of each literary unit is a brief report of **the anointing** of **David as king** (over **Y'hudah** in 2:1-7 and over **Isra'el** in 5:1-5). **David** and **his men** were successful in defending **their** enemies (over **the house of Sha'ul** in 2:8 to 3:1 and **the Jebusites** in 5:6-12), and each unit concludes with a list of **sons/children born to David** (in **Hebron** in 3:2-5 and in **Yerushalayim** in 5:13-16).

The similarities between the two sections point to the careful craftsmanship of a single author, who now sets to tell his readers that just as **the house of David** has replaced **Sha'ul** and **his** house in southern Canaan (**Second Samuel 1:1 to 3:5**), so too is **David's house** about to replace that of **Sha'ul** in the rest of **the Land** (**Second Samuel 3:6 to 5:16**).<sup>226</sup>