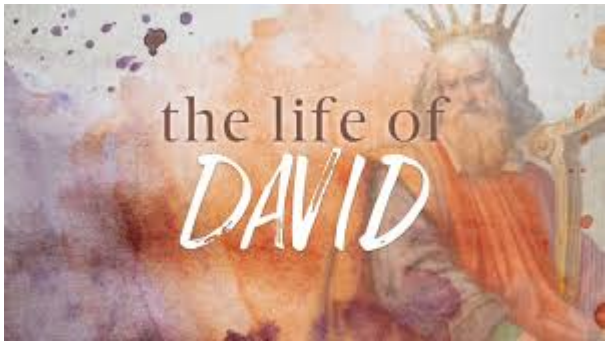
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David’s Accession to Kingship Over Isra’el
Second Samuel 3:6 to 5:25



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 out 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)**.[226]