

"The Harvest from the Waiting Season" 2 Samuel 5:1-12

Wednesday 1/15/20 – Jeff Lyle

You have likely never met a person that can honestly say that they delight in waiting. While it is true that, as we mature, we learn to patiently wait, nobody truly enjoys waiting for something they desire. We have an impulse in our soul that prefers to immediately receive what we long for. Part of becoming a deep follower of Jesus is learning how to cooperate with His practice of making us wait. King David's life was marked by long, deep and sometimes painful years of waiting on God to bring to pass His plan for David's life. In this message, we witness David's breakthrough that was two decades in the making. That's right: David waited twenty years for one day. Yet, when that particular day finally found David, he was so glad to reap the harvest of all those years of patiently waiting upon the Lord. We should expect the same in our own lives. Are you and I willing to wait as long as God determines for Him to bring to pass His plans for us?

I. We Wait on God to Establish Our Names (1-2)

1. A commitment to unity under David (1)-

"Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh."

After ruling the southern tribe of Judah for more than seven years, the day finally arrives when all of Israel acknowledges David has God's appointed leader over them. David waited more than a decade for God to remove Saul from the throne. He might have assumed that he would be immediately received by his people as their king. Yet, as time advanced, it became clear that God was requiring further patience from David. Imagine being so close to your destiny but being forced by circumstance to wait another seven years for it to fully manifest. The bible reveals that David did not force the issue. He did not try to make it happen in his own power. There were no demands from him. He waited on the Lord and, after seven and a half years, the leaders of Israel came of their own accord to acknowledge David's destiny to become their king.

2. An affirming clarity about David (2a) - "In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel."

Though they were extremely reluctant to give David the honor he deserved from them, eventually there was a consensus affirmation of David's historical role in Israel going back two decades. David has spent so long as a misunderstood,

undervalued leader in Israel. Many resented David. Some people despised him. When God's timing was complete, the testimony of Israel's leaders was that David had been a man of honor and value to the nation. How satisfying it must have been for the king to finally hear words that recognized his sacrifices and investments on behalf of the nation. His reputation was established for all that he had done. From this we are reminded to allow time for God to both defend our reputation and also to advance us among those who oppose us.

3. **An embracing of destiny for David (2b) - "And the Lord said to you, You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel."**

This is the moment where there is a formal recognition of David's destiny to be the king of Israel. Beyond their recognizing of what David had done in the past, the people now affirmed the prophetic destiny of David which Samuel spoke over him more than twenty years before this day. Our culture (even among Christians) is so focused on recognition from others. It's a disease that is sickening the spirit of many in the Church. If we are truly secure in what God has spoken over us about our lives, our futures and our purposes, then we must be willing to patiently wait on God to make that clear to others. Scripture teaches that, if we seek to advance our own names, God will humble us (Matthew 23:12; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:6). David was richly rewarded by cooperating with God's timeline to place him on Israel's throne. It is so pure and enriching when we humbly and patiently wait on God to place us where He desires. Resist the urge to fight for your own name. You will not regret it.

II. We Hope in God for Promised Breakthrough (3-5)

A. God will handle your opposition (3)-

"So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel."

Previously, these men had resisted David's kingship. Now they are among the people who formally and publicly honor him as they anoint him as their king. We do not read a single word of David rebuking them, scolding them or punishing them. True security in our identity can allow people to "get us wrong" and it not

defeat us on the inside. David patiently welcomed God to handle his opposition and proved that he was fit for the great honor of being elevated to the highest position in the land.

- 2. God will teach you to trust His timing (4) - "David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years."**

Do not rush past this verse. Stop and consider it. Place yourself in David's sandals for a moment. Anointed as a teenager by Samuel, David first learned that God had decreed that he would be Israel's king. Now David is approaching forty years old before he is acknowledged by the entire nation. That is twenty years between given his purpose and given the opportunity to fully step into that purpose. That is a LONG time to wait on God to establish your pathway. We have a hard time waiting six months for our breakthroughs. David waited a total of twenty years between his first anointing and the ascent to the throne over the entire nation. That whole period of necessary patience is what God used to forge the required character inside of David. The greater the destiny from the Lord, the longer the process to arrive at it may be. Character does not come to us in a capsule. It is forged in the pressure and heat of seasons of opposition, humbling and waiting.

- 3. Breakthrough may come incrementally (5) - "At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years."**

It did not all arrive at once. God entrusted David with destiny in stages. I wonder if the full throne might never have come to David if his heart did not remain confident and patient during the seven and a half years at Hebron. When we cannot receive what we want, let us receive what we can. Patient hearts are also grateful hearts - even when our prior patience does not seem to yet be fully rewarded.

III. We Learn to Treasure the Presence of God (10-12)

- A. God's presence is God's favor (10) - "And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him."**

As we have studied David's life, the singular undeniable component for his anointing is that David somehow remained in the presence of God. At this point in his story, we find that David consistently kept his heart aligned with God's heart. Yes, there was a time of compromise when fear of Saul drove David to take matters into his own hands to protect himself and those close to him, but he still never lost his longing for the presence of God. Ultimately, David's life-summary is found in this verse: the God of

hosts was with him. This is why David lives under such sustained favor. Saul was against David. Michal lied about David. Jonathan could not rescue David. The Amalekites raided David's city. Samuel died and could no longer counsel David. With all that opposed David, we might think he was doomed. In the end, the solid rock under David's life was that God's presence did not leave him. If we have the presence of God in us, on us and around us, it does not matter what we lack.

B. God's presence will often birth favor with man (11) - "And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house."

The King of Tyre might have sought to oppose David and make war with him as a rival king. Instead, the presence of God on David's life drew favor from one who might have chosen to be an enemy. When a person's ways please the lord, He makes even his enemies be at peace with him (Proverbs 16:7). The king of Tyre was moved by the invisible, favoring hand of God to prepare a palace of blessing in front of David and build him a palace in which to live.

C. God presence blesses others through us (12) - "And David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that He had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel."

Twenty long and difficult years after Samuel told him that he was God's choice to be the King of Israel, David looked around and discerned in his spirit that the waiting was over. He now had certainty that his prophetic destiny had come to pass. He had no doubts that God had fully made him the king. David could now eat the harvest from his season of waiting. Beautifully, and in perfect consistency with what we know thus far about David, he also understood that God blessed him in order for him to be a blessing to others. He understood that God had exalted him for the sake of the nation. David was granted the wisdom not to hoard God's favor for himself. His breakthrough would be shared with others and spilled upon them for the glory of God. Consider the verses that follow as you come to terms with your own season of waiting upon the Lord. I do not believe that any of us is ready for God's best if we are not yet mature enough to wait upon it to arrive in His perfect timing. If we resent or rebel during the season of necessary patience, we prove that we still have much growth to pursue before God can trust us with our full destiny. Patience is not an option. It is a foundational stone.

"You need to persevere, so that after you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised." - Hebrews 10:36

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” - Romans 12:12

“By your patience possess your souls.” - Luke 21:19

“You too, be patient and strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near.” - James 5:8

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” - Galatians 6:9