

Worship Material
All coming together: David's story
Material from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 7th July

Begin with opening prayer

Lead us, Lord, to the good green grass and the life-giving water.

Lead us, Lord, to the promises of your word.

Lead us, Lord, to the gathering of your people.

Lead us, Lord, to your kingdom of joy.

Amen.

Read 2 Samuel 5:1-5 9-10

Bible notes

Following Saul's death there was war for seven years between David, ruling the southern area of Judah, and Saul's sons, who held the northern area of Israel. David's forces gradually gained the upper hand, and the war ended with the death of Saul's last son, Ishbaal. David was already well known among the Israelites of the north as a military leader from Saul's time, and so they were ready to accept him as their king, travelling south to his headquarters at Hebron to acclaim and anoint him. It is possible that this unanimous agreement on the transition of power is deliberately shaped to emphasise David's legitimacy as king of the whole nation.

The Israelite tribes picked up on imagery from David's past, and Israel's future, when they named him as 'shepherd of my people' (v.2). David had been a shepherd in his boyhood and had learnt the skills of caring for the sheep, skills that he was now able to use as king. In Israel's tradition, the shepherd king would become an image for the leaders of the people (Ezekiel 34), echoing God's role as the good shepherd.

David's kingship over Israel was held within a covenant between himself and the Israelites. This follows an Old Testament pattern for articulating relationships of trust. The key covenant, between God and the people, was mediated through Moses (Exodus 19–20). God promised to be their God and they would be his people. This is paralleled by covenants with Noah (Genesis 9) and Abraham (Genesis 17), and by God's covenant promises to David himself (2 Samuel 8). The covenant expresses mutual responsibility, not just a relationship of power or dominance.

In order to provide a focus of unity for the twelve tribes now coming together, David made the strategic decision to build a new capital city to be home for people from both Judah and Israel. The town of Jebus, home of the Jebusites, was neutral territory, not associated with any of the tribes. The hilltop town was captured by a daring raid in which David and his soldiers climbed up its water-shaft. He then began expanding the city that would eventually be known by at least three names: the city of David, Zion, and Jerusalem.

Prayer

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Lord, we thank you for those who have the gift of leadership,
and we praise you for the example of Jesus,

who shows us how to lead.
We thank you for those who have the gift
of bringing people together in peace and harmony,
and we praise you for sending us the Prince of Peace.
All thanks and praise be to you,
for the love and light in which we live.

Amen.

A prayer to conclude

Lead us, Lord, when we lose sight of you.
Lead us, good Lord, through darkness to your light.
Lead us through disappointment and failure
to a place of new calling.
Lead us though we often struggle
and sometimes do not listen to your voice.
Lead us, good Lord, deeper into your love for us.

Amen.