

## "David's Rivals"

2 Samuel 2:1-3:1

### Introduction:

David's Rule over Judah - 2 Samuel 2:1-4a

**Anointed for Leadership:** In 2 Samuel 2:4a

**Precept:** Leadership is first spiritual, not education, not experience, not training, it is first spiritual; God has put his hand on someone and they are appointed for leadership by the Lord.

David's Increasing support - 2 Samuel 2:4b-7

**Precept:** In David's prayer for these Israelites David uses two Hebrew words that are often used of God, "steadfast love and faithfulness" and this is just what all believers need from God for his great salvation.

Facing Conflict - 2 Samuel 2:8-3:1

Ishbosheth versus David - 2 Samuel 2:8-11

Abner versus Joab - 2 Samuel 2:12-17

Asahel versus Abner - 2 Samuel 2:18-23

**Precept:** Fighting is sometimes warranted and we should be prepared to fight for the most important things in life. What we do with our hands matters.

### Questions:

**Precept:** Rivalry is almost always present and can be a good thing in the short run, but there will be a few who will take it to the limits where more mature men would stop.

David is that man.

Abner versus Joab & Abishai - 2 Samuel 2:24-3:1

**Conclusion:** The phrase that David uses in his communication with the men of Jabesh-Gilead is "*let your hands be strong and valiant*" in 2 Samuel 2:7, and means "strengthen your hands by becoming men of power/virtue".

Rivalry can be good and it can be destructive. Thank God for Joseph's measured response to his brothers. Rivalry causes long wars and long wars result in unwarranted death—we should see rivalry only in a very temporary kind of way—and it has no meaningful place in the family of God.

The Kingdom of Israel/The Kingdom of God - In many ways David's reign points to the coming reign of Jesus Christ, not over a kingdom that is marked by the boundaries of Israel, but by a kingdom that is marked by the reign of Jesus Christ in the hearts of his followers.

David was first anointed by God and men came to agree with his elevation to king; Ishbosheth was anointed by men and God never agreed with his elevation to king, he was beholden to men, not to God. The order is vital for the blessing of God's people. It is not possible to serve two masters, we must choose; it is impossible to pull for two rivals, one must be chosen and we must serve him with all of our heart.