

# Now Then, Do It

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When David was only a young man, God told the prophet Samuel to anoint him to be the next king of Israel. It wasn't until many years later that David, the son of Jesse, actually ascended to the throne.

When the day finally came for David to take the throne, Saul, the previous king, was dead. So was Saul's honorable son, Jonathan. However, one son of Saul remained, and his name was Ishbosheth—and he made a false claim to the throne.

David was God's anointed king, yet he was not recognized by all of the people of Israel. The people of Hebron recognized David as king right away. But some supported Ishbosheth. One of the supporters of Ishbosheth was named Abner, who was the chief of Saul's armies when the former king was alive. Abner came alongside Ishbosheth—for a time. But after a while, he turned against Ishbosheth and agreed to support David.

***Now Abner had communicated with the elders of Israel, saying, "In time past you were seeking for David to be king over you. Now then, do it! For the LORD has spoken of David, saying, 'By the hand of My servant David, I will save My people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and the hand of all their enemies.'"***

2 Samuel 3:17-18

Israel had to choose between David and Ishbosheth, and the great General Abner told Israel to choose David. Once he came over to David's side, Abner had a missionary zeal on David's behalf. That's when he ***"communicated with the elders of Israel"*** about recognizing David as king.

It is significant that this word came from Abner regarding David instead of from David himself. Though he was the rightful

king, David would not reign over Israel until the people submitted to him freely. He never moved an inch without an invitation.

This is an illustration of Jesus' Lordship in our lives. He is in fact King of kings and Lord of lords. But He chooses (for the most part) to exercise His sovereignty at our invitation. We could say that the way Israel first received the reign of David illustrates Jesus' reign in the lives of many people:

- Some do not invite Jesus to rule over anything
- Some invite Jesus to reign over a small area—like Hebron
- Some give Jesus reign over everything under His authority—which is everything

Abner is a good example of someone who eventually surrendered to God's king. After that, he wanted to influence others to make the same choice and to surrender to God's king. He said to the reluctant people of Israel, ***"Now then, do it!"*** Because of the word that the Lord had spoken of David and because it was so right to do, this was something that should be done immediately. In this sense, it is very much like our commitment to follow Jesus—we should be told, ***"Now then, do it!"***

Charles Spurgeon had a wonderful sermon on this text. The message was titled, "Now Then, Do It," and in it, Spurgeon revealed how the same principles of Israel's embrace of David as king apply to our relationship with Jesus. "The Israelites might talk about making David king, but that would not crown him," Spurgeon explained. "They might meet together and say they wished it were so, but that would not do it. It might be generally admitted that he ought to be monarch, and it might even be earnestly hoped that one day he would be so, but that

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would not do it; something more decided must be done."

Spurgeon continued: "The sooner it is done the better. Until the deed is done, remember you are undone; till Christ is accepted by you as king, till sin is hated and Jesus is trusted, you are under another king. Whatever you may think of it, the devil is your master."

Abner knew that the Lord had called David to be king. He said, "For the Lord has spoken of David." The fact that Abner, who was a general—not a Bible scholar—knew these prophecies and the fact that he could ask the leaders of Israel to consider them means that these prophecies about David were widely known. Sadly, though they were known, they were not widely obeyed, and most of Israel was lukewarm and unenthusiastic in their embrace of David as king. In this regard, David was a picture of Christ. Jesus fulfilled all manner of prophecy regarding the Messiah, yet aside from a small remnant, he was rejected by all of the people of Israel.

Our acceptance or rejection of the King says more about us than it does about King Jesus. Knowing all we know about who Jesus is and what He did for us, we should recognize Him as King—and do it now. Jesus is King, and He has rightful authority over all of our lives. We should never be content to give Him one area of sovereignty; His reign should be recognized over all. Now then, do it! 🙌