

April 20 Answers

- 1) David became king of **Judah** while Ish-bosheth became king of **Israel**. David showed remarkable **restraint** after Saul's death. He did not proclaim himself king; instead, he asked God what he should do next. God told him to go to **Hebron**, and he stayed there for 7½ years. This teaches us the importance of **consulting** God before we make a decision. Even if we know something is God's will for us, we need to wait on His **timing** instead of taking matters into our own hands. The years passed by, and even though the house of Saul was at war with the house of David, David made no effort to **lead** his men into battle against his fellow Israelites. David's attitude here is amazing. Saul hounded him for years and tried over and over to kill him, yet David was not consumed with hatred or a desire to destroy Saul's house. This is in sharp contrast with **Joab**, who was obsessed with avenging his brother's death. Joab murdered **Abner** the first chance he got, and his selfish act put David's patient negotiations in jeopardy. Only David's sincere and heartfelt **sorrow** at Abner's death saved Israel from more bloodshed. This shows us how crucial it is to promote peace and reconciliation and leave **vengeance** in God's capable hands. David rebuked Joab for what he had done and forced him to weep over Abner's grave, but he did not punish his nephew according to the **law** (cf. Num 35). Are we willing to obey God's will even when it concerns the sin of our own family or relatives?