

TAKE THIS CITY

INTRODUCTION

This is such an important service. It's my first message as Lead Pastor of Christian Heritage and I believe it's important that I immediately point us in the direction I believe God is leading us in.

The bible is the living word, it may have been written a long time ago but it's alive and powerful and relevant even today. I found a section of scripture that lines up so well with our situation right now. David had just been crowned king of all Israel. He had a mighty task to fulfil, Israel was now united as one nation again, but the foreign nations that should have been conquered by the Israelites when God initially gave them the land, were still a mighty thorn in their sides. There were battles to be fought and there was land to be taken.

We have our work laid up for us too. We have been given a clear directive from God as a church that He has got people in this city...this means we need to reach the people of this city. There is a battle that needs to be fought and won, we need to take our city!

MESSAGE

AMAZING PARALLELS

2 Samuel 5:1-5 (NLT) Then all the tribes of Israel went to David at Hebron and told him, "We are your own flesh and blood. 2 In the past, when Saul was our king, you were the one who really led the forces of Israel. And the Lord told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people Israel. You will be Israel's leader.'" 3 So there at Hebron, King David made a covenant before the Lord with all the elders of Israel. And they anointed him king of Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in all. 5 He had reigned over Judah from Hebron for seven years and six months, and from Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.

1. This speaks of David being anointed as king of Israel. He had already been leading Judah for 7 years and 6 months.
 - For me this is a blessing – David had been leading Judah – which means "praise". I have been the praise & worship leader for a number of years.
2. Importantly, when the tribes of Israel came to David, they told him: "We are your own flesh and blood":
 - This speaks of family. I believe we as a church are like that, we are like a family.
 - It must be one of our goals that we will grow even more as a family.
 - This is key to our unity, as well as a good transition into the new season that God has brought us to.

- We can take this opportunity to bring things together. Where many in the church have been doing great things for the kingdom, we need to look at consolidating and coordinating our efforts and ensuring we work together to produce great fruit.
3. This morning Cheryl and I were ordained, and made a promise to God and to this congregation that we will lead and shepherd Christian Heritage faithfully.

What amazing parallels we find in this scripture and this is very exciting, but it's all in place now, the hand-over has taken place and now it's time to focus on the future – where does God want us to go from here?

WHAT NEXT?

2 Samuel 5:6a (NLT) David then led his men to Jerusalem to fight against the Jebusites, the original inhabitants of the land who were living there.

We need to complete the work! A work has been started but some of the original inhabitants are still in the land and they are a thorn in our flesh.

- God has promised us that the latter glory of this church will be greater than the former, but this will never happen if we sit on our hands!
- God is calling us to put on our battle armour.
- We need to identify, and deal with the demonic forces that have not been dealt with and that have been holding us back!
 - Spirit of lethargy and complacency.
 - Spirit of poverty- Krugersdorp has historically been a poor town, but it was not always that way.
 - Tolerance of enemy strongholds – satanism, lay lines, cult churches etc.
 - Lack of growth – new families, people being saved, delivered, healed and set free.
 - Spirit of fear.
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This will require a new level of commitment from all of us – we will need to pray, pray, pray, pray, work, work, work, sacrifice, spend much time with God and we will see things start to change!

DEAL WITH NEGATIVE WORDS

2 Samuel 5:6B-10 (NLT) The Jebusites taunted David, saying, "You'll never get in here! Even the blind and lame could keep you out!" For the Jebusites thought they were safe.

- The enemy loves to taunt us and make us think we will never succeed.
 - You are in the wrong place. You need to be in a new residential area.
 - People won't come at night because they don't feel safe.
 - "You'll never succeed here".
- But the enemy is firstly a liar, and secondly, he always underestimates God.
- When God is on our side, we will win, we will succeed, we will get the breakthrough! We will take this city!
- Nothing is too difficult for God!

2 Samuel 5:7 (NLT) But David captured the fortress of Zion, which is now called the City of David.

CAPTURE THE FORTRESS

2 Samuel 5:7-8 (NLT) But David captured the fortress of Zion, which is now called the City of David. On the day of the attack, David said to his troops, "I hate those 'lame' and 'blind' Jebusites. Whoever attacks them should strike by going into the city through the water tunnel." That is the origin of the saying, "The blind and the lame may not enter the house."

Did you notice that Zion was a fortress?

- A fortress is not easy to conquer – it's not so easy to get in.
- The Jebusites thought they were safe! They are complacent- this means we can strike and cause chaos.
- But with God, there is always a way! There was a water tunnel that they could enter through!
- David took the enemy's fortress, regardless of what the enemy had said.
- The city was even given his name!

God has precious possessions for each of us, cities with our names on them. Today, it's time to stop listening to the enemy's lies, and take what God has for us.

- Christian Heritage, this city of Mogale has our names written all over it if we will only be willing to stand up and not listen to the enemy's lies that we have had to listen to for so long.

God will strike the enemy with blindness and lameness and make it possible for us to take this city!

THIS IS OUR HOME!

2 Samuel 5:9-11 So David made the fortress his home, and he called it the City of David. He extended the city, starting at the supporting terraces and working inward. 10 And David became more and more powerful, because the Lord God of Heaven's Armies was with him.

- David made the city his home.
- Notice that it was still a fortress – it's a place of safety for us!
- He extended the city - Once we have taken the city, it will be time for growth. Pastor Pat has been praying Jabez prayer over Christian Heritage: That God will extend our territory.
- Our church will grow in power and authority, not because of how good we are but because we have God with us!

This city is our home – why would we be willing to let the enemy rule here? It's time to take back our home!

A BRIGHT FUTURE

Chief Mogale

The young heir to the Po chiefdom of the Batswana gave his name to Mogale City, once the seat of his kingdom. Mogale – means "the brave one" in Setswana. Chief Mogale is believed to have ruled over a kingdom of miners and traders of gold, who had an influence in far-reaching markets. Their cross-border trade was said to extend as far north as Egypt, on the Mediterranean tip of the continent.

- God is calling us – Christian Heritage Church to rule in this city. We are to go out in His authority.
- He is calling us to have far reaching influence, particularly in the spirit but also in the natural realm.
- By His grace, we can have such a significant influence that our city will also return to economic prosperity – influencing even far-reaching markets.
- We can play a major role in the history of our area.

Let us live-out the promise contained in the name of our city – Mogale – the brave one". Let us bravely stand up together and take our city!

CONCLUSION

God has people in this city and He has given us this city.

We may not understand how He will do it, there may be people who say it can "never" be done, it may seem like a mighty impenetrable fortress, but God has

a plan for us to take it and make it our home. Not only that but as we rule and reign in Him, we can look forward to growth both inward and outward.

Let us stand up like the name Mogale states and be “the brave ones”, and let us take this city!