

June 4, 2023
God's Good News Story
King David
A Man After God's Own Heart
1 Samuel

Today we move into the 2nd King in Israel's history. The most famous of all the Kings and the most well-known.

There is a continued trio of persons nexus as with Saul. The trio nexus of Samuel, Saul & David is where we will pick up today. I alluded to David two weeks ago and will briefly remind you of the connection. We introduced David briefly two weeks ago as we saw the people of Israel desiring to move away from the Judge system into a Kingdom system. Samuel anointed Saul as the 1st King and as we discussed he was good at first but then as he continued disobeying God he fell into mental, spiritual and physical decline. Eventually, Saul's disobedience brought about his and his 3 sons' death and thus the end of Saul's bloodline of Kings. But, before Saul's death we have the introduction of David.

David was the son of Jesse, and the youngest of eight sons. The approximate dates for his life are 1040bc-970bc. He was born in the area of Bethlehem, and was the great-grandson of Ruth & Boaz.

David was a Shepherd, a musician and a warrior. At about age 15 he was anointed as the new King by Samuel, without Saul's knowledge of course. Since Saul had disobeyed God, he was judged by God and the

Samuel told Saul that God had chosen to end his and his son's reign as Kings and had chosen a "man after God's own heart". In 1 Samuel 16 we see where Samuel is told by God to go to Bethlehem and visit the house of Jesse for God has selected a King from among his sons. As I mentioned before Jesse had 8 sons and David was the youngest and was in the fields with the sheep when Samuel came. Since God did not specify which son, they started with the oldest and worked backwards. God rejected each one. When the first 7 sons had been rejected Samuel was confused and asked "are these all your sons?" Jesse said I have one more but he's just a lad and he is with the sheep. Samuel said to bring him in. David arrived and we read in

1 Samuel 16:12-14...¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he."¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.

Sadly, this evil spirit caused Saul to become more erratic, paranoid and dangerous. Then we see God's providential hand at work, when Saul's servants suggested as I mentioned two weeks ago, Music Therapy. God laid on their hearts to request David as the music therapist to play for him. God is always at work to accomplish His purposes.

When David was not at the palace, he would make his way back to Bethlehem and watch the sheep. One occasion when Saul and his army (including all of David's older brothers) was at a standstill and preparing for battle with the Philistines. This is the well know story of Goliath. Goliath was one of many giants that the Philistines had in their army. This Goliath was particularly big and prideful and made an offer. He said there is no need for all this killing, just send out your best warrior and we will fight. Winner takes all! Well, no Israelite would accept because they felt like they would certainly lose and be the cause for the fall of all Israel, this taunting went on for 40 days. During this time Jesse, the father, got worried about his sons and told David to go check on them and bring them some food. As David arrived and dropped off the food, he found his brothers, just as Goliath was making his Day 40 appearance. (*This is in Chapter 17 of 1 Samuel*) David was incensed that this 'uncircumcised Philistine' was defying and desecrating the Name of God. He kept asking until Saul heard about it and called for him. When this young "pretty boy" teenager showed up, Saul was rightfully confused. But David insisted that he could do it. Saul's armor was offered but was too big, so David took a sling and 5 smooth stones and approached Goliath. As Goliath came at him with taunts and jeers he was met with an unexpected attack – a boy with a sling shot and a rock took down this mighty warrior giant (of course God directed this rock and empowered its effect). Down the big man fell and David rushed up and, though it sounds gruesome, war is gruesome by the way... David took a sword and cut off Goliath's head and held it up for all to

see. At this point the Philistines lost courage while the Israelites finally found theirs and attacked and routed the Philistines. It was a great victory for Israel in the Name of God.

At this point Saul was very intrigued by David and took him into his army. It was here that Saul's son Jonathan and David forged a bond of friendship and loyalty that was unbreakable.

Unfortunately, it didn't take long for the jealous, insecure and mentally unstable Saul to turn on his Prodigy Warrior David. In 1 Samuel 18 we read where there was a victory parade of the warriors and the King coming back home, where the people were singing in verse 7 we read... ***"Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands."***⁸ ***Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"***⁹ ***Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on.***

The exact timing of all the events are unclear, but Saul is still sensible enough to see that the people love David so he tries to bribe David into marrying one of his daughters. David refuses the 1st offer but takes Saul up on his daughter Michal. She is the first of several wives, unfortunately David like Samson, had a weakness for getting involved with women that were not God's choice for him. To be clear, I'm not blaming the women (even though there is more than enough blame for everyone). But David, like Samson, should know better and should act better!

Well, the focus of the next 10 years of David's life is bound up in this on again off again relationship with Saul. To David's credit, he remains true to his integrity and tries to do right by Saul, but Saul in his manic/depressive paranoid condition makes life miserable for himself, David, and everyone around him. There is so much to say about David, but I am just hitting the highlights. As I alluded to before, in Saul's later life around age 80 in his 40th year of his reign, he and his 3 sons along with the Israelite army was in battle with the Philistines. This battle went from bad to worse, all 3 of his sons were killed and then he became severely wounded. As his enemies approached, he commanded his armor bearer to 'run him through with his sword'. But the young man was too afraid. So Saul, became the 2nd 'technical' suicide in the Bible. Some say that one of the Judges Abimelech was the 1st, but he actually had his armor bearer run him through with a sword. Samson, seems to take the credit for the 1st suicide as he killed himself along with 3000 Philistines by pushing the pillars of the temple down around him and causing his death. The Bible does not condone or encourage suicide. Actually, the Bible teaches the value of life and that God only has the right to decide one's death.

Back to David, after Saul's death, David is installed as King, but only in Judah in the Southern Kingdom. Saul's surviving son Ishbosheth takes over the Northern Kingdom, but a civil war erupts and soon David is crowned King and recognized by all of Israel in around 1003BC.

It would take several weeks to thoroughly go through the life and events of David, but since his life is more well known than most other Bible characters I will briefly summarize.

David builds his palace, he goes to war and is wildly successful, but one spring he stays home and what a mistake that was. He saw a beautiful married woman bathing on a rooftop and his weakness in the area of sexuality caused him to commit adultery with Bathsheba. He tries to cover up his sin and brings her husband, *a loyal warrior and General for David by the way*, home with the hopes he could cover his sin. But Uriah, her husband was a noble man and refused to 'entertain himself' while his soldiers risked their lives. So, David sunk even further into sin, by sending a secret message, by Uriah, to the other lead General. This message said to put Uriah at the front of the lines, pull back the troops and make sure that Uriah dies. Wow is that not a fall from godliness into deep sin! Uriah died, David took Bathsheba, and by the way their tryst produced a child. Which dies soon after birth. This would seem to spell the end and be a deathknell for David. But, David, confronted by his sin by the Prophet Nathan, he repents with great sorrow and God in His mercy, forgives this most heinous of sins. Psalm 51 is the prayer that David prayed.

Psalm 51, I will wait and read it as our invitation

David goes on to do great things for God, he gathers all the materials and makes the plan for the Temple, which God tells him his son Solomon will build. He is a great warrior, king, ruler, worship leader, however, his parenting skills left something to be desired, much like Judge Eli, Samuel and Saul. His sons brought him great grief.

At the end of his life, one of his sons Absalom tries to overthrow David, but thankfully it was not successful. The last we hear of David is thankfully more positive, he appoints his son Solomon to take over the throne and to build a temple for God. David dies at around age 70.

As a reminder, the theme of the Scarlet Thread of Redemption runs right thru David, he is the Ancestor of Jesus Christ. David is considered the greatest earthly king, but Jesus Christ is the true eternal King of ultimate worth.

Lessons to Learn from David:

Lesson 1: Never Judge by Appearances or Human Standards: A Heart for God Prepares Us to Be Used by God

Lesson 2: God keeps His promises, although this might take some time and might come in unexpected ways.

Lesson 3: Having Integrity and Character is of Utmost Importance

Lesson 4: Sin Can Bring Horrible Consequences, but Sin Can Be Forgiven and Restoration is Possible.

INVITATION

Psalm 51

¹Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You ^[c]are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. ⁷Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. ⁹Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. ¹³Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You. ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness. ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise. ¹⁶For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.