

## **A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART.**

Glimpses of David.

1 Sam.13:14 & Acts 13:22.....

.....that is a big statement, yet both the Old and New Testaments bear witness to the fact that that is exactly how God saw David. God nurtured him as a boy, called him as a youth, and brought him eventually to kingship as a man. So David reigned for 40 years in all, first over a part, and then over the whole of Israel.

David wasn't perfect. The Bible picture of David lays out the man with all his strengths and weaknesses, his good and his bad achievements and inclinations, and tells us that God has promised that David will one day reign again over a regenerated Israel Ezek.37:15-28.

Surely the life of this man has much to teach us, and the notes that follow give us a broad view of the man and his experience. The Old Testament has a unique ability to teach us the truths of knowing and walking with God. It underlines the New Testament message, but also amplifies it, especially through the stories of Godly men and women.

David's is such a story. May the Lord enable us all to learn of Him and His dealings with us as we look at David, this very special man of God.

## **1. BOY DAVID. The preparation of a man of God**

**Goal....**To help us appreciate the potential of God's dealings with younger people.

**....from his youth ??????????** What do we know of David's younger days?

### **a. We know his own view of childhood from the Psalms.**

Ps.139:13-16 An acknowledgement of God's purpose before he was born.

Ps.22:9-10 Ps.71:5-6. Conscious of God's hand on him, and of faith in God, from his earliest recollections.

Ps.71:17. Taught by God since his youth.

Transfer these thoughts to the shepherd boy on the hillside: God was preparing him even then.

### **b. Even as a youth, he was a committed shepherd.**

1 Sam.17:22 He killed a lion and a bear, in defence of the sheep.

*In this he would have learned courage.*

### **c. As a youth he was "despised" by his family.**

This may well have been the cultural norm, but it was what marked David's younger days. He was the youngest, that's why he had the most menial job, caring for the sheep.

See his brother's attitude. 1 Sam.17:28....with whom have you left those few sheep? Etc.

See his father's attitude. 1 Sam.16:5-13. He called all his sons to the sacrifice, but not David....he was the runt of the litter.

*In this he would have learned humility and grace.*

### **d. As a youth he learned his musicianship.**

1 Sam 16:16-18. By the time Samuel anointed David, he was skilled on the harp. Did he write his first psalms as he watched over the sheep day after day?

2 Sam,23:1 Sweet singer of Israel.

In this he would have experienced the first inspiration of the Spirit of God.

So....Boy David

- A picture of potential
- A picture of courage
- A picture of patience
- A picture of diligence. Faithful in small things....

*Do you have any illustrations of children's experience with God.*

### **What can we learn?**

- God is at work in the beginning of our lives.
- Even childhood can be used by God to prepare for future service. Never despise the spiritual aspirations of children. Guide them in Truth, but let them be themselves as they learn to know the Lord.

## 2. ANOINTED DAVID...the proving of a man of God.

**Goal....**when it comes to God's callings and promises, His timing and delivery are the bottom line.

Read 1 Sam.16:1-13.

David is anointed by Samuel. It is *Anointing without Kingship*, and it would be over 10 years before the anointing would be fulfilled. Ten years, knowing who you are in God's sight, waiting for God's time to bring it to pass. What would you do?

The waiting is in two parts. **Part one.** Goliath/favour with Saul and the people/ Saul's jealousy/Saul's pursuit of David to kill him, and finally Saul's death. Sam 16-27.

**Part two.** David king over Judah for 7 years.2 Sam.2-5:5

### **a. Anointing and Expectation....testing the vision.**

Goliath story: 1 Sam.17. Evidence of the anointing. It leads to a promising time for David, elevated in the eyes of the people above Saul. Then comes Saul's jealousy and determination to destroy him. 1 Sam.18. Samuel must have thought he had arrived after killing Goliath.

Can David still believe in the anointing, the promise of God? His vision is being tested.

***It isn't God's time yet!***

### **b. Anointing and Timing....trusting the timescales of God.**

David isn't ready to be king. *The anointing is followed by a long time of severe proving.* Will David wait and look to God to complete the picture, or will he manoeuvre things for himself?

He learned patience and trusted God alone...the mark of a man after God's own heart.

*See the sequence of his attitude. It just gets better and better*

- o What have I done? 1 Sam.20.
- o Not a word against Saul.1 Sam20-23
- o He refused to take Saul's life. He cut off the corner of Saul's robe, and even then was guilt-stricken1Sam 24:1-5.
- o Next time he simply took the water jug and spear from beside Saul. 1 Sam 26: ..."the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed."

David spares Saul – he is trusting God to appoint. **He who anoints will also appoint.**

Anointing and Suffering.

This was tough for David. See the depth of his suffering. God is preparing him by means of the waiting. Psalms142, 54, 59, 63,

RT Kendall.....God's message

...three rules for those who are between times:

don't try to help Him....

don't try to help Him .....

don't try to help Him! (Spring Harvest 1995)

*In all sorts of ways, small and great, these principles need to work for us. Has God promised something? Has God blessed for service of some kind. Trust Him to bring it to pass, **What he has started, HE WILL FINISH.***

### **3. KING DAVID....the working of a man of God.**

**Goal.....**to understand better what things are important in our service for God.

David, a man after God's own heart. Look at his concern for God.

#### **a. God's Position. 2 Sam 6.**

He brought God to the centre. The ark of the covenant comes to Jerusalem, the heart of the nation. David wanted God, not himself, at the centre

He failed to follow God's instructions closely the first time, but got it right the second time.

*Let your ambition always be that the Lord is seen as the reason for all you do. Make Him central. **Bring a smile to His face.***

#### **b. God's Will. 2 Sam.5:19, 23,**

He fought his enemies by permission.

He asked God "shall I go up? Humility in Kingship.

Holding position doesn't mean independence from God

*Never lose the habit of humbly seeking God's will. We are called to "listen" to God: as we see in the previous point, we need His will and presence in the detail.*

***Listening will bring a smile to His face.***

#### **c. God's House. 2 Sam.7**

He sought to build a house for the Lord. Why should God dwell in tents.....?

That is good reasoning, but God denied David the privilege...he was a man of blood, (1 Chron.22:8) so Solomon his son would build God's house.

God appreciated David's thought, and gave him a reciprocal promise.

*Always have a heart for God's "welfare", His reputation, space in your life for Him to move in, an attitude that brings Him pleasure. You can't add anything to Him, He is complete, and yet He chooses to make you His partner. **In all things, try to bring a smile to His face.***

#### **d. God's Mercy 2 Sam 9.**

Is there any left of Saul's house that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake. v.1

Saul had been David's bitter enemy, and Saul's house had warred against him before he became king of all Israel (2 Sam.3:1). Yet he looked for an excuse to bless the descendants of Saul. He remembered his friendship with Jonathan, and used that as a platform to show mercy.

*What do we do when hurt. Do we look for revenge, or settle for quiet, broken relationships, or do we, like David, look for some way of returning good for evil. **That will surely bring a smile to the Lord's face.***

#### **4. SINNER DAVID. The failing of a man of God**

**Goal....**to understand something of the anatomy of failure, and to warn us not to think ourselves beyond failure.

Notice particularly. Length of service / great previous devotion are not reasons for God's leniency: rather they make the thing more serious See Luke 12:48b

##### **1. THE SIN. 2 SAM.11**

**a. Wrong place / wrong time.v1.** It was the time when kings go to war...David sent others, but stayed at home. Being in the wrong place can open the door to sin. v.2-5.

**b. Entertained what he should have said "No!" to.** David got up in the evening... idle, bored? Saw something he shouldn't and indulged his temptation. A sure way to fail. If anyone should have known better, David should.

**c. No way to solve a problem. v.6-17.** One sin can so easily lead to another, which solves nothing. Rather it makes matters worse. In planning Uriah's death, David was now a murderer as well as an adulterer.

**d. David got what he wanted / not good news.** Bathsheba became his wife, the prize of sin. That always has a sting in the tail.

##### **2. THE DENOUNCEMENT AND JUDGEMENT. 2 SAM 12:1-12**

David is exposed, and the Lord passes judgement in line with the sin. God's dealings are always righteous.

**Immediate Judgement.2 Sam.12:15-22.** The child of the illicit union died.

**Far-reaching judgement. 2 Sam.16:15-23.**

The plain lesson is that forgiveness v.13b does not mean there are no consequences of sin. The relationship with the Lord is restored, but David must accept the outcome in practical terms. God doesn't offer any of us a bed of roses every time we pull the rope of repentance. Psalm 51 was probably written before the illegitimate child was born.....the child still died. *The sowing and reaping principle will sometimes apply*

**Question.** How can David be a man after God's own heart when he sins like this?

**Answer?.** Is it a matter of attitude rather than performance? If it was performance we would have to be perfect to be as God.

Discuss.

## **5. REPENTANT DAVID. The contrition and faith of a man of God**

**Goal** ...to help us understand true repentance, and what it should lead to.

**a. "I have sinned"....the essential confession of guilt. 2 Sam 12:13**

That's where repentance has to begin. No excuses, no watering down the issue, no explanations.

**b. Read Ps.51.** It is a manual of repentance. If ever you have to do it, this is how. Seven steps to a closer relationship with the Lord.

**1. A cry for mercy and cleansing. v.1-2**

No offering to pay our way out. Only the mercy of God suits our case.

**2. An acknowledgement of who is hurt most...."against you and you only". v.4.**

The sin against Bathsheba and Uriah is as nothing compared with the sin against God Himself, when a child of God sins. It touches Him more than anyone else, it is His law that is broken, His nature that is denied. We focus on the effect on others, and forget that It hurt God most.

**3. A recognition of his real state. v.5-7**

In truth, we are rotten to the core. We are not sinners because we sin, we sin because we are, by nature, sinners. David says in effect " I have to be honest about me...."

**4. A cry for cleansing.**

"Cleanse me with hyssop" relates to the sacrificial system...shed blood for sin.

"Whiter than snow " Absolute cleanliness. No half measures.

"Let me hear joy and gladness"....the result of true cleansing. Sin BLOTTED out.

Here David does God true justice. He asks for joy, because He believes that God's response to repentance is thorough and swift. He doesn't whip himself endlessly. He does God the honour of believing that He is a God of true mercy.

**5. A cry to be changed. v.10-12.**

Repentance alone is not enough. David doesn't say " I wont do it again", he rather asks God to change Him so that he doesn't do it again. He gives GOD permission to go to work....and God will!

**6. To the end that David might be a good witness. v. 13-15**

He's been a bad one. To be a good witness is the Lord's great ambition for all of us. Once again, it is the Lord that matters, his reputation, His purposes, His Glory. Everything else is very small potatoes.

**7. Confidence v.16-17**

David in effect says " I have broken my heart before you, and I know that's what you value most. He wasn't afraid to believe that he had got it right.

By the end of the Psalm he is excited at what God can do. His relationship with God is restored, and there is no joy quite like the joy of a repentant sinner who knows God has heard him, and granted forgiveness and renewal.

## **6 & 7. PSALMIST DAVID....a rounded man of God**

**Goal....**to have an overview of a godly life, that we might live likewise.

**Read 2 Sam.23:1.** the sweet psalmist of Israel (AV). We saw his beginnings in our first study. Here is the Psalmist as a whole.

The Psalms show the essential David, warts and all. We can only touch on a few, but the things we see are echoed repeatedly throughout David's psalms and songs. When he got alone with his harp, it seems he let it all hang out. Whether he intended it or not, this is David's testimony.

### **a. Commitment. Not a man of half measures.**

Ps57:7. My heart is steadfast, O Lord, my heart is steadfast. He repeats it so that we get the message. Determined and committed, and this after the earlier verses. ***Trying times are the times when you know what your commitment is really like.*** (Also 108:1) Notice that his determination is not just to survive, but to do it with music and praise. That's the mark of a man after God's own heart. ***How is your commitment to the Lord?***

### **b. Worship. Praise was never far from his lips.**

Ps.34:1-7. I will extol the Lord at all times. This psalm is written in moments of victory and deliverance. God has answered his prayers. That's the easy one.

Ps.71:1-13. I will ever praise you v.6 comes here in the midst of uncertainty, before God has answered. David is a worshipper at all times, good or bad sure or uncertain. That's the mark of a man after God's own heart. ***Are you a worshipper at all times?***

### **c. Humanity and Honesty. David was open about his weaknesses**

Ps.38. Here he openly expresses failure and guilt v.-4, physical weakness v.5-7, emotional agony v.8-10, lack of self-image v.11-12 and inability to change v.13-14. This is the human David at his lowest. Where we often would hide such things, at least before God David had no pretence, and we should learn the same honesty.

He turns to God as his hope v.15, and finishes with a summary of where he is at that moment. Honesty that throw itself on God's mercy and love. That's the mark of a man after God's own heart. ***How honest are you with God?***

### **d. Prayer. Again and again David turns to the Lord.**

As we have just seen, David prayed at all times and in all circumstances. He knew his own weakness, and he knew God's great strength. Praise and prayer are the hallmark of the Psalms. Look at just one.

Ps.61. A prayer from "the ends of the earth". What does he mean by that. Is he at the end of himself, or is he referring to being far from Jerusalem (Geographical position meant much more to the Hebrews than it ever does to us). Discuss!

Prayer comes out of longing for God v.4. Something to think about when we are concerned that we don't pray enough.

He prays for "success" as the king of Israel. This is not self-centred. He belonged to a culture where a long reign, and generations of his sons succeeding him, was seen as a mark of God's favour, is therefore God glorifying. He had godly ambitions. That's the mark of a man after God's own heart. Are you a person with ambitions for God's glory, and do you pray because of it.

### **e. Faith And Hope David doesn't just pray....he believes!**

The psalms are full of David's expressions of faith. Even when recording hard and trying times, again and again he finishes with a statement of faith. Ps.22, 55 etc.

Ps.20. Take the last 4 verses (6-9) He speaks with confidence, "I know" v.6a, has great expectations v.6b, and declares the superiority of the Lord.v.7-8. he finishes with a prayer, just to use the statements he has just made.

Now go to the first 5 verses....what a benediction. Wouldn't you like to have this said to you? Read it, share it and use it as a blessing. What better way to end our studies on David's life and witness.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.