

Lesson No. (42)

## King David

### References:

### Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

### Objectives:

**General:** Purity of heart

**Specific:**

1. God loved David because he had a pure heart
2. He loved to talk to God in prayer all the time
3. We should be able to praise God with our own words as David did.

### Instructions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### Bible Verse:

*“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”*  
(Ps 1:1)

### Lesson:

## King David

David's name in Heb. means "beloved". He was born in Bethlehem, the youngest son of a sheikh of that town named Jesse (1 Sam 16:1). Apparently David had seven older brothers (1 Sam 16:10). Early History. His boyhood was spent as a shepherd. He was eminently gifted, being skilled in playing the lyre (1 Sam 16:16-18). David was conspicuous for valor, slaying a lion and a bear in defence of his father's flocks (17:34-36). As a humble shepherd boy he was anointed as Saul's successor by Samuel (16:1-13).

**His Relations with Saul:** As a result of Saul's disobedience to the divine command, he was rejected from the kingship and afflicted with melancholy, jealousy, and hatred. David was summoned when an evil spirit, or demon, by God's permission came upon Saul. David played so well that Saul was refreshed and the evil spirit departed from him (1 Sam 16:14-23). When Saul's condition presumably

improved, David returned to his pastoral pursuits at Bethlehem. On a visit to his brethren, who were fighting in Saul's army against the Philistines, the young shepherd, whose valiant spirit was nurtured by communion with God, was outraged by the cowardice of Saul's army before the Philistine giant-champion, Goliath. David's notable victory over the giant with a simple shepherd's sling and pebbles from the brook gained him national reputation. It was then that Saul made adequate inquiry concerning David's family connections. The result was that David was adopted into the court (17:55-18:2). As a warrior-courtier the young man won the loyal friendship of Saul's son Jonathan (18:1-4). Further clashes with the Philistines greatly enhanced David's reputation. Saul's insane jealousy and hatred against David were aroused when the women of Israel greeted the returning heroes with the song: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands" (18:5-9). From that point on, David's life was in constant jeopardy. But he behaved himself so wisely that he attracted universal respect and love. Saul attempted to get rid of him by demanding that he slay one hundred Philistines and provide proof of the fact. David performed the feat and received Michal, Saul's daughter as wife. As a consequence he was saved from death only by the loyalty of Jonathan and Michal.

**A Fugitive and an Outlaw:** The next several years of David's life were spent fleeing from Saul's rage. Michal was given in marriage to another and was not restored to David until after Saul's death. David saw Jonathan only in secret. He fled to Samuel at Ramah, then fled to Nob where, on the pretext of a secret mission from Saul, he gained an answer from the oracle, food, and the sword of Goliath. He then fled to Achish, king of Gath, where, as the slayer of Goliath, he feigned madness in order to avoid death at the hands of the Philistines (21:10-15). As an outlaw, David at the head of a band of supporters made the Cave of Adullam his headquarters (22:1-2). In that wild and mountainous region he was hunted like an animal. On several occasions Saul was at David's mercy, but David spared his life.

**Service Under Achish:** Wearied with his wandering life, he at length crossed the Philistine frontier, not as before, in the capacity of a fugitive, but at the head of a sizable force of six hundred men (27:1-2). Achish, king of Gath, gave him, after the manner of Eastern kings, the city of Ziklag (which see) on the Philistine frontier (27:6). From the Philistines David learned much military knowledge. While he was away from Ziklag the Amalekites burned the city and carried off the women and children. David was able to overtake the raiders and recover a vast amount of spoil. Two days after that victory an Amalekite arrived with the news of Saul's death at Mt. Gilboa.

**Early Activity as King:** Saul's death resulted in a crisis in the political history of Israel, and a period of civil war followed. David took up his residence at Hebron in the hill country of Judah, some nineteen miles SW of Jerusalem. There he was anointed king over the house of Judah and reigned 7 1/2 years over that tribe (2 Sam 2:1-11). Meanwhile the long civil war between the house of Saul and the house of David eventuated in extermination of the house of Saul and David's being anointed king over all Israel (2:8-5:5). The most important event of his early reign was capturing Jebusite (which see) Jerusalem (which see) and making that the capital of his realm. Despite the apparent impregnable defense of the place, David took the stronghold, evidently by ascending the stout walls with a grappling hook. Although David's men probably scaled the walls of Jerusalem and did not gain entrance to the Jebusite fortress as previously believed, through the city's underground water system, archaeology has proved conclusively that the "stronghold of Zion" and subsequently "the city of David" (5:7), which the king constructed, were situated on the Eastern hill above the Gihon

fountain and not on the so-called Western hill of Zion. Having conquered the city, David made it his capital, displaying great wisdom in that decision. The city stood on the border of Judah and Israel, and its neutral location tended to allay the jealousy between the northern and southern portions of his kingdom. Its liberation from the Canaanites opened the highway between Judah and the N, which greatly facilitated both commerce and foreign intercourse and was a potent factor in the unity of the kingdom.

**Organization of the Kingdom:** David's administrative achievements, although overshadowed by his colorful, personal, skillful diplomacy and brilliant military strategy, were outstanding. That is clearly reflected in the extensive kingdom he left behind him and the preservation of accounts of efficient organization (cf. 1 Chron 22:17-27:34). His kingdom was organized, in part at least, on Egyptian models (cf. Albright, *Archaeology and the Religion of Israel*, p. 120). Among official Egyptian institutions, which he copied, probably through Phoenician or other channels, was the division of the functions between the "recorder" mazkir, the "secretary" sopher (18:15-16), and the "charge of thirty" (cf. 27:6). He also efficiently organized his army (2 Sam 8:16), which included a special personal bodyguard of mercenaries, presumably of Philistine extraction, called Cherethites and Pelethites (8:18).

**David's Adultery:** The notion of the East, in ancient and modern times, has been that a well-filled harem is essential to the splendor of a princely court. That opened a dangerous precipice in David's way and led to a most grievous fall. Walking upon the roof of his house, he saw a woman washing herself. The beauty of the woman excited David's lust, and he inquired of his servants who she was. "Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite," was the reply. Despite the fact that she was the wife of another, David sent for her, and she appears voluntarily to have acceded to his sinful purpose. In order to cover up his sin and secure Bathsheba for his wife, David sent Uriah into battle under circumstances that caused his death and thus added murder to his other crime. The clouds from this time gathered over David's fortunes, and the Lord told him, "The sword shall never depart from your house" (12:10). There followed the outrage of his daughter Tamar by his eldest son, Amnon, and the murder of the latter by the servants of Absalom (11:1-13:29).

**Absalom's Rebellion:** Absalom fled and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur, where he remained three years. After this he was recalled to Jerusalem but lived "two full years in Jerusalem, and did not see the king's face." He then sent for Joab and through his mediation was admitted into his father's presence (chap. 14). Absalom soon began to aspire to the throne, and, under pretense of wanting to fulfill a vow, he gained permission to go to Hebron, where he strengthened his conspiracy. Hearing of Absalom's conduct, David fled from Jerusalem (15:14) and passed over Jordan, about 974 B.C. Mahanaim was the capital of David's exile, as it had been of the exiled house of Saul (17:24; cf. 2:8, 12). His forces were arranged under the three great military officers who remained faithful to his fortunes—Joab, captain of the host; Abishai, captain of "the mighty men"; and Ittai, who seems to have taken the place of Benaiah as captain of the guard (18:2). On Absalom's side was David's nephew, Amasa (17:25). The final battle was fought in the "forest of Ephraim" and terminated in the accident leading to the death of Absalom (18:1-33). The return was marked at every stage by rejoicing and amnesty (19:16-40; 1 Kings 2:7), and Judah was first reconciled. The embers of the insurrection still smoldered (2 Sam 19:41-43), and David's hereditary enemies of the tribe of Benjamin were trampled out by the mixture of boldness and sagacity in Joab, now, after the murder of Amasa, once more in his old position (chap. 20). David again reigned in

peace at Jerusalem.

**His Death:** He died at the age of seventy (2 Sam 5:4) and "was buried in the city of David" (1 Kings 2:10-11), about 960 B.C. After the return from the captivity "the tombs of David" were still pointed out between "the artificial pool and the house of the mighty men" (Neh 3:16). His tomb, which became the general sepulcher of the kings of Judah, was pointed out in the latest times of the Jewish people. The edifice, shown as such from the Crusades to the present day, is on the western hill of modern Jerusalem, commonly called Mt. Zion, under the so-called "Coenaculum," but it cannot be identified with the tomb of David, which was within the walls of the "city of David" on the southeastern hill.

## **Conclusion:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.