

The Life of David

David had a goodly heritage – he came from the royal line of Judah (Gen. 49:9-10).

His father was Jesse, the son of Obed, Obed was the son of Boaz and Ruth, Boaz was the son of Salmon and Rahab. All people of great faith.

His times:

- a. David was born in the times of the prophet Samuel, around B.C.1080.
- b. Samuel was the last of the Judges and the first of the writing prophets.

Samuel's life was a watershed, marking:

- a. The failure of the priesthood under Eli;
- b. The failure of his own sons as Judges,
- c. The introduction of the kings – Saul the first.

In turn:

- a. Samuel and Saul provide the introduction to David.
- b. Following Israel's defeat by the Philistines, with the death of Eli, and his evil sons death in battle, Israel demanded a king (1 Sam. Ch. 8)

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The choice of Saul (1 Samuel Ch. 9 -10)

- a. He was handsome, taller than the people (1 Sam. 9:1-2). Said to be the peoples choice.
- b. The Spirit of God came upon him (10:10)
- c. And he began in humility (10:17-27)

He gradually departed from the Lord

- a. He showed indecisive leadership. He could not wait on or for God. He intruded into the priests office (1 Sam. 13)
- b. He tried to kill Jonathan his own son! (Ch. 14)
- c. He failed to obey the Lord's command concerning the Amalekites. This led to his final rejection (1 Sam. 15)
- d. His jealousy and hatred. He became David's enemy continually, consulted a witch and died in battle. (1 Sam. Ch. 19-31)

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams" (15:22-23)

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David chosen as king (1 Samuel Ch. 16)

- a. David was the youngest and 'overlooked' by his brothers!
- b. Why was Eliab rejected! (16:1-11; see 17:28). Even Samuel was deceived - note God's comment:

"...man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7)

God's choice of king (1 Sam 13:14)

"But now your kingdom (Saul's) shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

At David's anointing as king, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him (16:12-13).

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How was David's heart attitude revealed?

- a. He had a shepherd heart – taken from following the sheep to shepherd Israel.
- b. He mediated and had close communion with the Lord. His beautiful Psalms indicate this.

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His attitude to Saul

- a. He was badly treated by Saul, his father-in-law, over Merab & Michal Saul's daughters, yet he did not become bitter.
- b. He was merciful, and twice spared Saul's life.
- c. He waited on God and for God to become King. He would not touch the Lord's anointed.

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His sin was terrible over Uriah the Hittite

- a. But his repentance and confession was real. *"Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me" (Psalm 51:11).*
- b. He suffered consequences from his sin within his own family. His own son turned against him.
- c. But God brought good out of evil. He honoured Bathsheba by the birth of Solomon, 'the beloved of the Lord'. Was she was the innocent victim of David's lust?

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God's view - He looked on David's heart

- a. God saw his real motives.
- b. Like Nathanael, he was a man without guile. He was 'sincere', there was no hidden agenda.
- c. 'Love thinks no evil', so he trusted men like Abner once they gave him allegiance.

David retained faith under great trial. He continued to praise and worship God to the end.