



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leader Series: King David

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King David ruled Israel 1011BC to 971BC. Jehovah God used David to conquer the hostile nations surrounding them and help bring a period of peace. He began the process of building a temple for the people to worship their Creator God. We may wonder why God favored David over the closer to "perfect" leaders as Joseph, Josiah, or Daniel. David sinned before the Lord, but he was quick to ask forgiveness and repent. For this reason, God called him a leader "after My own heart, who will do all My will" (Acts 13:22). God promised to establish David's throne forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16) through his descendent, Christ. We will highlight examples here as we strive to see how to win the favor of the Lord in our service and leadership.

INTRODUCTION

God pointed out young David to the Prophet Samuel for anointing as the next king. This shepherd boy had no leadership training or direct experience (1 Samuel 16:12-13). Yahweh God can see the heart and a willingness to be used in His service. Those of us desiring to be leaders, even honorable servants, should first work on our heart. Shepherd David drew close to the Lord during the long days and nights out in the hillsides near Bethlehem. How is your quiet time?

DAVID TRUSTED GOD'S TIMING

1 Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.¹

All Israel knew that David would be the next king (1 Samuel 18:8-9), but this people's hero was forced to flee from King Saul for nearly fourteen years. David spared Saul's life at least two times (24:10-13; 26:8-11). At Saul's death by the Philistine army, David published a mournful poem (2 Samuel 1:18-27). He then prayed for God's direction. God had him move to Judah, the city of Hebron. The men of Judah came and anointed David king. Saul's son was crowned king of Israel. He died after seven years of civil war. The leaders of Israel came and made David king over the united nation. Do you wait for God to move others, opening doors?

SECURING BORDERS, WINNING PEACE

Psalm 144:1-2 Praise the Lord, my protector! He trains me for battle and prepares me for war. He is my protector and defender, my shelter and savior, in whom I trust for safety. He subdues the nations under me.²

God had prepared David for this particular leadership challenge through twenty-two years of conflict. First, he had to take control of the Jebusite fortress that was inside the city of Jerusalem. General Joab and his commandos entered the "impregnable" stronghold through a forty-foot water shaft (2 Samuel 5:6-10). Next, the Philistine army gathered just outside Jerusalem, intent on taking control of this emerging nation (5:17-21). Through prayer, the Lord directed David to make a frontal attack which dispersed them. A later Philistine attack came from the north. In prayer, the Lord directed David to circle around and surprise them from the east (5:22-25). In the same manner, David conquered nearly a dozen hostile kingdoms around them, and they became subject to him (8:6). Thus Israel's territory was increased from six thousand square miles to sixty thousand, the boundaries given in God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21). Are you experiencing God's favor?

DAVID RESTORES PUBLIC WORSHIP

1 Chronicles 13:1a-4b David conferred with his officers... it seemed right to all the people.³

King David restored Jerusalem as the capitol city of Israel and immediately sought to bring back the Ark of God. It was a wooden box, measuring about three feet by two feet, containing two stone tablets (the Ten Commandments) and The Book of the Law (scrolls of the first five books of the Bible). It had a solid gold lid with two golden cherubim figurines atop. The Ark represented the presence of God. It had been left at Kirjath-jarim after the Philistines captured it and God cursed them (1 Samuel 4-7:2). David involved thirty thousand people, but did not seek God's direction.

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERSHIP STUDY – WEDNESDAYS: 7 TO 7:50 AM, CAPITOL ROOM 142 SOUTH

STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS: 12:05 TO 12:55 PM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM – CAPITOL 264 WEST

Kansas

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David was leading the mass procession of musicians and singers, walking ahead of the oxcart carrying the Ark (2 Samuel 6:1-19). Uzzah, one of the helpers, steadied the Ark with his hand: God struck him down for his lack of respect to what was holy. The Ark was left there for three months while David resolved his anger with the Lord and studied God's instructions for moving the Ark (Numbers 4:5-20). God greatly blessed the household at each place where the Ark was stored. A second more organized procession brought the Ark to Jerusalem where David placed it in a tent, awaiting the construction of the Temple. There are lessons here for us: 1) We should desire to have God in the center of our lives as the Ark was in the center of the city: Blessings follow! 2) Prayer and worship must be in the manner set by God to receive His blessing. What seems right has no relevance to what God requires!

DAVID SINS, REPENTS, IS RESTORED

2 Samuel 11:1-2 In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites....However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem. Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath.⁴

The Holy Scriptures are conspicuously honest in reporting on the lives of God's people. David did not go out with his army as it was customary. This leader, now in his early forties, had developed the habit of a midday nap. We are warned of the temptation of sin after great victory or success (Deuteronomy 17:16-20). Sin's antidote is to keep a disciplined life (Philippians 2:14-16). David sent servants to bring the woman to the palace, ignoring the report that Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah, of one of his warriors. She became pregnant, and David attempted cover-ups, escalating his sin to the act of arranging Uriah's death in battle. David then took Bathsheba as his wife.

SUMMARY

1. David did not confess his sin until Nathan, the prophet, confronted him (2 Samuel 12: 1-13). Do you have a friend who will confront when you sin?
2. God forgives sin, but there are always consequences. The child fathered by David died (12:14-23). Also, the heathen enemies of Yahweh had opportunity to persecute and blaspheme the Lord (12:14).
3. Sin destroys respect from family (and others). Amnon, one of David's sons, lusted for his half-sister, Tamar. With counsel from a cousin; Amnon devised a plan to get Tamar alone and then raped her (13:1-22). David did not respond with his usual bold assurance. Tamar's brother, Absalom, took revenge and killed his half-brother Amnon. Absalom then fled, taking refuge in a neighboring country. (13:24-38). David did not respond again, and apparently even limited his public appearances.⁵ Absalom later returned, conspired with others, and mounted a near overthrow of his father's throne. Violence and strife continued through the remainder of David's life (2 Samuel, Chapters 15-20 and 1Kings, Chapter 1). **The sin of a government leader has consequences for an entire nation!**

CONCLUSION

We can minimize mistakes and many unintended consequences by waiting on God's timing before taking action. Patience and prayer also help to ensure that we are equipped and prepared for the challenges that we will eventually face. Finally, we can keep short accounts with our Lord, confessing sin and making amends for any wrong that was done. Wisdom is gained from the experience of others; our personal experience is too expensive (Proverbs 1).

¹ The Holy Bible, New Living Translation. (Tyndale House Publishing). 2007.

² The Holy Bible, Good News Translation. (American Bible Society). 1992.

³ The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica). 2011.

⁴ The Holy Bible, New Living Translation. (Tyndale House Publishing). 2007.

⁵ John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible. (Thomas Nelson). 2005. p441.