



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Learning from One after God's Own Heart

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ACTS 13:22

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Life can be challenging here in the capitol!

Those of you who have been around any time at all know the difficulties facing you over the next 60 days. Many of you are new and will soon learn the stresses involved with being away from home, the hectic schedules, and dealing with politics and issues. When you add all this to the problems and trials you deal with in your “normal” lives, serving in the statehouse may certainly be at times quite challenging, if not overwhelming.

For this reason I thought it might be helpful this session to contemplate the life of a leader who faced a tremendous amount of trials and challenges in both his personal and political life – David, the second king of Israel.

King David is perhaps one of the best known characters in the Bible. The account of his victory over the giant Goliath may well be the best loved story in all of Scripture. The rise of David from obscurity as a shepherd boy from a small village to king over all Israel is simply incredible.¹ He was a shepherd, a poet, and a musician. David was a brave soldier and a great leader. He was also flawed and sinful like each of us and we see recorded for all to read his pride, and adultery. He faced intense trials, yet he relied on God to get him through those difficult times. With all that is written about David, one statement stands out:

He (God) raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.' Acts 13:22

To be “one after God’s own heart” is an amazing description. If we at all desire to follow God, we look at this and wonder what it means to be after God’s own heart. We consider how we might become “one after God’s own heart”. To understand what this means we can look to what was written about and by King David. As an introduction to this series, I

just want to consider why it is important and helpful for us to study the life of this leader.

There is so much detail given about the life of David.

The amount of space given and the importance placed upon him and his place in God’s plan would lead us to see he is an important character to study.

David was a political leader.

David’s role as political leader makes him someone you who serve in the capitol might well identify with and find encouragement from his life and example

David was by no means perfect.

Unbelievers and skeptics often label Christians as hypocrites or “holier than thou”. Yet David, a follower of God, one after God’s own heart, sinned severely. However he found grace, mercy, and forgiveness from the Lord. This is a great encouragement for us as we deal with our own sins and failures. It is also a reminder of the message we have for others – that we are all sinners who need a savior. We can all come to say with David, **“How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! (Psalm 32:1)**

We have a great commentary on David’s experiences and walk with God recorded in the Psalms.

We often may go to the Psalms to find comfort in difficult times. Many of those Psalms were written by David as he experienced great trials in his life. They described his love for God and his desire to obey and please Him. In studying the life of David we can better understand the context and impact of those Psalms.

The life of King David points us to the faithfulness of God and to the true King of Kings – Jesus Christ.

David is a key figure in God’s plan. God made a promise (covenant) with David that is fulfilled in the coming of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. Several of David’s psalms actually

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Learning from One after God's Own Heart

refer to and predict the coming, dying, resurrection, and reign of Christ the King.³ We can certainly learn a great deal from the accounts of the life of David. It is more important though that we learn how David fits within the whole of Scripture and how he points to Christ.

David was described as "A Man after God's Own Heart".

What does it mean to be "one after God's own heart"? It means to love the things God loves and hate the things He hates. It means to desire the things God desires. It means to desire to obey God – to "do all His will". How did David demonstrate his heart for God? He loved God (Ps. 18:1). He

loved God's Word (Ps. 119:97). He loved to pray (Ps. 116:1-2). He loved to praise God (Ps. 145). We can ask ourselves, especially during the hectic days of the session, if these things characterize our lives.

I hope our study of David will help us understand how He was a man after God's own heart. I hope it might encourage us to discover how we might become one after God's heart as well.

¹ I would encourage you to read through 1 & 2 Samuel. If you are not able I have included a simply chronology of David's life that might be helpful over the course of this study.

² This reference from Paul's sermon refers to 1 Samuel 13:14

³ These are described as "Messianic Psalms" – referring to Jesus the Messiah. Psalm 2, 22, and 110 are examples.

Chronology of King David's Life

Early Life

- David is likely born in Bethlehem between 1040 and 1030 BC.
- David is anointed by Samuel (1 Samuel 16) at age 10-13.
- David serves Saul (1 Samuel 16).
- David defeats Goliath probably at 15-17 years of age (1 Samuel 17).
- Jonathan, who is much older than David, becomes one in spirit with him (1 Samuel 18).
- David appointed armor-bearer to Saul (1 Samuel 16).
- Saul makes David commander of a thousand (1 Samuel 18).
- David marries Saul's daughter, Michal (1 Samuel 18).
- David flees from Saul to various places (1 Samuel 19-30).
- David marries Ahinoam and Abigail (1 Samuel 25).
- Samuel dies (1 Samuel 28). Saul dies (1 Samuel 31).
- Saul dies (1 Samuel 31).

Kingship

- David assumes control of Judah and reigns for 7 years and 6 months (2 Samuel 2).
- David conquers Jerusalem, rebuilds it and moves there (2 Samuel 5).
- David is publicly anointed king over all of Israel (2 Samuel 5:17).
- David desires to build a temple to house the ark (2 Samuel 7).

Sin and Later Life

- David sleeps with Bathsheba and has Uriah killed (2 Samuel 11).
- Solomon is born (2 Samuel 12).
- Absalom's revolt steals the hearts of the people from David (2 Samuel 15-19).
- David takes nine months to number the people (2 Samuel 24).
- David charges Solomon and the princes with the task of construction (1 Chronicles 22).
- David's health begins to fail him (1 Kings 1:1-4).
- Bathsheba convinces David to declare Solomon king-in-waiting (1 Kings. 1).
- David dies and is buried in Jerusalem (1 Kings 2).