

**HOW WILL YOU FINISH?**  
**DAVID...A Man After God's Own Heart**  
**I Samuel 16 - I Kings 2**

The life story of **David** is a story about the man whom God called “*a man after My heart, who will do all My will*” (**Acts 13:22**...quoting from **I Samuel 13:14**). Following the death of **Saul**, **David** ruled over **Judah**, and then over a *united Israel*, for a total of *40-plus years*. Even though **David** was a man of *contrasts*, he was *single-mind* in his commitment to God...he sought to follow God with a *whole heart*. Yet...he was *guilty* of some of the most *serious sins* recorded in the Old Testament. There are *more of David's sins* recorded in Scripture *than any other individual*, both Old Testament and New Testament.

It may surprise you to learn that *more has been written* about **David** than any other biblical character. **Abraham**...14 chapters; **Joseph**...14; **Jacob**...11; **Elijah**...10; but **David**...66 chapters, and that doesn't include some *59 references to his life* in the New Testament.

**David's** story runs from **I Samuel 16** through **I Kings 2**.

The book of **II Samuel** records the *rise, fall, and restoration* of **King David**. As **David conquers the land** and *unites the Jewish people*, we see his *courage, honesty, compassion, and faithfulness* to God.

That's when **David** makes a *tragic mistake* by *committing adultery* with **Bathsheba** and having *her husband Uriah the Hittite killed* trying to *cover the sin*. The *baby born* of that union *dies*. Even though **David confesses** and *repents*, the *consequences* of that sin *follow him the rest of his life*.

As we read of **David's ascent** and *military victories* through the *first ten chapters* of **II Samuel**, we can't help *admiring this obedient servant of God*. When he *descends into sin*,

*selfishness*, and a horrifying *cover up, admiration* turns into *repulsion*. The remainder of **II Samuel** documents repugnant stories of *incest, revenge, rebellion* and *pride*. After reading **David's** story, we find ourselves saying, “*If only...*”.

The tragedy of the book of **II Samuel** is that **David's story** is *our own story*.

We all seek to *love God*...and desire to *obey his commandments*...but we continue to *fall into sin*, over and over. In *despair*, we realize we *cannot save ourselves* through our *futile attempts* at *perfect obedience*.

**II Samuel** also *points the way to hope: Jesus Christ*. **David** lived *halfway between* the time of **Abraham**, with whom God made His *original covenant*...and **Jesus**, who *fulfilled that covenant* on the *cross*. In **chapter 7**, God reveals His *plan for salvation* through **David's** house.

**David** is remembered as “*a man after God's own heart*.” Despite his *many failures*, he *found favor* in God's eyes. His story is a sharp reminder that *despite our sins*, we too can *find favor* in God's sight, through the *sacrificial death of Jesus Christ*.

**Father**...Jesse.

**7 Brothers**...Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, four unnamed others.

**8 Wives**...Michal (Saul's daughter), Ahinoam, Abigail (Nabal's widow), Maacah, Haggith, Abital, Eglah, Bathsheba (Uriah's wife).

**19 Sons**...Amnon, Daniel, Absalom, Adonijah, Shephatiah, Ithream, Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ibhar, Elishua, Eliphelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada, Eliphelet.

**1 Daughter**...Tamar.

**David** was originally from **Bethlehem**...known as the **City of David** (hence, where **Joseph** and **Mary** traveled for the census ordered by **Caesar Augustus**...the first census taken while **Quirinius** was governor of **Syria**). Later, **Jerusalem** became his home...which also became known as the **City of David** (*Ancient Jerusalem*). **Key Verses:**

*“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’”*

~ I Samuel 16:7

*“Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David’s hand.”*

~ I Samuel 17:50

*“Moreover David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for all the people were embittered, each one because of his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.”*

~ I Samuel 30:6

*“And David realized that the Lord had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.”*

~II Samuel 5:12

*“Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”*

~II Samuel 7:16

*“Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun. Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.’”*

~ II Samuel 12:12-13

*“The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock; and exalted be God, the rock of my salvation!”*

~II Samuel 22:47

*“Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*

~ Psalm 23:6

**David was a:**

- *Shepherd*
- *Warrior*
- *King of Israel*

**David** lived a *trying life*, first in the *shadow of his brothers*, then *constantly on the run* from *vengeful King Saul*. Even after he became **king of Israel**, **David** was *engaged* in almost *constant warfare* to *defend the kingdom*.

Although **David** fathered **Solomon**, one of **Israel’s** greatest kings, he was also the father of **Absalom**, whose rebellion brought *bloodshed* and *grief*.

**King David's life** was a *roller coaster* of *emotional highs* and *lows*. But most notable, he left us *an example* of a *passionate love* of God, *presented* in the **Psalms**, which are the most *touching* and *beautiful poetry* ever written.

**KING DAVID...A Foreshadow Of The Coming King:**

The closest way in which **David foreshadows** the coming **King** can be seen in the *important covenant* God *created* through him in **II Samuel 7:8-17**...a *covenant* to *establish a throne* that would *last forever*. Today, **Israel** no longer has kings, but *one* of **David's descendants** was **Jesus**, the One who *sits on a heavenly throne for eternity*.

The same *three promises* that God made with **David**...*a promise of an eternal kingdom, throne, and seed*...are fulfilled through Christ (**Luke 1:32-33**).

## I. THE TRIUMPHS OF DAVID:

**II Samuel 1-4** records the *seven plus year reign* of **David** over the territory of **Judah**. Later **David captures** and *fortifies Jerusalem* and makes it the *civil and religious center* of the now **United Kingdom**. Under **David's** rule the *nation prospers politically, spiritually, economically, and militarily*. **David** even *brings the ark* to **Jerusalem** and *seeks to build a house* for God (**chapter 7**).

- **David killed Goliath**, champion of the **Philistines**, when he was *only a youth*. **Goliath** was a *9 foot plus giant* and *veteran warrior*. He was *victorious* because he *trusted* in God for the *victory*, not himself.
- He *defended* **Israel** by *killing* many of **Israel's enemies** in battle.
- Despite several opportunities, **David refused to kill King Saul**, God's *first anointed king*, even though he was *pursuing David* out of an *infuriating jealousy*.
- He *became friends*, like brothers, with **Saul's son Jonathan**, *setting a model of friendship* that everyone can learn from.
- He became **Israel's greatest king**.
- **King David** is *included in* the "*Faith Hall of Fame*" in **Hebrews 11**.
- **David** was an *ancestor* of **Jesus Christ**. **Jesus** was *often called "Son of David."*
- God called **David** *a man after His own heart*.

## HIS CHARACTER:

In spite of his *sins*, **David** remains a man after God's *own heart* because of his *responsive* and *faithful attitude* towards God. Unlike most of the kings who succeed him, he *never allowed idolatry* to become a problem during his reign. He was a *true servant* of **Yahweh**, *obedient* to His *law*, and a *model king*. His rule was characterized by *justice, wisdom, integrity, courage, and compassion*. **David** is the *standard* by which all subsequent kings are *measured*.

God doesn't care about *image*...He cares about *character*.

Remember **I Samuel 16:7**...*"Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature...for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

### • Spiritually

*"...The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people..."*

~I Samuel 13:14

*"After He had removed him (Saul), He 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

### • Humble

It should be noted that a *servant doesn't care who gets the glory*. A servant has *one great goal*, and that is *to make the person he serves look better*, to make that person even *more successful*.

*“The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility.”*

~Proverbs 15:33

#### • Integrity

God is *not looking* for magnificent specimens of humanity...He’s *looking* for *deeply spiritual, genuinely humbly*, honest-to-the-core servants who have *integrity*.

*“To shepherd Israel his people...he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands.”*

~Psalm 78:71-72

#### HIS FAITH:

David was a *man of faith*...he *trusted God*.

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”*

~ Hebrews 11:1, 6

Faith is both...*the way to life*...and...*the way to live*.

David (and other men in the Bible) became great when they *placed themselves* at the Lord’s *disposal*, allowing Him to *develop* within them the *marks of true character* ...*humility, purity, authenticity, and integrity*. To live a life that God considers “*great*” is within the reach of everyone who *absolutely surrenders* to Him.

**HIS HEART:** A whole heart towards God.

David had a “*whole heart*” for God.

*“For it came about when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was*

*not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.”*

~ I Kings 11:4

*“After He had removed him (Saul), He 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 quotes I Samuel 13:14

## II. THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF DAVID:

David’s *sin* of *adultery* and his *crime* of *murder* mark the pivotal point of the book...and of his life. Because of these transgressions, **David’s victories** and *successes* changed to the *personal, family, and national troubles* which are recorded throughout the rest of **II Samuel**.

- *He was at a place he wasn’t supposed to be*. He was at the *palace* instead of on the *battlefield* with his men.
- **King David could not/would not control his eyes**, and therefore, *committed adultery* with **Bathsheba**.
- He then *tried to cover up* her *pregnancy*, and when he failed with that, he *had her husband Uriah the Hittite killed* (**II Samuel 11**).
- Then the Lord sends **Nathan** to **David** to *confront* him with his *sin* (**II Samuel 12**). When **Nathan** describes the *sin* to **David**...**David** gets *angry* at the person. That’s when **Nathan** then said to **David**...

*“...‘You are the man!’...Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house...”*

~II Samuel 12:7, 10

The Lord took **David’s sin** away; he *shall not die*... that’s *forgiveness*. But the *consequences* of his sin are *still there*.

*“Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.’”*

~II Samuel 12:13

- *He took a census of the people*, willfully violating God's command not to do that.
- *King David was lax and absent as a father, not disciplining his children when they needed it*. As a result, he had a *very dysfunctional family*.

### III. THE TROUBLES OF DAVID:

The *disobedience* of the king produces *chastisement* and *confusion* at every level. *David's glory and fame fades*, and is never the same again. Even when *David confesses his guilt* when *confronted* by *Nathan* the prophet and is *restored* by God...*a sword remains in David's house as a consequence of the sin*.

- *Loss of a child...his baby born to Bathsheba dies* (II Samuel 12:13-19).
- *Incest* enters his house with the *rape of his daughter Tamar*. One of *David's sons raped his half-sister*. *Amnon* was *attracted* to his half-sister, *Tamar...the blood sister* of *Absalom* (II Samuel 13:1-ff... vs.14). *Lust* has led to *rape...rape* has led to *hatred...and now hatred* leads to the next step, *murder*.
- For *two full years*, *Absalom* and *Amnon did not speak* ...the *hate turned to bitterness* and ate at *Absalom*. Eventually *Absalom* takes *revenge* and *kills* his brother, *Amnon* (II Samuel 13:20-30).
- *Rebellion...When Absalom killed his brother*, he fled to *Geshur*. That's where his mother's father was *king*.

He *couldn't live at home* so he went to his grandfather's house (II Samuel 13:34, 37-38; II Samuel 14).

- *Absalom revolts* against his *father's kingdom* and seeks to *become king* (II Samuel 15).
- *Marital infidelity* within his own household. One of *David's own sons...Absalom...cohabited* with *several* of *David's wives* (II Samuel 16:21-23).
- *Absalom is killed*. (II Samuel 18:14).
- Ultimately...the *greatest consequence* of *David's sin* is that he *isn't allowed* to *build a house for God*.

### LIFE LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

- We cannot hide our SIN from God. We must be willing to CONFESS it...then we must REPENT of it. We may try to fool ourselves and others, but we cannot hide our sin from God.
- God always offers FORGIVENESS for our sins...even when we cannot escape the CONSEQUENCES.  
*“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.”*  
~I John 1:8-10
- God places a high value on our FAITH in Him...it reveals our HEART. Regardless of the circumstances, test, or trials we face...despite life's ups and downs...God is ever-present to give us comfort and help.