

The Life and Character of David

“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.'

"From the offspring of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior,
JESUS, Acts 13:22-23

By
Michael A. Whitney
The Navigators

Dedication

This bible study is dedicated to the man who disciplined me, Bob Turner. He was the first one to open up to me, the life and character of David, when he was the Navigator Representative at the University of Maine at Orono. I will never forget the weekend he took us away to Christy's farmhouse on Swan's Island off the coast of Mount Desert Island and introduced us to the man who had "a heart after God's own heart." Since then I have studied the life of David several times and taught workshops, given messages and led bible studies on the lessons I learned.

Bob's heart, in many ways, is a living example to me of David's heart. Bob has a genuine heart for God and a God-given grace to bring people to Him. I'll never forget the trip we took to Quebec the fall of my junior year. It was somewhere between Orono and Quebec on some back country road that Bob helped me to understand the complete forgiveness of God through Christ by helping me to visualize what it would be like to stand before the throne of God when the books are opened. I have often used this illustration with others in helping them with assurance of salvation.

Bob used to come down to my fraternity house, Delta Tau Delta, once a semester or so, and speak on some girl-related topic. Whenever he came to speak a bunch of the fraternity brothers would gather round and were very interested in what he had to say. Many times we would follow up the talk with an investigative bible study that would meet for a few weeks. There were some who came to Christ as a result.

We used to meet for man-to-man times regularly. Many times at a fine eating establishment like McDonalds. In the press of the moment Bob would want to illustrate something and wouldn't have a piece of paper handy, so he would grab a napkin or a place-mat. As I look through my old discipleship files from time to time I realize how much of my discipleship curriculum was napkins and placemats.

I will never forget the time Bob came down to the fraternity to get together with me one day and found me completely depressed and overwhelmed. He asked me what was up and I launched into a long description of how much I had going on and how I couldn't get it done and to make matters worse my car had a flat tire and I didn't know how I was going to get it fixed. I know he had something prepared to discuss with me that day...but he simply shelved his agenda, and asked me if it would help if we just fixed the tire. That afternoon we went out and shopped for a new tire and came back and put it on the car. That day, I learned that the Gospel is lived out in the context of caring for people. I Thessalonians 2:8 "...we were ready to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."

How can you thank someone who has introduced you to such a living hope as we have in Christ? What gift can you offer in return? The only thing that I have is what God has done in my heart and the fruit God has produced. Bob, I dedicate this bible study to you in honor of the work you did in my life, through Christ and in the lives of many others. May God continue to bless you with the His grace in living out the good news of great joy in Christ.

Life and Character of David

Study Outline

I. Introduction

- A. How David is Described
- B. Overview of Key Events in David's Life
- C. Background Information on David

II. Study of Key Events or Topics

- A. Young David
 - 1. Anointed King
 - 2. Service to Saul
 - 3. David and Goliath
- B. Friendship and Hostility with the House of Saul
 - 1. David and Jonathan
 - 2. David and Saul
 - 3. Jonathan delivers David
- C. David on the Run
 - 1. Saul's pursuit of David
 - 2. Encounters with Saul in the caves
 - 3. David's encounter with Nabal "The Fool"
- D. David's Darkest Moment: Ziklag
- E. King David
 - 1. David's leadership
 - 2. David's battles
 - 3. God's promise to David
 - 4. David's Mighty Men
- F. David and Bathsheba
- G. Absalom's Revolt
- H. The Census
- I. David's Heart for God
 - 1. His Prayers
 - 2. His Psalms

III. David's Legacy to us - What can we learn from David's life and character?

THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF DAVID

1. How is David Described?

I Samuel 16:7-8, 18

I Samuel 18:7

I Samuel 23:22

I Samuel 24:16-22

I Samuel 26:21+25

I Samuel 29:3+6

II Samuel 3:36

II Samuel 8:15

I Kings 3:14

I Kings 9:4

THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF DAVID

2. Select three events in Davids life in which he wrote a corresponding Psalm.
 1. Read the surrounding circumstances without reading the Psalm.
 1. Describe the situation
 2. What would you be thinking and feeling?
 2. Read the corresponding Psalm
 1. What was David thinking and feeling in that situation?
 2. How was that different or similar to what you expected?
 3. What can you learn about Davids view of God from this?
 4. What can you learn about Davids heart from this?

The Character of David

Key Events In His Life

I. YOUNG DAVID

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| A. Samuel anoints David | I Sam 16:1-13 |
| B. David serves Saul as harp player | 16:14-23 |
| C. David and Goliath | 17 |
| D. Saul becomes jealous of David | 18 |
| E. Saul tries to kill David | 19 |
| Psalm 59 When Saul had sent men to watch David's house in order to kill. | |
| F. Jonathan warns David of Saul's anger | 20 |

II. DAVID ON THE RUN

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| A. David flees to Nob to Ahimelech the priest | 21:1-9 |
| B. David flees to Gath | |
| Psalm 34 When he feigned insanity before Abimelech who drove him away and he left. | |
| Psalm 56 When the Philistines seized him in Gath | |
| C. David escapes to the cave of Adullam | 22:1-2 |
| Psalm 142 A prayer when he was in the cave | |
| D. David in Moab | 22:3-5 |
| E. Saul kills the priests of Nob | 22:6-23 |
| Psalm 52 When Doeg the Edomite had gone to Saul and told him "David has gone to the house of Ahimelech" | |
| F. David save Keilah from the Philistines | 23:1-6 |
| G. Saul pursues David in the desert | 23:7-29 |
| Psalm 63 When David was in the desert of Judah | |
| Psalm 54 When the Ziphites had gone to Saul and said "Is not David hiding among us" | |
| H. David spares Saul's life in the cave | 24 |
| Psalm 57 When he fled from Saul into the cave | |
| I. David encounters Nabal "The Fool" and Abigail | 25 |
| J. David again spares Saul's life in the camp | 26 |
| K. David finds refuge among the Philistines (I Chron 12:1-22) | 27 |
| L. Philistines gather against Saul and he consults mediums and spirits | 28 |
| M. Philistines do not allow David to fight with them against Saul | 29 |
| N. David destroys the Amalekites after they had raided his refuge in Philistia | 30 |
| I Chron 12:21) | |
| O. Saul takes his life, Jonathan dies (I Chron 10:1-14) | 31 |
| P. David hears of Saul's death | II Sam 1:1-16 |
| Q. David mourns for Saul and Jonathan | 1:17-27 |

The Character of David

Key Events In His Life

III. King David

A. David becomes King of Judah		II Sam	2:1-7
B. War between houses of Saul and David			2:8-32
C. David has children			3:1-5
D. Abner goes over to David			3:6-21
E. Joab murders Abner			3:22-39
F. Ish-Bosheth, King of Israel murdered			4
G. David becomes King over Israel	(I Chron 11:1-3)		5:1-5
Over 340,000 Israelite armed men gather around David	(I Chron 12:23-40)		
H. David conquers Jerusalem	(I Chron 11:4-9)		5:6-16
David builds a home and has more children	(I Chron 14:1-7)		
I. David overcomes a Philistine attack	(I Chron 14:8-17)		5:17-25
J. David brings the Ark to Jerusalem	(I Chron 13:1-14)		6
Details on the preparations & celebration for the Ark	(I Chron 15-16)		
Psalm 105:1-15	These Psalms are expansions of that initially		
Psalm 96:1-13	written by David for thanksgiving to be sung		
Psalm 106:1,47-48	to the Lord by Asaph and his brethren		
K. David wishes to build God's Temple & God's promise to David			7:1-17
	(I Chron 17:1-15)		
L. David's prayer	(I Chron 17:16-27)		7:18-29
M. David defeats the Philistines, Moab, Zobah, the Arameans, Edom,			
Ammon and Amalek	(I Chron 18)		8:1-14
Psalm 60	When David fought Aram Naharaim and Aram Zaboah and		
	when Joab returned and struck down 12,000 Edomites		
	in the valley of salt		
N. David's cabinet			8:15-18
O. David shows kindness to Mephibosheth			9
P. David defeats the Ammonites and the Arameans	(I Chron 19)		10
Q. David takes Bathsheba and sends her husband to his death			11
R. Nathan, the priest, rebukes David			12:1-14
S. David repents			12:15-25
Psalm 51	When the prophet, Nathan, came to David after David had		
	committed adultery with Bathsheba		
T. David defeats the Ammonites	(I Chron 20:1-3)		12:26-31
U. David's family affected by incest: Amnon & Tamar			13:1-22
V. Absalom kills Amnon			13:23-33
W. Absalom flees			13:34-39
X. Joab brings Absalom back			14:1-24
Y. Absalom reconciled to David			14:25-33

IV. David the Ousted King

A. Absalom's conspiracy			15:1-12
B. David flees from Absalom			15:13-37
Psalm 3	When David fled from his son Absalom		
C. Ziba's deception			16:1-4
D. Shimei's cursing			16:5-14
E. David's spies in Absalom's house			16:15-17:29
F. Joab kills Absalom contrary to David's orders			18:1-18
G. David mourns Absalom's death			18:19-19:8

The Character of David

Key Events In His Life

V. David the Comeback King

A.	David returns to Jerusalem		II Sam	19:9-43
B.	The Sheba rebellion			20:1-25
C.	The Gibeonites avenged			21:1-14
D.	Wars against the Philistines	(I Chron 20:4-8)		21:15-22
E.	David's song of praise to God			22
	Psalm 18 When the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul			
F.	David's last words			23:1-7
G.	David's Hall of Fame: His Mighty Men	(I Chron 11:10-47)		23:8-39
H.	David counts the fighting men	(I Chron 21:1-8)		24:1-10
I.	Israel becomes plagued because of David's sin	(I Chron 21:9-17)		24:11-17
J.	David's altar	(I Chron 21:18-22:1)		24:18-25
K.	Adonijah sets himself up as King		I Kings	1:1-27
L.	David makes Solomon King	(I Chron 23:1, 29:22-25)		1:28-53
	David gathers material for the Temple	(I Chron 22:2-5)		
M.	David's charge to Solomon	(I Chron 22:6-16)		2:1-9
	David's charge to Israel's leaders	(I Chron 22:17-19)		
	David makes arrangements for the Temple Services (Division of Priest, Musicians, Gatekeepers, Treasury Officers, Judges)	(I Chron 23-26)		
	Appointment of military and civil officials	(I Chron 27)		
	David's describes his desire for the Temple	(I Chron 28:1-8)		
	David's charge to Solomon & plans for the Temple	(I Chron 28:9-21)		
	David's charge to the people and their response	(I Chron 29:1-9)		
	David prays publicly and leads worship	(I Chron 29:10-22)		
N.	David dies after a forty year reign	(I Chron 29:26-28)		2:10-11
	Record of the acts of King David	(I Chron 29:29-30)		

Life and Character of David

His Background

David's Relations: I Samuel 16:1-13, 17:13, I Chronicles 2:13-17

Father: Jesse Brothers: 1) Eliab, 2) Abinadab, 3) Shammah (Shimea), 4) Nethanel,
5) Raddai, 6) Ozem

David: youngest son of Jesse. (number 7)

Sisters: 1) Zeruiah, 2) Abigail

Nephews: Of Zeruiah: 1) Abishai, 2) Joab, 3) Asahel

Of Abigail: 1) Amasa

Of Shimea: Johadab, a crafty man - II Samuel 13

Hometown: Bethlehem - I Samuel 16:1

David's physical appearance: Ruddy, beautiful eyes and handsome

David's youth and childhood

His childhood responsibilities, skills and experiences

I Samuel 16:11, 19-23, 17:15, 17-18,

Shepherd, musician (lyre) and armorbearer for the king, errand-boy for his father

David's Family:

Born in Hebron, where he reigned for seven years, six months - II Samuel 3:2-5

Michal, daughter of Saul - I Samuel 18:27, II Samuel 3:13-16

No children to the day of her death - II Samuel 6:23

Abigail, the Carmelitess (widow of Nabal) - I Samuel 25:39-44, II Samuel 2:2

2) Daniel - I Chronicles 3:1

Ahinoam, the Jezreelitess - II Samuel 2:2

1) **Amnon** - I Chronicles 3:1

Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur - I Chronicles 3:2

3) **Absalom**

Daughter: **Tamar** - II Samuel 13:1

Haggith - I Chronicles 3:2

4) **Adonijah**

Abital - I Chronicles 3:3

5) Shephatiah

Eglah - I Chronicles 3:3

6) Ithream

Born in Jerusalem - I Chronicles 3:5-9, 14:3-7; II Sam 5:13-14

Bathsheba (Bathshua), the daughter of Ammiel (wife of Uriah the Hittite)

Sons: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan and **Solomon**

Others sons: Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama,

Eliada, and Eliphelet; (besides the sons of the concubines)

David's rule: II Samuel 5:4-5 He was 30 yrs old, Reigned 40yrs (7.5 yrs at Hebron, 33yrs at Jerusalem)

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Key Characters in David's life and kingdom - I Chronicles

Chronology of David's Life		
Time	Event	Basis
0	Born	
	Childhood: Shepherd boy, anointed king, chores, plays lyre for king Saul	
	Kills Goliath, becomes general, marries Michal	
	Pursued by Saul	
Age 30 6 years, 6 months	Reigns as King of Judah, at Hebron 30yrs old	II Samuel 5:4-5
	Has children in Hebron including: Amnon, Chileab, Absalom, Adonijah, Shephatiah and Ithream	II Samuel 3:2-5
age 37 33 years	Reigns as King of all Israel	II Samuel 5:4-5
5 to 10 years	Jerusalem was conquered, then David built his house, then brought the ark to Jerusalem, waged war against the Philistines, Moab, Zobah and the Edomites. He was waging war against the Ammonites when he sinned with Bathsheba.. This means it is likely that he was king 5 to 10 years before he sinned with Bathsheba. .	
	David intends to build Temple, God prevents him and gives him a promise. His son, Solomon, would build it.	I Samuel 22:9, 2Sa 7:12 1, Ch 17:11,
Probably between the age 42 to 47	Sins with Bathsheba	
yr(s) later 44-49	Solomon Born (Solomon must be born no less than 18 to 20 months after David's sin with Bathsheba because the first baby dies) (Yet Solomon is old enough to have a son by the time David is at the age of 69)	II Sam 11:26-27, 12:18,24-25

Chronology of David's Life		
Probably age 45 to 50	Amnon rapes Tamar (Amnon and Tamar must be older than 13 years old by now. If David was 45, this would make Amnon, Absalom and Tamar no older than 15, which is possible but unlikely. If David was 50, they would be no older than 20, which is certainly possible, more likely they were 13 to 18 years old)	II Sam 12:10,
2 yrs later age 47 to 52	Absalom kills Amnon	II Samuel 13:23
3 years age 50 to 55	Absalom exiled in Gesher	II Samuel 13:38
2 years age 52 to 57	Absalom lives in Jerusalem in isolation from David	II Samuel 14:28
4years age 56 to 61	Absalom usurps the kingdom of David, David flees Jerusalem (Age 66 seems awfully old to be on the run like that.	II Samuel 15:7
Let's say one year	Absalom killed by Joab, David restored to power	
3years Age 57-60 or 62-65	Famine in Israel because of the blood guilt of Saul in slaying the Gibeonites.	II Samuel 21:1
at least 10 months probable like 5 yrs	There were two wars with the Philistines after this before the end of David's reign, then David rested and thanked God when he was delivered from his enemies, Then he conducted a census that lasted almost 10 months, then the plague. Finally David's preparations for transition of power to Solomon and for the Temple.	II Samuel 24:8 (At this point I subtracted 5 years from the upper end of the distribution from each entry)
Age 69 1 yr before David dies	Solomon has a son: Rehoboam. (Solomon must be older than 13 years old in order to have a son) (probably 21 to 26 see below)	1Ki 14:21

Chronology of David's Life		
Age 70	<p>David Dies, Solomon becomes king David calls Solomon "young and inexperienced."</p> <p>Solomon can't be older than 30 years old because of David's 6.5 year reign in Hebron and the two years after the sin with Bathsheba. In addition, the sin with Bathsheba probably didn't happen as soon as he became King in Jerusalem since Jerusalem needed to be conquered first, then built his house, then brought the ark to Jerusalem, waged war against the Philistines, Moab, Zobah and the Edomites. He was waging war against the Ammonites when he sinned with Bathsheba.. This means it is likely that he was king 5 to 15 years before he sinned with Bathsheba. This would make Solomon 21 to 26 when he became King.</p>	<p>I King 2:10-12</p> <p>I Chron 22:5, 29:1</p>
4 th yr of reign	Solomon began to build the Temple, (480 yrs after Exodus)	I Kings 6:1
11 th yr of reign	Finished building the Temple. It took 7 years to build the Temple	I Kings 6:37-38
24 th yr of reign	<p>Finished building his palace. It took 13 years to build the Temple</p> <p>It took twenty years total for Solomon to build the Temple and then his own house</p>	<p>I Kings 7:1</p> <p>I Kings 9:10</p>
40yrs	Solomon reigned 40 years in Jerusalem.	1Ki 11:42 2Ch 9:30
41 yrs old	Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king,	1Ki 14:21

Acts 13:16 And Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand, he said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: 17 "The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it. 18 "And for a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness. 19 "And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance--all of which took about four hundred and fifty years. 20 "And after these things He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. 21 "And then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. 22 "And after He had removed him, 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.' 23 "From the offspring of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus,

Life and Character of David

Young David

- I. David, the anointed King
 - A. Read: I Samuel 16:1-13, (13:14, 15:27-28)
 - B. What qualities was God looking for in a leader?
 - C. How was that different from what qualities Samuel was looking for?
 - D. Put yourself in the place of each of the following individuals: Samuel, Jesse, David, David's brothers - What might you be thinking and feeling during this scene?
 - E. Optional Supplemental Reading: I Samuel 13 & 15
Why did God reject Saul as King?
- II. His service to King Saul
 - A. Read: I Samuel 16:14-23,
 - B. Why was Saul looking for a musician?
 - C. Why was David chosen? What was their relationship like?
- III. David and Goliath
 - A. Read I Samuel 17
 - B. What was David's life like during the days leading up to his battle with Goliath?
 - C. What was it about Goliath's challenge that so affected David?
 - D. What can be learned about the character of David from this event?
 - E. How does his example encourage or challenge us today?

Life and Character of David

Friendship and Hostility with the House of Saul

- I. David and Jonathan - Read I Samuel 18:1-5**
 - A. Describe David and Jonathan's Relationship.**
 - B. What was meant by the things that Jonathan gave David?**
 - C. Optional Supplemental Reading: I Samuel 14**
Describe Johnathan's relationships with his father, his armor-bearer and the people.
- II. David and Saul - Read I Samuel 18 and 19**
 - A. How did David and Saul's relationship change over time?**
 - B. What caused it to change?**
 - C. How do Saul's children respond to their father's hostility for David?**
 - D. How is the heart (intentions, thoughts, desires, feelings) of Saul revealed?**
 - E. See the attached meditation on Psalm 59**
- III. Jonathan delivers David - Read I Samuel 20**
 - A. How are Jonathan's thoughts and intentions toward David revealed?**
 - B. What does Jonathan and David's relationship reveal about the true nature of friendship?**

Life and Character of David

Friendship and Hostility with the House of Saul

Meditation on Psalm 59

David wrote several Psalms to God that reflect his thoughts and prayers during various events in his life. Through these Psalms, we get to see what is going on in David's heart and mind and in his relationship with God. These events can be illustrative for us as we attempt to imagine ourselves in his situation and what we would be thinking, feeling and saying to God under similar experiences. It is my hope that through these reflective meditations on David's event related Psalms, we might better understand the "heart that is after God's own heart" and be able to gain such a heart ourselves.

1. Read the surrounding circumstances without reading the Psalm.

- a. Describe the situation. Reference: I Samuel 19**

- b. What would you be thinking and feeling in this situation?**

2. Read the corresponding Psalm 59

- a. What was David thinking and feeling in that situation?**

- b. How was that different or similar to what you expected?**

- c. What can you learn about David's View of God from this?**

- d. What can you learn about David's heart from this?**

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Treachery and Honor

- I. David Flees from King Saul - Read I Samuel 21-22**
 - A. How does Ahimelech treat David?**
 - B. How does David justify eating the Bread of Presence?**
Optional Study: How did Jesus comment on this incident and in what context? Matthew 12:1-8, Mark 2:23-28,
 - C. Why did David feign insanity before Achish, king of Gath? Was this dishonorable? See attached meditation on Psalm 34**
 - D. What kind of men gathered to David at the cave of Adullam? What drew them to David? What challenge do you think this presented for David's leadership?**
 - E. How does David honor his father and mother?**
 - F. What characteristics of King Saul and Doeg, the Edomite are displayed in the way they treat Ahimelech, the priest?**
See attached meditation on Psalm 52

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Treachery and Honor

II. Saul Chases After David

A. David Saves Keilah from the Philistines: I Samuel 23:1-6 How does David deal with the fears of his men? What are they afraid of?

B. Saul pursues David: I Samuel 23:7-29

1. How does Saul's view of the leading of God (vs 23:7, 21-23) contrast with David's view of the leading of God (vs 23: 2,4,10-12, 14)

2. How does the honor of Jonathan (23:16-18) contrast with the treachery of Keilah and Ziph?

3. See attached meditation on Psalm 54

III. David spares Saul's life in the cave: I Samuel 24

A. How did David's men interpret the situation?

B. Why was David's interpretation of the situation different than theirs?

C. What is revealed about David's character, heart and leadership from this event?

D. In repentance, what are some things that Saul says about David?

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Treachery and Honor

- IV. Samuel dies. All Israel mourns his death: I Samuel 25:1**
- V. David encounters Nabal “The Fool” & Abigail: I Samuel 25:2-42 What’s in a name?**
- A. What do we find out about the practices of David and his men as they move about?**
 - B. How do each of the key players (Nabal, Abigail and David) earn themselves a name or live up to their name? How is their respective character revealed?**
 - 1. Nabal**
 - 2. Abigail**
 - 3. David**
 - C. Later on, when David looks back on this event, what thoughts or feeling, do you think are stirred up within him?**
 - D. What lessons can be learned from this event?**
- VI. David’s Wives: *Abigail* of Carmel, *Ahinoam* of Jezreel & *Michal*, Saul’s daughter I Samuel 25:43-44**
- VII. David again spares Saul’s life in the camp: I Samuel 26**
- A. Why did David go into the camp?**
 - B. What does David believe that God will do in the future on his behalf? What makes him so confident?**

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David on the Run: Treachery and Honor

Meditation on Psalm 34

David wrote several Psalms to God that reflect his thoughts and prayers during various events in his life. Through these Psalms, we get to see what is going on in David's heart and mind and in his relationship with God. These events can be illustrative for us as we attempt to imagine ourselves in his situation and what we would be thinking, feeling and saying to God under similar experiences. It is my hope that through these reflective meditations on David's event related Psalms, we might better understand the "heart that is after God's own heart" and be able to gain such a heart ourselves.

1. Read the surrounding circumstances without reading the Psalm.

a. Describe the situation. Reference: I Samuel 21:10-15

b. What would you be thinking and feeling in this situation?

2. Read the corresponding Psalm 34

a. What was David thinking and feeling in that situation?

b. How was that different or similar to what you expected?

c. What can you learn about David's View of God from this?

d. What can you learn about David's heart from this?

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1. Read the surrounding circumstances without reading the Psalm.

a. Describe the situation. Reference: I Samuel 21:1-9 and 22:6-23

b. What would you be thinking and feeling in this situation?

2. Read the corresponding Psalm 52

a. What was David thinking and feeling in that situation?

b. How was that different or similar to what you expected?

c. What can you learn about David's View of God from this?

d. What can you learn about David's heart from this?

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Treachery and Honor

Meditation on Psalm 54

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1. Read the surrounding circumstances without reading the Psalm.

- a. Describe the situation. Reference: I Samuel 23:7-29**

- b. What would you be thinking and feeling in this situation?**

2. Read the corresponding Psalm 52

- a. What was David thinking and feeling in that situation?**

- b. How was that different or similar to what you expected?**

- c. What can you learn about David's View of God from this?**

- d. What can you learn about David's heart from this?**

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Dark Before the Dawn

- I. David finds refuge among the Philistines I Samuel 27 (I Chronicles 12:1-18)**
 - A. What reasoning does David give for escaping to the land of the Philistines?**

 - B. What might David be feeling as he escapes**

 - C. What happened the last time David was in Gath? What has changed?**

 - D. How did David secure the trust of the Philistines? How would you evaluate the morality David's practices?**

 - E. David's numbers increase while in exile among the Philistines. I Chronicles 12:1-18 Optional Study: As new followers join David, what does David do to ensure their loyalty? What does this practice indicate about David?**

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Dark Before the Dawn

II. Philistines gather against Saul and he consults mediums and spirits. I Samuel 28, I Chronicles 12:19

- A. What task did the Philistine king, Achish, give to David? Why do you think he gave him this task?**

- B. Why did Saul seek out the medium?**

- C. What did he find out? Who did ask to be called up and Why? How did he react to the information? Why did he have such a reaction?**

- D. What lessons can be learned by this episode?**

- E. Optional Study: Use your bible study resources (eg. Biblical Crossreferences, Bible Dictionary, Handbook, Encyclopedia) to look up answers to the following questions: What is a medium? What does the bible say about this practice?**

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Dark Before the Dawn

III. Philistines do not allow David to fight with them against Saul. I Samuel 29

A. What objection did the Philistine lords have to David and his men?

B. What response did David and King Achish have to this objection?

1. King Achish's response

2. David's response

C. As David returned with his men to Ziklag what do you think he might be thinking and feeling?

D. Optional Study: The interaction between Achish and the Philistine lords presents a interesting glimpse into the authority structure of the Philistine government. Use your bible study resources (eg. Biblical Crossreferences, Bible Dictionary, Handbook, Encyclopedia) to describe who the Philistines were and how their system of government worked.

IV. David destroys the Amalekites after they had raided his refuge in Philistia. I

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Dark Before the Dawn

Samuel 30 (I Chronicles 12:20-21)

- A. Describe the scene which met David and his men upon their return to Ziklag. What did they see? What might they be thinking? What were they feeling?**
- B. David's Darkest Moment: In verse 6, David is said to be greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him. At this point in his life, David, who at a young age had some pretty heady experiences, was now an enemy of the King of Israel, exiled from his homeland, rejected in his exile, robbed and desolate of every earthly person and thing he held dear and was finally an object of wrath among his own men who spoke of killing him.**
- 1. What might his men be muttering about him?**
 - 2. What might most men be thinking and feeling in a situation like this?**
 - 3. For David, one thing made the difference that day; what was it?**
 - 4. What is meant by "Strengthened himself in the Lord his God"? How did he do that?**

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Dark Before the Dawn

5. Psalm 31 might have expressed David's emotions and prayers that day. Prayerfully read through Psalm 31. What does he tell God? What does he say about God and meditate about God? What does he ask God for? How does David encourage himself in this prayer? How does David's concept of God influence his heart?

Other pertinent prayers: Psalm 18:4-19, 23, 25:1-3, 42, 69, 86, 91

6. What would it have been like if David's faith in God had faltered here? How would that have affected the history of Israel, the World, the Church?

C. The Tide Turns for David.

1. How does God providentially lead David to victory over the Amalekites?
2. How does David demonstrate gracious leadership with the spoil?

V. Saul takes his life, Jonathan dies. I Samuel 31 (I Chronicles 10:1-14)

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Dark Before the Dawn

- A. How did Saul die? What was he concerned about at the end of his life? How is this consistent or inconsistent with whole life? How is Saul's response to the imminent threat of death different from David's response in I Samuel 30:6?**

- B. What is Jonathan doing at the end of his life? How is this consistent or inconsistent with his whole life?**

- C. What reasons are given for Saul's death in I Chronicles 10:13-14? What does this indicate about the nature of God?**

- D. How did the armor-bearer react at Saul's last request? Why did he react this way?**

VI. David hears of Saul's death. II Samuel 1:1-16

- A. How much time elapsed between David's brush with near-mutiny and the news of Saul's death? What lesson may be learned from this?**

Life and Character of David

David on the Run: Dark Before the Dawn

- B. How does David react to the news of the death of Saul and Jonathan? How did David's men react? How is this different from what you might expect?**

- C. How does the Amalekite's story square with the account in I Samuel 31? At what point did the Amalekite come upon Saul? What do you think he was doing when he came upon him?**

- D. How did David deal with the Amalekite? Why did David deal with him so?**

VII. David mourns for Saul and Johnathan. II Samuel 1:17-27

- A. How does David honor the names of Saul and Jonathan?**

- B. What does David's lamentation reveal about his heart?**

David

“One Man in a Thousand”

Born to a family of modest means, the youngest of seven brothers, He spent his boyhood years tending the family sheep. Yet this man would grow to become the one man in a thousand who would make the difference on a number of occasions and would be referred to by God Himself as a man who had a heart after God's own heart. I'm going to share a few stories about David that show that he stood out as the man who made a difference, one man in a thousand. Then I'm going to share what I think was reason he stood out so. Then I am going to close with one lesson to learn.

David and Goliath: David was one man in a thousand or more who had the moral courage and living faith to stand up to the giant. God was glorified that day because David dared to believe in His God.

As a result of that victory and many others, the King of Israel became passionately jealous of David and began to seek his life. David, even though he had already been anointed as the new King, waited patiently upon God's timing, while he evaded Saul's pursuit.

On one occasion, during his time as a fugitive, he received word that the Philistines were attacking one of the cities of Judah. When most men in David's shoes would have concluded that they were in no position to help. David was willing to ask God whether he should do something about it. When God said to go, David led his men against the Philistines and saved the city. David was willing to trust the Lord more than relying on his own insight and understanding. No one else who was with David that day was willing to entertain the idea that God might use them this way, but David proved again that he was one man in a thousand who made the difference.

On two other occasions, David had the opportunity to kill the King of Israel. One of these occasions, David and his men were hiding in the back of a cave, when the King who was pursuing David, came into the cave to rest. At the urging of his men, David approached the King, but seized with conscience and conviction David could not and would not lift his hand against the Lord's anointed", the current King. David merely cut off a small portion of his coat. Later when the King left the cave, arose after him and went out of the cave. I can imagine what his men were thinking "No, David don't go out there like that!" David called out to the King, holding up to piece of cloth, proving to the King that he meant him no harm and shaming the King into repentance. The King and his three thousand men terminated the pursuit of David that day, only to pick up the pursuit on another day when their consciences weren't so tender. But David, acting upon his conscience and conviction, was willing to boldly confront his pursuer. Standing on the truth, he turned away an army of three thousand with a piece of cloth sparing the bloodshed of many and proving again that he was one man in more than a thousand who would make the difference.

Finally, after twice sparing the life of the King, David realized that he should leave the land of Israel. He found refuge in the land of the Philistines, of all places, and earned the trust of the King of the Philistines. David was so trusted that the King of the Philistines made him his personal bodyguard. And so he was on the day that the Philistines gathered together for war against the King of Israel and his army. However, the Lords of the Philistines objected to David's presence and convinced the King of the Philistines to release him and have him return to his refuge, thinking that during the heat of battle David's loyalty to Israel would turn him against the Philistines. So David and his men returned to their refuge city. Upon returning they found that another nation, the Amalekites, had raided this city, burning everything and carrying off their wives and children. The bible says that David and his men raised their voices and wept, until they had no more strength to weep. Finally, as

David

“One Man in a Thousand”

if David's situation were not bad enough already, his men spoke of stoning him to death. At this point, most men would have come to their end; but not David. The bible says that David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. He inquired of the Lord, led his men in victory against the Amalekites, brought back everything that was taken (not one thing was missing) and only three days later learned that the King of Israel had been killed or rather killed himself during the battle with the Philistines. Soon God would place him on the throne. But only a few days earlier, David stood in his darkest, loneliest moment of crisis. At that point, it was only David and God. However, in the moment of crisis, it was David's relationship with God that made the difference. In the battle with the Philistines, when the King of Israel was faced with death, he killed himself.

So what made David different? What was it that allowed him to act with such faith and conviction in the day of decision and crisis? We have only to look at the Psalms of David to find out. Here are some excerpts:

Psalms 62:1-2 “For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly moved” You see when he left that cave, he was still in his fortress!!

Psalms 63:1-4 “O God, thou art my God, I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee; my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is. So I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary, beholding thy power and glory. Because thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise thee. So I will bless thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on thy name”

Psalms 23

Psalms 27:1&4 “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.”

So what was it that caused David to make the difference on the day of calamity? It was the deep abiding relationship he had established with God during those days and days of calm when he could have been doing a hundred other things.

And this is the one lesson to take away from this message this morning:

God has given us long times of relative calm in our lives interspersed with some crises. It is what you do during the long times of calm that prepare you for the day of calamity. We can fill up our days with busyness and the pursuit of our purposes, pleasures and plans or we can reserve some of that time to seek the Lord in His sanctuary, beholding His beauty and building a deep and abiding relationship with Him. But it is that faith, conviction and relationship with God that will make you the one man in a thousand who will make the difference on that day of decision or crisis. And may God be with you even to the end of the age.

Life and Character of David

King David: Establishing the Kingdom

I. David - King of Judah

A. David Becomes King of Judah - II Samuel 2:1-4

1. What process did David go through to decide what to do?
2. How did David become king?

B. David's First Official Act - II Samuel 2:4-7

1. What was one of David's first recorded acts as king?
2. What did he say to the men of Jabesh-gilead? Where was Jabesh-gilead?
3. What can you conclude about David from this act?
4. How do you think the men of Jabesh-gilead felt about David after this?

C. Ishbosheth Becomes King of Israel - II Samuel 2:8-11

1. How did Ishbosheth become king?
2. How was this different from David?

Life and Character of David

King David: Establishing the Kingdom

D. War between the Houses of Saul and David - II Samuel 2:12-32

1. How did the first battle begin?
2. What event shocked the Army of David? Why?
3. How did the battle end that day? What were the casualties?
4. What can you conclude about the key men in the battle?
 - a. Joab
 - b. Abner
 - c. Asahel

E. David has Children - II Samuel 3:1-5

1. How many children did David have in seven years that he was King in Hebron?
2. Name them in order along with their mother?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.

Life and Character of David

King David: Establishing the Kingdom

II. The Kingdom of Israel in Transition

A. General Abner goes over to King David - II Samuel 3:6-21

1. What caused the rift between Abner and Ishbosheth?
2. What did Abner say to Ishbosheth? Why do you think Abner made such a radical turnaround?
3. Why didn't Ishbosheth do something in response to Abner's threat?
4. What demand did David make of Abner?
5. How would you evaluate the character and qualities of each of the key characters who had a part in the reunion of David and Michal?
 - a. David
 - b. Abner
 - c. Ishbosheth
 - d. Michal
 - e. Paltiel

Life and Character of David

King David: Establishing the Kingdom

6. What secret of the Elders of Israel do we find out about
7. How does Abner convince the elders to act?
8. What offer did Abner make to David? How would you evaluate Abner's offer?

B. General Joab Murders General Abner - II Samuel 3:22-39

1. How does Joab react to Abner's mission? Why does he react this way?
2. How did Joab go about killing Abner? Why?
3. How would you evaluate Joab's character so far?
4. What did David have to say about what Joab did?
5. How did David react to the death of Abner? What did the people think of David's reaction?
6. What did David do about Joab? Why? What does this reveal about David?

Life and Character of David

King David: Establishing the Kingdom

C. Ish-bosheth, King of Israel Murdered - II Samuel 4

1. How did Ishbosheth die?
2. How did David deal with the sons of Rimmon?
3. What offspring did Jonathan leave behind? How did he become lame?

III. David Established as the King of Israel

A. David becomes King over all Israel - II Samuel 5:1-5, I Chronicles 11:1-3

1. How did David become king over all Israel?
2. How do the accounts in II Samuel and I Chronicles differ in emphasis?

B. The Men of Israel gather around David - I Chronicles 12:23-40

1. How many men from different tribes came to David to turn the kingdom of Saul over to him?
2. What were some of the distinctions associated with the men?
3. What was the atmosphere surrounding the transition of power?

Life and Character of David

King David: Establishing the Kingdom

- C. David Conquers Jerusalem - II Samuel 5:6-10, I Chronicles 11:4-9
1. Who were the inhabitants of Jerusalem? Why were they there? See Joshua 15:63 and Judges 1:8 & 21.
 2. What did the Jebusites say to David? Why?
 3. What instruction or command did David make?
 4. How did Joab get to be the commanding general?
 5. Why is Jerusalem referred to as the City of David? What other town is referred to this way? Luke 2:4
- D. David builds a home & has more children - I II Samuel 5:11-15, Chronicles 14:1-7
1. How did the king of Tyre honor David? How did David view his own coming to power?
 2. Name the children David had in Jerusalem. How many in total?
- E. David overcomes a Philistine attack - II Samuel 5:17-25, I Chronicles 14:8-17
1. Why did the Philistines come together against Israel?
 2. How did David lead? What was the difference between the two battles?

Life and Character of David

King David: Reviving the Soul of the Nation

I. Restoring the Tabernacle

A. Historical Perspective on the Ark

1. Where was the Ark? Under what circumstances had it come to be there?
What blessings and what tragedies accompanied the ark in its travels?
I Samuel 4:1 - 7:2

2. How long had it been there?
I Sam 7:2 Some twenty years + I Samuel 8:1, 12:2 old age;
I Samuel 13:1 and Acts 13:21 Saul reigned for about forty-two year

3. Where had the Ark been before that? I Samuel 1:24, 3:3; Joshua 18:1

B. David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem - II Samuel 6, I Chronicles 13:1-14

1. How was the Ark brought up when David first went to get it?

2. What happened along the way? Why was God angry? How did David react? Why did God allow this to happen? See also I Chronicles 15:2+13

3. How was the Ark brought up when David brought it to Jerusalem? What offerings were made and what did they mean?

Life and Character of David

King David: Reviving the Soul of the Nation

4. How did Michal, Saul's wife, react to the sight of David before the Ark? What can we learn about them and their relationship from their verbal interchange afterward? What do you think it was like to be married to David?

C. Preparations and Celebration for the Ark - I Chronicles 15 - 16

1. What were the first things David set up in the newly acquired city of Jerusalem? What plan did David probably follow in setting up the place for the ark of God? See Exodus 35-40
2. Who were the key Levites that David assembled for bringing up the ark? What special role had God preserved for the Levites? Leviticus 10:8-9
3. What was different about the retrieval of the ark this time as opposed to the first attempt David made?
4. What provision did David make for music and sacrifice to accompany the ark in procession and at Jerusalem? Why do you think he did this?
5. What exhortations and instructions did David give to Asaph and his brothers in his song of thanksgiving? I Chron 16:7-36 If you were Asaph or his brothers hearing this song for the first time, what would you be thinking and feeling? How should a worship leader view their responsibilities?

Life and Character of David

King David: Reviving the Soul of the Nation

D. Songs of Worship Produced

How do the following songs of worship amplify the exhortations and instructions found in I Chronicles 16:7-36

1. Psalm 105:1-15

2. Psalm 96:1-13

3. Psalm 106:1, 47-48

II. The Temple and the Promise

A. David's Wish - II Samuel 7:1-2, I Chronicles 17:1

1. What observation did David make?

2. How do you think he came to this observation?

B. God's Response - II Samuel 7:3-17, I Chronicles 17:2-15

1. How is Nathan's first reaction to David's observation reversed? What lessons may be drawn from this reversal?

Life and Character of David

King David: Reviving the Soul of the Nation

2. What does God say, through Nathan, to David concerning his desire to build a house for God? Why do you think he says these things to David?
3. How does God summarize what he has done for David so far?
4. What specific promises does God make to David?
5. What kind of house does God say he will build for David?
6. Compare and contrast the kind of house that God would build to that which David would build and the kind of house that God dwells in to that which David dwells in. What does this indicate about God?
7. To what extent does this promise refer to Solomon and other Israeli kings and to what extent does it refer to Christ?

Life and Character of David

King David: Reviving the Soul of the Nation

C. David's Prayer - II Samuel 7:18-29, I Chronicles 17:16-27

1. How would you describe David's attitude and feelings as he comes into the presence of God and speaks to Him?

2. What kind of house is David talking about now?

3. How does David express his gratitude and praise to God?

4. What does David actually ask God for?

5. What can be learned from this prayer about David's relationship to God or about God himself?

Life and Character of David

King David: Reviving the Soul of the Nation

III. National Security and Restoration

A. Securing the Borders - II Samuel 8:1-14, I Chronicles 18:1-13

1. List the nations identified in the scriptural texts, find them on the map and identify the key military actions associated with each.
2. What do we learn about David from this military campaign?
3. Assessment of the Condition of Israel National Security - Psalm 60
 - a. How does Psalm 60 amplify the condition of Israel?
 - b. Why was it in such a condition?
 - c. How would you describe the spirit of the people of Israel and what was it that made the difference in the military campaign?

Life and Character of David

King David: Reviving the Soul of the Nation

B. Appointing Cabinet Positions - II Samuel 8:15-18, I Chronicles 18:14-17

1. List the key cabinet members and their positions.

2. What was David's administration characterized by?

C. Honoring Predecessors and Keeping a Promise - II Samuel 9

1. What act of kindness does David show to Saul's survivors?

2. What motivates this act of kindness?

3. What values does David demonstrate and what can be learned about David from this episode?

4. How do the values and character of David revealed in this episode challenge you?

Life and Character of David

King David: Reviving the Soul of the Nation

D. Maintaining National Dignity and Confronting New Threats - II Samuel 10, I Chronicles 19

1. Why did David send men to the Ammonites?
2. How did the Ammonites treat them? Why did they treat them this way? Why was this treatment so offensive to Israel?
3. What did the Ammonites do after they sent David's men away? What motivated them to do this?
4. What kind of leadership and command does Joab show? How would you evaluate his pre-battle motivational speech?
5. If you could quiz the following individuals about what they learned from this episode, what do you think they would say?
 - a. Hanun, son of Nahash, King of the Ammonites
 - b. The princes of the Ammonites
 - c. The Syrians
 - d. David
 - e. David's servants
6. What lessons can we learn from this episode?

A Prelude to Psalm 51

Late one afternoon, in the spring of the year, when the rest of the able-bodied men of Israel were engaged in mortal combat, sacrificing their lives for the safety and security of their country, David arose from his nap in the palace, and went for a walk on the roof. Something was different about him now. He was not doing what he should have been doing. Rather, he was about to do something he would regret for the rest of his life.

- While he was up on the roof, he saw a woman bathing and she was beautiful.
- Ignoring what he knew to be plainly true, that God had forbid adultery in the Seventh Commandment, he sent for and had a secret affair with her.
- Fortunately for David only his closest servant had any idea. All was secretly hidden, no harm done.
- Until a little while later came word that Bathsheba was pregnant.
- Now the battle was engaged between the forces of darkness and the forces of light. Would David come clean, repent and confess and beg forgiveness from Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, or would he attempt to cover up his sin. Would he choose the path of light that leads to life or the path of darkness that leads to death.
- Unfortunately, David chose the path of darkness and attempted a coverup that eventually led to death, and that not his own.
- After calling Uriah back from the battle, he attempted to get him to go home and sleep with his wife. But good old Uriah was too honorable to allow himself to enjoy the pleasures of sex while his fellow soldiers were risking their lives for their country. So David sent him off, back to the battle with orders for the general to place him in the heaviest fighting and then have everyone but Uriah step back so that he would be killed. Little did Uriah know that he was carrying his own death warrant.
- This made every thing nice again. Uriah never knew anything. Sure, the general might have wondered when he got back from war and saw David married to Bathsheba. But it wasn't really adultery, because Uriah was killed in action...the order of thing just got a little mixed up. David didn't kill him, at least not directly. Doesn't a king have the right to send men to war and what if some of them got killed.
- And so it was that two great evils, adultery and murder, were quietly committed by King David and would have remained hidden until the judgement day, if it wasn't for the faithfulness and grace of God toward David.
- You see there was a prophet named Nathan and God sent him to David and he told David a story.
- Two men in a certain city. One rich, the other poor. The rich man have very many flocks and herds. The poor man had one little ewe lamb. He brought it up with him and his children, it used to eat from his hand and sleep on his bed.
- A visitor came to the rich man and he was unwilling to take one his own flock or herd to feed the visitor, so hie to the poor man's lamb.
- At this David said, "this man deserves to die".
- Without missing a beat, Nathan said to David, "You are the man!" Then Nathan rebuked David for the great evil he had committed.
- David, having been condemned out of his own mouth, confessed his sin without hesitation.
- Psalm 51, is the recorded prayer that David made to God following his rebuke and confession.
- So what does a person say to God after having committed such a sin? How do you deal with the magnitude of this kind of guilt?
- Let's explore Psalm 51 and see what we can learn about repentance, redemption and forgiveness.

Life and Character of David

His Fall and His Family

I. David and Bathsheba

A. David Takes Uriah's Wife, Bathsheba - II Samuel 11:1-5

1. What were the circumstances that led up to or may have contributed to David's act of adultery? What circumstance did David find himself in following the act?

2. What was Bathsheba's role in this act?

3. How could David have dealt with or avoided this temptation?

4. If you were one of David's trusted counselor's what advice would you have given him before and after the event? What scriptures would you refer to?

B. Cover Up Plan A - Uriah Encouraged to be with Bathsheba - II Samuel 11:6-13

1. Why did David call Uriah back to Jerusalem?

2. Why did David's original plan fail?

Life and Character of David

His Fall and His Family

3. What do you think would have happened if it had succeeded?

4. How does Uriah unknowingly rebuke David?

5. What effect do you think Uriah's words and actions had on David?

C. Cover Up Plan B - Faithful Uriah Sent to His Death - II Samuel 11:14-27

1. How do David's actions reveal his spiritual condition at this point?

2. How do Uriah's actions reveal his faithfulness and courage? How did he die?

3. What part did Joab play in all of this?

4. Compare the way David reacts to the battle news and the way Joab expects him to react. How is David's value of human life different?

Life and Character of David

His Fall and His Family

D. Nathan Confronts David and He Repents - II Samuel 12:1-14

1. How did Nathan go about confronting David? Why was this approach used?
2. What was David's reaction to the story at first? How did he react afterward?
3. What are the primary messages that God gave specifically to David thru Nathan?

E. David's Prayer of Repentance - Psalm 51

1. What admissions does David make?
2. What requests does he make?
3. What aspects of God's character does David call upon?
4. Look up other Psalms of David (32,38,103) for these penitent themes

Life and Character of David

His Fall and His Family

F. Their Children - II Samuel 12:15-25

1. What did David do while the child was still alive vs after the child died?
2. How did David's behavior puzzle his servants?
3. What explanation did David give for his behavior?

II. National Events: War with the Ammonites - II Samuel 12:26-31, I Chronicles 20:1-3

- A. What were the different roles that David and Joab played in the Ammonite conquest?
- B. What did they do with the victory?

Life and Character of David

His Fall and His Family

III. David's Family

A. Amnon & Tamar - II Samuel 13:1-19

1. What was Amnon's relationship to Tamar? See II Samuel 3:2-3, I Chronicles 3:9
What were his feelings toward her?
2. How did he lure Tamar to himself? What help did he get from another relative?
What part did David unwittingly play?
3. Why did his feelings toward her change after he raped her? How does this clarify
how he really felt about her? Compare the probable mindset, feelings and
motivations of Amnon and Tamar before, during and after the rape based upon
what they did and said.
4. How does this horrible event shed light on
 - a. The destructive nature of lust and an uncontrolled thought-life?
 - b. The mind and motives of a rapist?
 - c. The protective role of a father or other authority figure?
 - d. The events that lead up to abuse and the effects on the victim of abuse.

B. Absalom Avenges His Sister - II Samuel 13:20-39

1. How does Absalom comfort his sister and console himself?
2. How does Absalom avenge his sister's abuse?
3. How does David respond to this event?
4. What kind of leadership does David show in his role as father? How does this
compare to his leadership of his men or of Israel as a whole? Explore the lessons
that might be learned from this.
5. Where does Absalom go? Why did he go there?

Life and Character of David

Absalom's Coup and David's Exile

I. Absalom Returns - II Samuel 14:1-33

A. David's Relationship with Absalom

1. What previous events affected David's relationship with Absalom?
2. How would you characterize their relationship?

B. Joab Gets David to Issue Orders for Absalom's Return - II Samuel 14:1-24

1. What did Joab observe about David?
2. How did Joab go about getting David to send for Absalom?
3. What was it about the widow's fictitious story that reached David?
4. Why do you think Joab used this approach?
5. What was it about the story that made David suspect that Joab was involved?
6. What can we learn about David from his response to the story? About Joab?

C. Absalom's Vanity - II Samuel 14:25-27

1. How is Absalom described? What can we learn about his character?
2. What is the relevance of the name of his daughter? Why do you think he would name her that?

D. Absalom Restored to David - II Samuel 14:28-33

1. What condition did David initially give for Absalom to dwell in Jerusalem? Why did he make this condition? What effect do you think this had on their relationship?
2. After two years of estrangement, what was it that Absalom wanted? How did he go about getting it? Why do you think this was so important to Absalom?
3. What effort did each of the key players put into the reconciliation of David and Absalom? What could David have done to build a better relationship with Absalom?

Life and Character of David

Absalom's Coup and David's Exile

II. Absalom's Conspiracy - II Samuel 15:1-12

A. Gathering Popular Support

1. What was the significance of the chariot, horses and fifty men? How do you think he was able to afford them?
2. What was he doing beside the gate?
3. How would you evaluate his routine dialogue with litigants? How are his motives and purposes revealed and accomplished? If you were a litigant, how would you feel after such a dialogue; toward Absalom and toward David?
4. How does the bible characterize what Absalom did to the hearts of the men of Israel? Why?
5. Have you ever found yourself attempting to do something like Absalom did? What other scriptures speak to this issue? How can we avoid and mend these ways?

B. Taking Control of the Kingdom

1. How does Absalom obtain David's blessing to leave Jerusalem. Did he do what he say he was going to do?
2. What did he do while he was at Hebron? Who was with him and how did they get there?
3. What do you think God thought of his sacrifices? What do you think Absalom thought of God?
4. How is it that a conspiracy like Absalom's grows strong and gathers followers?

III. David flees from Absalom - II Samuel 15:13-37

A. David Flees

1. How does the messenger describe the state of the kingdom and what is the significance of that condition?
2. How did David react to the messenger's message? Why did he react this way?
3. What reasons does David give for leaving in haste?

Life and Character of David

Absalom's Coup and David's Exile

4. Why do you think David halted at the last house and had his servants pass by him?
5. How do David's remarks to Ittai, the Gittite and Abiathar, the priest reveal his heart? What does he think is in his future? How does Ittai's response characterize the kind of relationship David had with his servants?
6. What would you expect David to be feeling as he left Jerusalem? The people with him? The people who watched him leave?
7. What arrangements does David make to stay informed? Why did he do this? How did they work together undercover?
8. What values are expressed in David's prayer for Ahithophel? What do you think God felt about this prayer? How does this prayer challenge your personal convictions on prayer? Future Study: Study similar prayer requests of David and compare these with biblical instructions on prayer.

B. Ziba's Deception - II Samuel 16:1-4

1. What did Ziba say about Mephibosheth? If you were David and believed this story, how would you feel and what would you do?
2. What do you think Ziba and Mephibosheth's relationship had been like these many years?

C. Shimei's Cursing - II Samuel 16:5-14

1. What was Shimei doing? Why was he doing it?
2. What perception did he have of how David became king? How would you evaluate Shimei's perception of reality?
3. Compare and contrast the reactions of Joab's and David's to Shimei's offense? Why are they so different?

D. Psalm 3 - When David fled from his son Absalom

1. After losing the kingdom and having to run for his life, what is it that we find David concerned with at the beginning of the Psalm?
2. How is David's faith and relationship with God displayed?

Life and Character of David

Absalom's Coup and David's Exile

3. What can we learn about David from what he says in this Psalm and what he doesn't say?
- IV. Absalom's Attempts to Establish His Kingdom - II Samuel 16:15 - 17:23
- A. David's Spy in Absalom's House - II Samuel 16:15 - 19
1. How did Hushai gain Absalom's confidence?
 2. How would you evaluate Hushai's pledge of allegiance to Absalom?
- B. The First Consultation of Ahithophel - II Samuel 16:20-23
1. What does Absalom's first question to Ahithophel reveal about him? What was the objective of Ahithophel's first piece of advice to Absalom?
 2. How does Ahithophel recommend that Absalom strengthen his hand against David?
 3. How would you evaluate his counsel? How do you think the Israelites reacted to what Absalom did to David's concubines?
 4. How was Ahithophel viewed as a counselor? Why do you think he was viewed this way?
- C. The Second Consultation of Ahithophel - II Samuel 17:1-4
1. What method does Ahithophel suggest for dealing with David?
 2. How would you evaluate the likelihood that Ahithophel could deliver the results he promised?
- D. The Counsel of Hushai - II Samuel 17:5-14
1. Why did Absalom call for Hushai's counsel?
 2. What approach did Hushai take in contradicting the counsel of Ahithophel?
 3. How was Hushai's counsel different from that of Ahithophel? In your opinion, whose counsel was better? Why?
 4. Why do you think Hushai's counsel was appealing to Absalom and his men? What part was God playing in these events?
 5. How did Ahithophel react to the spurning of his counsel (vs. 23)? Why do you

Life and Character of David

Absalom's Coup and David's Exile

think he reacted this way?

E. Hushai Sends Warning to David - II Samuel 17:15-22

1. What warning did Hushai send to David?
2. Who were the key players, on both sides, in getting this message to David and what part did they play? What does this reveal about the condition of the kingdom of Israel at that time?
3. How did David respond to the warning? How did David's response to his counselor differ from Absalom's response to his? Why do you think they differed?

V. The War Between Absalom and David - II Samuel 17:24 - 19:8

A. The Battle in the Forest of Ephraim - II Samuel 17:24 -18:8

1. Describe the battle scene including the approach of the armies, the key leaders, the provisions available, the conditions of the battlefield and the results of the battle?.
2. What concern did David's men express to David? What concern did David express to his generals? What conflict of interest would this set up?

B. Joab Kills Absalom Contrary to David's Orders - II Samuel 18:9-18

1. How does Absalom meet an unseemly end?
2. Who first saw Absalom's predicament and what did he do about it? What reasons does he give to Joab for what he did? What do you think this man felt about Joab?
3. What do Joab's actions indicate about him?
4. How was Absalom hoping to makeup for his lack of posterity? What does this indicate about him?

C. David Mourns Absalom's Death - II Samuel 18:19 - 19:8

1. Why do you think Joab restrained Ahimaaz from reporting to David?
2. How was David informed of the news of Absalom? What did Ahimaaz do? Why?
3. How did David react to the news? What did his reaction reveal about him?

Life and Character of David

Absalom's Coup and David's Exile

4. What rebuke does David receive from Joab? Did he deserve it? Why or why not?
5. How did he respond to the rebuke.

Life and Character of David

The Autumn Years of His Kingdom

I. David Returns to Jerusalem - II Samuel 19:9-43

A. Strife and Debate - II Samuel 19:9-10

1. What was the condition of Israel after Absalom's death?
2. What were the people arguing about?
3. What, do you think, would the arguments of those who:
 - a. had supported Absalom?
 - b. had supported David?
 - c. Supported the "do nothing" position?
 - d. Supported the "do something" position?

B. Judah takes the lead - II Samuel 19:11-15

1. What part did David play in his own restoration of power?
2. How did he get the message to the elders of Judah?
3. To what part of the human spirit did David appeal? What were the results of this appeal?

C. Shimei pleads for forgiveness - II Samuel 19:16-23

1. Who came down to meet David at the Jordan and in what manner? Why?
2. What did Shimei say in his confession?
3. What were David's options? How did David respond? Why?

D. The Settlement of Mephibosheth and Ziba - II Samuel 19:24-30

1. How did Mephibosheth look when David saw him?
2. What explanation did David require of him and how did he answer?
3. What were the accusations and consolations of Mephibosheth?
4. What decision did David render and why do you think he made it?

E. Gratitude toward Barzillai - II Samuel 19:31-40

1. Who was Barzillai and why was David grateful to him? See also II Samuel 17:27
2. What offer did David make to Barzillai? Why do you think he made the offer?
3. How did Barzillai respond to the offer? Why?

F. Israel Dismayed - II Samuel 19:41-43

1. What did Israel accuse Judah of? Why? How did they respond? How was it settled?
2. How does this little episode reveal the state of the relations between the tribes of Israel?

Life and Character of David

The Autumn Years of His Kingdom

II. The Sheba's Rebellion - II Samuel 20:1-25

A. The Trumpet Call of Sheba - II Samuel 20:1-2

1. What did Sheba call for?
2. What kind of man was Sheba?
3. What did the men of Israel do in response to his call? Why would they do this?

B. David Returns to His House at Jerusalem - II Samuel 20:3

1. What did David do upon his return?
2. How did he treat the women who cared for his house in his absence?
3. Why did he treat them this way?

C. Amasa, Abishai and Joab - II Samuel 20:4-13

1. What mission did David send Amasa on?
2. What position did Joab find himself in compared to Amasa? How did he get into that position? How do you think he felt about it? Do a little background study on Amasa and Abishai and Joab's relationship to them?
3. What did David ask Abishai to do? Why did David turn to Abishai?
4. What did Joab do to Amasa? How did he do it? Why do you think he did it?
5. How did the men of Israel react at the sight of Amasa's body? What effect do you think this had on them afterward?
6. What do you think of Joab? If you were his superior, what would you do about him?

D. Sheba's Stand - II Samuel 20:14-22

1. What city did Sheba go to? Find it on a map? How did he end up there?
2. What can you find out about this city?
3. What did Joab and his men do when they came to the city?
4. What did the wise woman say to Joab? What can we learn from her actions?
5. How did Sheba's rebellion end? What observation can you make about the rebellion?

E. The Administration of David Restored - II Samuel 20:23-26

1. Name the members of David's administration.
2. Were there any changes since before Absalom's Coup?

III. Justice for the Gibeonites - II Samuel 21:1-14

IV. Wars Against the Philistines - I Chronicles 20:4-8, II Samuel 21:15-22

Life and Character of David

The Autumn Years of His Kingdom

- V. David's Song of Praise to God - II Samuel 22, Psalm 18
- VI. The Oracle of David - II Samuel 23:1-7
- VII. David's Hall of Fame: His Mighty Men - I Chronicles 11:10-47, II Samuel 23:8-39
- VIII. The Census: David's Pride n' Power -I Chronicles 21:1-8, II Samuel 24:1-10
 - A. Israel Plagued by David's Sin - I Chronicles 21:9-17, II Samuel 24:11-17
 - B. David's Altar - I Chronicles 21;18-22:1, II Samuel 24:18-25

Life and Character of David

Passing the Baton

- I. Adonijah's Self-Coronation Attempt - I Kings 1:1-27
- II. David Chooses Solomon - I Chronicles 23:1, 29:22-25, I Kings 1:28-53
- III. Preparations for Temple Construction - I Chronicles 22:2-5
- IV. David's Charge to Solomon - I Chronicles 22:6-16, I Kings 2:1-9
- V. David's charge to Israel's leaders - I Chronicles 22:17-19
- VI. David makes arrangements for the Temple Services - I Chronicles 23-26
(Division of Priest, Musicians, Gatekeepers, Treasury Officers, Judges)
- VII. Appointment of military and civil officials - I Chronicles 27
- VIII. David's describes his desire for the Temple - I Chronicles 28:1-8
- IX. David's charge to Solomon & plans for the Temple - I Chronicles 28:9-21
- X. David's charge to the people and their response - I Chronicles 29:1-9
- XI. David prays publicly and leads worship - I Chronicles 29:10-22
- XII. David dies after a forty year reign - I Chronicles 29:26-28, I Kings 2:10-11
- XIII. Record of the acts of King David - I Chronicles 29:29-30

Life and Character of David

His Prayer Life

- I. Praise and Adoration
- II. Confession
- III. Thanksgiving
- IV. Requests
 - A. For Himself
 - B. For Others

Life and Character of David

His Legacy & Lessons for Today

- I. His Passions/Purposes
- II. His Strengths
- III. His Weakness