

# Online Grace Bible School

With  
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**Online Grace Bible School  
Phase 5  
A Person After God's Own Heart**

### 1) Getting The Right King On The Throne

Judges was an era of 'no king'. There was anarchy, everyone doing his own thing. The glory departed. Many sins recorded in Judges + 1 Samuel but God responds to sin with a Saviour. The book of Ruth ends with David

David is spoken of more in NT than any other OT character. He is referred to 1200+ times in Bible. He is the most eminent type of Christ. He was a type of Christ most of all in that he was a man after God's own heart.

- ✓ Saul was the king whom the people chose. *'Give us a king'... 'like all the nations'*. God had promised them a king. But they wanted a king who would get them what they wanted. *'Not Thy will, but mine'*. The worse thing God can do is let us have our own way. Many times we read *'He will take...'* in 1 Sam.8:10-22. *'Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen and whom you have desired'* (1 Sam.12:13).
- ✓ David was the king God chose (1 Chron.28:4).
- ✓ Saul wants what he wants, and he wants to use God and others to get him what he wants. David wants what God wants. He is a man after God's own heart. He represents Christ and what He can form in us.
- ✓ Saul represents the flesh; David, the Spirit. Remember, we have both!
  
- ✓ First mention of **Saul** – he was looking for donkeys, 3 days. The donkeys were found. God was revealing to Saul that it's not up to him to make things happen. He could take his hands off. No need to manipulate.
- ✓ Then, he was anointed. God shows him that he will equip him. All he needed to do was trust God.
- ✓ Saul started well, but it soon became clear that he had an independent spirit and his own agenda. He wanted success and fame on his terms. The wrong king was on the throne.
- ✓ He even erected a memorial stone to himself (1 Sam.15:10-12).
- ✓ To know God's will and disobey it is like witchcraft and idolatry. *'For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king'* (1 Sam.15:23). The word for 'witchcraft' is usually translated 'divination', i.e. fortune telling. 'I know future outcome of my actions will be better than obeying God.'
  
- ✓ First mention of **David** he was keeping sheep. *'Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel"'* (2 Sam.7:8). Shepherd-King. See also Ps.78:70-72.
- ✓ He was not selected for his outward appearance. Even Samuel expected a man who was outwardly impressive. *'But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart"'* (1 Sam.16:7).
- ✓ He was youngest, least and despised by his family Ps.27:10. Saul was outwardly impressive: handsome, head & shoulders above others. The flesh is outward, showy and appeals to the flesh, (1 Cor.1:26-31).
- ✓ But David knew who he was. David = 'Beloved'. He knew that God was with him.
- ✓ He was the 8<sup>th</sup> son of Jesse – new beginning. The flesh (Saul) comes first, then the Spirit (David). When we are born again we are no longer in the flesh, but in the Spirit.
- ✓ **Jn.3:6**. We are a new creation. Adam's life is no longer our source of life. A new king is on the throne. *'You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you'* (Rom.8:9).
- ✓ Yet we can still walk *according* to the flesh. This is because our body has not yet been redeemed. We are still capable of fleshly behaviour, (Gal.5:16-18). As there was civil war throughout David's reign, so too with us. Don't fight the flesh; walk in the Spirit. Keep the right king on the throne.

*'And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will' (Acts 13:21-22).*

## 2) Who's Representing You?

1 Sam.17:4-7. Goliath is a picture of man under Satan's control. Adam after the Fall. Note the three 'sixes':

- ✓ He was 6 cubits tall.
- ✓ 6 pieces of armour.
- ✓ His spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron.

1 Sam.17:8-9. 'Choose a representative'. A representative takes up the cause of those he stands for and re-presents their case. He says, 'Don't look to these now; look to me.' Winner takes all.

Who is your representative? This is a picture of a very important doctrine – federal headship, federal union. Our identity is based upon the one with whom we are identified, the one who represents us. In Adam 'all sinned'. Adam represented the human race. His sin was imputed to us. If God dealt with us on the basis of a representative once, He can do it again. Our only hope is that someone else will represent us.

*'And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid' (1 Sam.17:10-11).* John wept much because no one was worthy to take the scroll, etc.

But there **is** another representative: Jesus. He is typified by David.

- ✓ We are born under the Federal Headship of Adam
- ✓ We are born again under the Federal Headship of Christ
- ✓ We are born under the Federal Headship of Adam physically
- ✓ We are born again under the Federal Headship of Christ spiritually

17:24-28. Eliab attacked David because David witnessed his cowardice. The flesh focuses on appearance.

17:34-37. David saw Goliath as just another animal attacking God's flock. 5 stones, 5 wounds. 5 = Grace.

17:49-51. David used Goliath's own weapon to cut off his head. Heb.2:14&15; 1 Cor.2:8.

17:52-53. The Israelites contributed nothing to the battle. But they reaped all the benefits and spoil of the victory. David's victory was their victory. Our identity is based upon the One who represents us.

*'And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent' (1 Sam.17:54).* Jesus was crucified at Golgotha = 'The place of a skull' (Matt 27:33). Christ on the cross with His feet on the skull symbolized His victory over the seed of the serpent. Gen.3:15; Eph.1:19-23; Rom.16:20.

As Adam's offense resulted in condemnation, so Jesus' sacrifice results in justification for those who believe.

*'Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life' (Rom.5:18).*

*'For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ' (Rom.5:17).*

### Superior blessings

1) Judgment was for one sin; justification for many (Rom.5:16).

2) 1 Sam.17:9 Freedom from power of sin (Rom.6:17-18).

3) 1 Sam.17:25 Great riches. His daughter for a bride. Exemption from taxes. Saul in his heavy taxation system represents the demands of the law.

4) Victory over Satan. We are not called to defeat Satan. He has already been defeated. We are facing an enemy who has no authority over us. We need to learn to stand in that victory.

2 representatives appointed by God. *'The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven' (1 Cor.15:47).* *'For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive' (1 Cor.15:22).*

### 3) The Devil's Wisdom

- ✓ 1 Sam.18:1-4. Saul is a picture of the flesh – 'not Your will, but mine!'
- ✓ David was a man after God's own heart. He wants what God wants.
- ✓ 'And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt' (1 Sam.18:4), acknowledging that David would one day take his place. 'I must decrease; He (the Spirit) must increase'. This is the prayer and desire of the spiritual Christian.
- ✓ In contrast, Saul was happy for David to be in his army so long as he increased his fame. This is like the carnal Christian who wants God in their life so He can be used to get them what they want (flesh).

18:5-6. David fought Saul's battles and greatly succeeded. He was becoming great and God was the architect of it. God made him great. He always gave glory to God for his victory. He wanted Him to be glorified.

18:7-9. Saul was angry that David was praised. Envy took control of him until it consumed him.

Jealousy (Gk. *zelos*) can be good or bad. 6 out of 9 times in NT it is good. E.g. 1 Cor.12:31. *Zelos* is a strong passion that admires the good it sees in others and wants that for self. So far, so good.

Envy (Gk. *phthonos*) is always bad. Envy resents what the other has. Envy is jealousy which has arrived at a place of hostility. It feeds upon the ruin of others. This is the devil's wisdom. Jas.3:14-15

- ✓ Envy was the original sin (Is.14:12-14). His counsel teaches the way to happiness is to be jealous of, and covet what another has, and devise a scheme to take it from them.
- ✓ It is a STD (spiritually transmitted disease). The devil's wisdom. It was the original sin on earth.

Envy is like a boomerang. It comes back to kill us. It did to Lucifer and Adam and Eve. 'For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there' (James 3:16). It would do the same for Saul.

- ✓ First it led to fear (1 Sam.18:12). Then attempted murder (1 Sam.18:10-11).
- ✓ Then he turned an unconditional promise into a conditional promise (1 Sam.18:17).
- ✓ Then broke his word and gave Michal to another man (1 Sam.18:20-21).
- ✓ Then tried to set him up for his own death (1 Sam.18:25).
- ✓ Another attempt to kill him (1 Sam.19:8-10).
- ✓ 19:11-17, Saul was now no longer secretive. He openly told Jonathan and his leaders his plan to kill David
- ✓ David had no other option than to go into exile. He even pursued him in the wilderness.
- ✓ Saul remained David's enemy until the day he died.
- ✓ Envy is toxic. See James 3:16; Prov.27:4; Sol.8:6; Prov.14:30.

Jas.3:17-18; Phil.2:5-11. **The wisdom from above** seeks only the glory of God and the good of others.

But how could David remain faithful and continue fighting the Lord's battles?

- ✓ He knew he was beloved. He knew he was anointed and called, and one day he would ascend the throne.
- ✓ He committed his cause to God. Psa.59. See the Introduction.
- ✓ God gave him wisdom from above.
- ✓ The Lord was with David, and Saul wasn't allowed to harm him (1 Sam.18:12; 1 Sam.18:14; 1 Sam.18:28).
- ✓ David didn't need to scheme or manipulate, just trust God. Faith is living without scheming.
- ✓ Saul became more afraid of David because God was with him, (1 Sam.18:29).
- ✓ Saul sent David out to battle to be killed. But David won all his battles. This made him more popular.
- ✓ 19:18-24. Even Saul's soldiers and Saul himself become prophets. God fights flesh with Spirit.
- ✓ Every time Saul tries to get control it backfires.

Summary: David would defeat the Lord's enemies, consolidate the kingdom and gather the materials needed for the temple. He would write the psalms for the priests and design musical instruments played in worship. It was through David that Messiah would come.

#### 4) What To Do With Your Enemy

'But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death' (1 Sam.20:3). David went into exile for 10 years. 'And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him' (1 Sam.22:2). The exile years are reflected in several psalms, even some quoted by Jesus on the cross. God used these years to mature him and to make him into a leader.

- ✓ We see again David as a type of Christ. He had been anointed by the Spirit and proclaimed king through Samuel. But he is a king in exile, while another king whom God has rejected still seems to be reigning over the kingdom. But David will reign one day, and his men will reign with him.
- ✓ Likewise Jesus is the true King and we are heirs of the kingdom. But we do not see Him reigning yet. He is like a King in exile. We wait for His reign in faith (Heb.2:5-10). But it is going to happen (Rev.11:15).
- ✓ Following David meant hardship and persecution. But when he came to the throne all were rewarded (1 Chron.11-12; Rev.22:12).

At Keilah David sought the Lord and was told to flee as the people would betray him to Saul (1 Sam.23:13). They moved from place to place until they settled in the wilderness of Ziph (23:16). Jonathan reminded him of God's promise to make him king. This was the last time the two met.

#### 3 incidents in which David taught his men the fear of the Lord:

1) Saul (1 Samuel 24). Saul pursued him. David and his men hid in a cave and Saul entered the cave to relieve himself. His men thought this was God's providence. They urged David to kill Saul. David cut off a piece of his robe. It was an act of mercy but also a symbol that the kingdom was transferred to him. Note:

- ✓ David didn't take revenge but committed it to God (1 Sam.24:12). Saul, Amnon, Nabal & Absalom received mercy from David, but judgment from God (1 Pet.2:21&23).
- ✓ There are 3 levels of life: a) To reward good with evil; b) to reward good with good; c) to reward evil with good (1 Sam.24:17-20). David chose the highest and had the right to reign.

2) Nabal (1 Sam.25). Nabal was protected by David and his men. He was a harsh man, a son of Belial. He deeply insulted David's men 25:10-11. David forgave Saul but not Nabal. He failed to consult the Lord and was about to give his enemies a cause against him. God mercifully stopped him.

- ✓ Both Abigail and David acknowledged that the Lord prevented David from making a big mistake.
- ✓ He didn't reward evil with evil. He had been given a sure house so had no need to fear (1 Sam.25:29).
- ✓ Nabal died of a stroke and David acknowledged that vengeance belongs to God (1 Sam.25:39).

3) Saul 2 (1 Sam.26). Saul took 3000 men again to search for David. But the Lord kept him safe.

- ✓ He sent a deep sleep to Saul and David spared him again. He rewarded evil with good (Prov.16:32).
- ✓ David knew God would avenge him (1 Sam.26:9-10).
- ✓ It's true that Jesus told us not to take revenge on our enemies but to forgive (Matt.5:43-46). Would God, then, ask us to do something that He doesn't practice? Sometimes He does (Rom.12:19). We not to take revenge because it is not our prerogative, but God's. We are not equipped for that role, but He is.

Saul's last words to David *'Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail." So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place'* (1 Sam.26:25-26). The two men parted – Saul to his death and David to the throne. Ps.23:6.

- ✓ When tempted to seek revenge, recognize the voice of the Spirit within you.
- ✓ Remember, vengeance belongs to God.
- ✓ Always reward evil with good.
- ✓ True strength is shown in forgiveness. Such a person already has authority and is reigning.

**5) How To Encourage Yourself In The Lord**

This was probably the most difficult time in David's experience, at least up until this time.

- ✓ Anointed king yet chased out of the kingdom. Hunted like an animal for 7 years.
- ✓ Finally, in a lapse of faith, he made the decision to leave Israel and live with the Philistines (1 Sam.27:4).
- ✓ He pretended to fight for the Philistines by raiding his own people. Faith is living without scheming.
- ✓ After 3 years his men lined up for battle with the Philistines against Israel, but were not trusted.
- ✓ In his absence Ziklag was attacked. Their families were captured, possessions stolen and city burned.
- ✓ These mighty men of war wept till there was no more power to weep.
- ✓ In the past David had the support of these men in all his trials. Now they were exhausted, hurt, angry and looking for someone to blame. He was no longer the giant-slaying hero. Some wanted to stone him.
- ✓ But David encouraged himself in the Lord. How do you encourage yourself in the Lord?

**1) Understand that you cannot see the whole picture**

He was unaware of the events of 1 Sam.28. Saul, who banned spiritists, in his desperation sought one. Samuel was called up but announced that God had departed from him because he refused to obey Him, that David would become king in his place and that he and his sons would be with Samuel the next day. David knew none of this. We walk by faith, not sight. His exile was about to end and he would be crowned king.

**2) Remember the Lord will always encourage you**

You are not alone (Jn.16:32). '*...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might*' (Eph.6:10). Your strength is not outside of you, but within (Eph.3:16). David encouraged himself in the Lord.

- ✓ What transpired between him and God? Maybe one of the psalms came out of this experience. Psa.42.
- ✓ It was a 'Maskil', i.e. a contemplation, teaching psalm. David, who taught his men the fear of the Lord, here teaches us how to encourage ourselves in the Lord.
- ✓ He had been excluded from the house of God. This grieved him. He thirsts after God (Psa.42:2).
- ✓ He is experiencing God's delay (v2). He knows God will help – but when? This is intensified by the taunts of his enemies (Psa.42:3). The Devil's favourite taunt: 'Where is your God now?'

**3) Learn to talk to yourself**

- ✓ Our thoughts do not always originate from within, but they are processed from within.
- ✓ How do we process those thoughts? (See Psa.42:5&11). His spirit talked to his soul.
- ✓ Are you listening to yourself or talking to yourself? We must learn to speak back to ourselves. Most of our unhappiness stems from listening too much to yourself, instead of talking to yourself.
- ✓ We cannot control our circumstances but we can control our emotions by our thoughts.
- ✓ We learn to respond to our fears with faith. '*Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him*' (Psa.42:5,11).
- ✓ We have been given hope. Hope is the certain expectation of good. It concerns the future, (Rom.8:24). But true hope affects the present. I am not afraid of the present because I am assured of the future.
- ✓ We must learn to bring our condition into line with our position.
- ✓ Are we a victim or victor? What others do to us they are responsible for; how we react we are responsible for. The fruit of the Spirit is self-control, which includes self-encouragement.
- ✓ He quieted his soul, (Psa.42:11). This means to stay our minds upon God, (Isa.26:3). David did not have perfect peace, i.e. double peace; shalom, shalom; peace, peace. He had peace and doubts.
- ✓ Psa.42:11. A person who is discouraged shows it on his face. But when he sees the face of God his soul is quieted. His circumstances did not change immediately, but the state of his soul did.
- ✓ His spirit talked to his soul and lifted it up again. That's what we must do, 2 Cor.10:3-5; Phil.4:8.
- ✓ He sought God and His will and was assured of success. He and his men pursued the enemy.
- ✓ David surprised the Amalekites who were celebrating. He rescued his people and recovered all the spoil, and gained the wealth of the Amalekites.
- ✓ David showed that he knew God had given the victory by sharing the booty equally with those who went into battle and those who didn't. David not only retrieved everything lost but with great plunder as well.

**6) Wait On The LORD And He Will Cause You To Inherit**

David knew how to wait on the LORD:

- ✓ He never killed Saul when he had the chance to.
- ✓ God prevented him and his men from assisting the Philistines in Saul's downfall.
- ✓ Even when he became king of Judah he did not force himself on Israel. He was wise and patient.
- ✓ He endured the consequences of the selfish ambitions of opportunists, motivated by pride.
- ✓ During a long civil war (2 years) David waited.
- ✓ Ish Bosheth was assassinated. That which is gained by stealth of man's scheming is usually short-lived.
- ✓ Abner tried to merge the 2 kingdoms. Abner wanted David to enter into a covenant with him, but when David became king he entered into a covenant with the people (2 Sam.5:3).

Throughout the Bible we find God purposed things to people for which they had to wait in order to receive:

- ✓ God promised Abram and Sarai a child, but they had to wait 25 years to get him.
- ✓ God made Jacob wait 14 years to get the wife he wanted.
- ✓ Joseph waited a long time to see his father and did not go back to the Promised Land until after his death.
- ✓ The Israelites had to wait 430 years in Egypt, before returning to the Promised Land.
- ✓ The OT saints waited for us before they could see the promises of the New Covenant (Heb.11:39-40).
- ✓ For 2,000 years, saints have been waiting for the Lord's return and the coming of His Kingdom.

God is not in a hurry. God is bigger than time and has a reason for our waiting:

1) Waiting on God is a test of faith and obedience

- ✓ In times of waiting for God many have failed in their faith and obedience. E.g. Saul. Abraham and Sarah.
- ✓ Why is it so hard? Because we want to take matters into our own hands, to follow our own schemes.
- ✓ Satan often attacks in times of divine delays. He suggests to us that God either does not know about us, or does not care about us. He wants us to doubt that God's promises will ever be fulfilled.
- ✓ Then he seeks to get us to act independently of God to obtain these things by our own power and means.

2) Waiting on God binds us closer to Him

- ✓ The Hebrew word for 'wait', *qavah*, means 'to bind together' (as by twisting strands to make a rope); to 'wait patiently', and 'hope, expect, or look eagerly for'.
- ✓ Many of the psalms were written during times of waiting, (e.g. Psalm 130:5-6; Psalm 27:14).
- ✓ The ability to wait on the Lord stems from being confident and focused on who He is. It is confidence in His person: confidence in His wisdom, love, timing, understanding of our situation and that of the world. It means to know and trust in God's sovereignty, (e.g. Psa.39:7; Psalm 40:1-2; Psa.37:34; Psa.37:9).

3) Waiting does not mean passivity

- ✓ Waiting means acting at the *right* time.
- ✓ David waited many years to reign over all Israel, but that was a very busy time in his life. David did much more than merely flee for his life. He was engaged in many things which had a bearing on his future.

4) By means of waiting God prepares us for that which He has promised us

- ✓ David knew that while he was waiting God was preparing him. The lion and bear God prepared him for Goliath. Success before we are ready will end in failure.
- ✓ David has gone through many different experiences, all of which would make him a better king for having endured them. He was now much better prepared to reign as Israel's king. *'So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands'* (Psa.78:72). Sheep symbolize God's people. David's faithfulness qualified him to tend God's flock. *'I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living'* (Psa.27:13).

*'...do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises'* (Heb.6:12).

## 7) The Tabernacle of David

At the Council of Jerusalem James quoted Amos: *'After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up'* (Acts 14:28). What did he mean? The Church at this time was Jewish. God opened the door to the Gentiles, but Satan tried to close it. Thus, the Council of Jerusalem met to discuss this question: 'Do Christian converts need to be circumcised and obey the Law?' 'Are we saved by a mixture of grace and law?' 'Do we need Moses to complete what Jesus began?'

This issue arose because legalists from the Jerusalem Church taught the Gentiles converts needed to keep the Law. They added to the gospel. Now there were 2 gospels: Compare Acts 13:39 and Acts 15:5.

- ✓ **Peter** (15:7-11). Shared his experience re: Cornelius. The Holy Spirit was given to Gentiles endorsing them without the Law. The Law was an unbearable yoke, even to the Jews. Salvation is by grace, for Jew and Gentile. The legitimization of the salvation of Gentiles by grace is Peter's last recorded mention in Acts.
- ✓ **Barnabas and Paul (15:12)**. They testified how God set His seal upon the Gentiles through the preaching of the Gospel. The emphasis is not on what Paul & Barnabas did, but what God did.
- ✓ **James** quoted the words of Amos 9:10-11 as irrefutable evidence (Acts 15:14-17).
- ✓ 'Do Christian converts need to be circumcised and obey the Law?' 'No! Prophecy states that the kingdom of Christ will not be a revival of Mosaic Law, but a restoration of the tabernacle of David.'

The first thing David did when he became king over all Israel was to take Jerusalem and bring back the Ark.

- ✓ The Ark was taken in battle by the Philistines! Ichabod! The glory departed...for over 75 years.
- ✓ The Philistines took the ark to their chief city of Ashdod, but it brought plagues. The same thing happened at Gath and Ekron. They were terrified so they loaded the ark on cart and drove it back to Israel.
- ✓ The ark arrived at Beth Shemesh and the people took off the lid, the mercy seat, exposing them to judgment. 50,000 instantly died. So the people called for those from Kiriath Jearim to fetch the ark. It was taken to the house of Abinadab in Kiriath Jearim and stayed there during the reign of Saul until David.
- ✓ David loved God and wanted to bring it back but loaded it on a cart, (Philistine idea). It hit a bump on a threshing floor. Uzzah reached out to steady it and was struck dead. David was frightened and didn't bring the ark back to his city but they stored it in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite (from Gath).
- ✓ The lesson is clear. Who can stand before God on the basis of Law? The Law brings death.
- ✓ The ark was in the house Obed-Edom, blessing his family for 3 months. David tried to figure out why others were slain, but not Obed-Edom. He was a Gentile! Then he got a revelation of grace that welcomes Jew and Gentile into His presence because of Jesus. The ark is brought to the Tabernacle of David.
- ✓ During the reign of David there was an abnormality in Israel: 2 tabernacles of God in existence - the tabernacle of Moses at Gibeon and the tabernacle of David at Zion.
- ✓ In the tabernacle of Moses there was a veil, but no ark! There was no veil in the tabernacle of David. The ark was on full view allowing worship for all (Psa.61:4; Psa.63:7; Psa.17:8).
- ✓ This was a foretaste of the new covenant. Zion is a new wineskin. It represents a relationship with God based upon grace. There is unconditional acceptance for all who approach God by faith in Christ.
- ✓ The period in which the ark resided at Zion is the context of the many references in the Psalms and Prophets to 'Zion' as God's dwelling place. (See Heb. 12:22).
- ✓ At David's Tabernacle there was only a one time sacrificial offering, therefore no more consciousness of sin. And no priests (mediators), only Levites, whom David appointed 'to minister before the ark of the Lord, and to record, i.e. bring to remembrance the mercies and marvelous acts of God.
- ✓ The main emphasis is that Zion provides an intimacy with God. It represents the doing away of legalistic ways to reach or touch God. Through Jesus we have boldness to enter into the holy place! God is no longer locked up in a building or a tent. He now tabernacles with His people by indwelling them.
- ✓ David danced before the Lord. When the ark was installed he blessed the people with bread, meat and wine. But when he went home to bless his family his wife despised him. A day of celebration was killed by cold legalism. She said he disgraced himself. David let time reveal who had really been disgraced.

**8) The Sure Mercies of David**

This chapter is about the Davidic covenant. It has great significance for Israel and the Church.

- ✓ In his years of exile David vowed to build a house for God (Psa.132:1-5). Bringing back the ark was first step to this. It troubled David that he dwelt in comfort in a house of stone with cedar paneling and God's ark dwelt in a tent. He shared his burden with Nathan, who encouraged him to do what was in his heart.
- ✓ God sent Nathan back to David with this message: At no time had He ever asked a tribe or individual to build Him a house. God had another plan for David. He wanted him to defeat their enemies and establish peace for the nation. He wanted him to unite the nation and be a caring leader, a shepherd to Israel.
- ✓ Solomon would build the temple once there was peace. David accepted this graciously (1 Kings 8:18).
- ✓ Then God entered into a covenant with David promising to build *him* a house (i.e. dynasty), 2 Sam.7:11,16
- ✓ 'House' is mentioned 15 times. First, David's palace, then the temple, then the spiritual house God would build through David's Son, the Messiah. David's palace and Solomon's temple would eventually be destroyed. But the house God builds will last forever (Psa.89:34-37).
- ✓ The house God purposed to build through David would be offered to the world, (Isa.55:1-3).
- ✓ Regardless of how low David and the kings of Judah stooped, God was faithful to preserve the light of Israel. Examples - Solomon: (2 Sam.7:13-15). Rehoboam: (1 Kings 11:36). Abijam: (1 Kings 15:4). Jehoram: (2 Kings 8:19; 2 Chron.21:7). This illustrates how sure the mercies of God through David are.
- ✓ The Davidic covenant supports the Abrahamic covenant, which is the supreme covenant. God promised Abraham a land, a natural seed, blessing, protection, etc. But also He promised blessing to the whole world through His 'Seed' (singular) Gal.3. God reinforces all this but specifies that this Seed would be the Son of David. (See Isa.9:6-7; Isa.16:5; Lk.1:32-33, 69; Acts 13:34, 38-39; 2 Tim.2:8; Rev.5:5; Jer.33:15-17).
- ✓ The throne of David ended in 586BC. The last king officially was Jeconiah, (Jer.22:30). When Jeconiah was taken into captivity the throne was vacant and there was a promise and a curse. The promise was that the Messiah would come from the seed of David. The curse was the literal seed of Jeconiah, the royal line of David, could not ascend the throne again.
- ✓ This is proof positive that only one person could ever be the Messiah – Jesus Christ. His royal lineage came from Joseph. But He was not of Joseph's seed therefore He could not inherit the curse. His humanity came from Mary who was also of the seed of David. As the son of Mary He was really and truly David's seed. But because Mary married Joseph, Jesus was brought into the position of firstborn and heir to Joseph without being of his flesh.
- ✓ If he were just Joseph's son, i.e. his flesh and blood, He would be excluded from the throne because of the curse. Yet, if He were just Mary's seed He would be a son of David, but not of royal lineage branch of David's family. The unique combination of Joseph and Mary made Jesus the literal seed of David and direct heir to the throne.
- ✓ The covenant was unconditional. All that David had to do was accept it and let God work.
- ✓ In response, David went and sat before the Lord in the tabernacle of David (2 Sam.7:18).

**Application**

- ✓ God has said HE would build His Church. You and I may build a palace or a temple, but only God can build the Church.
- ✓ God removed the temple. Jesus even threatened to remove local churches. But God is building a kingdom which cannot be shaken.
- ✓ When we connect lives to Christ, the Son of David, what we build is forever.

**9) Surprised By Grace**

- ✓ 2 Sam.9:1-2. David asked, 'Who can I bless today?' Who can I show kindness (*chesed* = mercy, pity, favour) to? Not 'who deserves the kindness of God?' There is no such thing as deserving grace. It is not given to us on the basis of merit, but demerit. Rom.3:24 'freely', i.e. without a cause. See Jn.15:25.
- ✓ Paul saw this in the work of Jesus on the cross (Titus 3:3-6).
- ✓ It is depicted here in David's treatment towards Mephibosheth. Being a descendant of Saul disqualified him for David's kindness. But grace is given to the undeserving.
- ✓ 2 Sam.9:3. Mephibosheth was a grandson of Saul. He was 5 years old when David ascended the throne.
- ✓ His nurse fled from David because she thought that he was like others kings. She fell and he became lame
- ✓ He was carried to the land of Gilead, where he found refuge at Lo-debar = a place of no pasture.
- ✓ He would have been told, 'The reason your feet are lame is because of David. The reason you live in this dump is because of David. David did this to you.' So he grew up hating and fearing David.
- ✓ Also, he lived in ignorance of the covenant that existed between his father Jonathan and David.
- ✓ Like Mephibosheth we do not have a personal covenant with God. We are included in the covenant between God and His Son. Many suffer today because of ignorance of the new covenant.
- ✓ David sent and fetched him. 9:5. Without fetching-grace we would have perished (Jn.6:44; Lk.14:18).
- ✓ 9:6-7. David called him by name (See Jn.10:3; Ex.3:4; Lk.19:5; Jn.20:16; Acts 9:4).
- ✓ '*Here is your servant.*' The majority of Christians belong to the religion of the *servant*, instead of the *son*.
- ✓ '*Do not fear...*' '*...you have not received a spirit of bondage again to fear...*' '*...there is no fear in love...*'
- ✓ '*... for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake; and will restore you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually.*' Under grace, everything God wants to do in your life is paid for, (Rom.8:32. Matt.6:33).
- ✓ David told Mephibosheth that he would not even have to work. Toil vs tend. In grace we have effortless ministry; not trying to make things happen, but doing what our Father is doing.
- ✓ '*...and you shall eat bread at my table continually...*' He forsook his previous family and was incorporated into David's household as his own son. We have been cut off from Adam and placed in Christ.
- ✓ 9:8. Mephibosheth's thoughts towards David were changed. The goodness of God leads to repentance.
- ✓ 9:9. Mephibosheth means 'one who destroys shame; a dispeller of shame'. Here he is a picture of someone who has all the rights of a son of a king but initially he sees himself as a dead dog.
- ✓ 9:11. See the contrast between these two men - Ziba the *servant* (9:2,3,9-11); and Mephibosheth the *son*. There is not one word of grace to the servant, and not one command to the son.
- ✓ Ziba said, 'There is a man, but he is a cripple'. A servant draws attention to the flesh. But under the table lameness is hidden. His walk did not *bring* him to the table. His walk did not *keep* him at the table.
- ✓ Everything on the table is by grace. Put your feet under the table and enjoy the feast.

Sequel

- ✓ 16:1-4. David, the true king, is rejected. As he leaves Jerusalem he is met by Ziba. He asks, 'Where is Mephibosheth?' Ziba replied that he was staying at Jerusalem trying to get the kingdom.
- ✓ It seems as if Ziba was the better person under law, and that grace had made Mephibosheth a traitor.
- ✓ 19:24&25. Absalom was defeated and David returned. Mephibosheth went to meet him. He hadn't trimmed his beard, washed his clothes or cared for his feet. David asked, 'Why didn't you go with me?'
- ✓ 19:26&27. Mephibosheth replied that Ziba had tricked him and deceived David.
- ✓ 19:24. Mephibosheth refused to take any place on earth but that of a mourner waiting David's return.
- ✓ Who was telling the truth? Ziba or Mephibosheth? One was a hypocrite, the other was genuine.
- ✓ 19:28&29. David did not know which one was genuine so he said, 'Divide the land.'
- ✓ 19:30. See the beautiful reply of Mephibosheth: 'It was not the land I wanted. It was that the right person be restored to the throne; the one that had shown me such kindness.' David tested him, like Solomon, proposing to divide the land. Mephibosheth's reply revealed he was telling the truth.

**10) Our Only Refuge Is Jesus**

- ✓ The soul that thirsted for God lusted for Bathsheba. David was about 50 and had several wives. He was a father and king. We're not immune to sin the older we get. Flesh remains flesh. Let's not judge, but learn.
- ✓ 2 Sam.11:1-2. Had he been fighting the Lord's battles he would not have been in the place of temptation.
- ✓ He should have withdrawn after the first look. But his curiosity got the better of him (2 Sam.11:3). God put a 'stop' sign in front of him: 'She's married!' But he drove through the 'stop' sign and crashed.
- ✓ Never underestimate sin. If we open the door it comes in as guest, then takes over as master (Gen.4:6-7)
- ✓ Sin makes you think you are in control, but you're not. When Bathsheba became pregnant David sought to cover his tracks. He began to be activated by Satan instead of led by the Spirit. Scheming with Uriah, twice. But he could not control Uriah. David even used the loyalty and bravery of Uriah to kill him.
- ✓ By coveting, lying, adultery and murder he broke 4 commandments. Adultery was a crime of passion, but murder was calculated, premeditated (1 Kings 15:5).
- ✓ David fell backwards. He was unrepentant for 1 year. A miserable year! Sin is deceptive. Stolen waters may be sweet for a moment (Prov.20:17), but it never delivers what it promises.
  
- ✓ We have seen what David did. What did God do? God has been misjudged regarding how He reacts to sin.
- ✓ God is misrepresented to people when they are struggling with sin.
- ✓ Some think that fear-manipulation will keep people out of sin. But they just go underground and pretend.
- ✓ The Church has not created an environment where people can feel comfortable about confessing to failure, (Jas.5:16). We have learned to develop defence mechanisms. The Christian's only refuge is Jesus.
- ✓ The thing which David did displeased the Lord. Yet He didn't send an army after him but a prophet.
- ✓ God may allow His people to fall into sin but not to stay in it.
  
- ✓ Nathan entrapped David to pronounce judgment on himself. 'Thou art the man!'
- ✓ 2 Sam.12:8. As abundant as his blessings were, God would have blessed him even more. David forgot the goodness of God.
- ✓ *'So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die' (2 Sam.12:13).*
  
- ✓ The question is not, 'Will I fall?' but, 'If you fall, which way will you fall – backwards or forwards?'
- ✓ Falling backwards is to believe that you are falling into God's anger and judgment. You will run from Him.
- ✓ Falling forward is to run to God and fall into the arms of His mercy and grace.
- ✓ When we sin we sin against the law. When we despair we sin against grace. Be humbled but not dejected.
- ✓ Psa.37:23-24. A righteous man doesn't just make *one* mistake, but many.
- ✓ Don't underestimate the mercy of God. Where sin abounds grace abounds much more. Sin is an inlet to grace. Grace shines against a backdrop of sin. We don't fall into sin but into grace.
- ✓ God allows us to fall into sin to break the back of it by bringing us into grace, (Psa.32:5-6).
- ✓ *'Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow' (Psa.51:7).* Purge is from the word 'sin' (*chata*); to make a sin offering; un-sin me (Luther). To bear the blame for, and then cleanse or make free from, by removing or taking away.
  
- ✓ 2 Sam.12:14. 'However'. God forgives but there are consequences. The sword did not depart from his household and his concubines were violated. Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah were all slain. This was all included in the covenant. If there were no painful consequences to sin we would live irresponsibly.
  
- ✓ David, when he learned the child would not be healed, washed himself and changed his clothes. A sign of a new beginning (2 Sam.12:20). See also Gen.35:2; Ex.19:10; Gen.41:14.
- ✓ The wife of Uriah is mentioned in the ancestry of Jesus, along with Tamar, Rahab and Ruth.
- ✓ 'Solomon' means 'peace'. 'Jedidiah' means 'loved by the Lord'.

**11) A Shepherd and a Celebrity**

- ✓ David was forgiven but there are consequences. This is seen in immorality and murder in his family.
- ✓ Amnon was the oldest son of David and probably thought that gave him the right to do what he pleased.
- ✓ He thought he loved Tamar, but confused lust with love. He raped her, then despised her.
- ✓ David failed to deal with Amnon, probably because of his own guilt. So Absalom took matters into his own hand. He waited his time, then arranged the murder of Amnon.
- ✓ Absalom fled to the home of his maternal grandparents. There was no repentance or desire to go home.
- ✓ 2 Sam.13:37,39. After 3 years David brought him home but kept him under house arrest for 2 years.
- ✓ There was no change in him after 5 years.
- ✓ Eventually he was reconciled to David, it would seem. But all the time he was scheming to be leader.
- ✓ He thought David's sin gave him the right to usurp the throne.
- ✓ How do you become a leader when God does not appoint you? Become a celebrity.

1) A celebrity joins people to himself; a shepherd connects them to Jesus 14:25-26. Celebrities surround themselves with people who sing their praises. He was not esteemed for his moral worth but his looks.

2) A celebrity big-notes himself; a shepherd exalts God. 15:1. The greatest danger is to believe our own greatness. Then people exist to serve you. The opposite of the servant mentality. David was a shepherd.

3) A celebrity promotes his own agenda by getting people to believe he is serving their interests. 15:2-5. Sheep will follow anyone, anywhere if they think they will get what they want.

15:6. As an opportunist Absalom *stole* the hearts of the people. David *won* the hearts of the people.

15:7-9. Absalom was deceptive.

15:10-12. A rebel gathers discontents. He sent for Ahithophel. He had no shame in recruiting David's men. Ahithophel joined the rebellion. The conspiracy grew, suggesting he influenced many.

15:13. David learned of the disloyalty when it was too late. He was now 60 and health-impaired.

15:14-18. A split occurs. People choose sides. The majority sided with the celebrity.

15:23. David quickly assembled his troops and they all passed over Kidron (black).

**What does the shepherd do? (2 Sam.15:25-26).**

1) He rested in the grace of God.

2) He prayed 15:31. He learned of Ahithophel's betrayal. A type of Judas who betrayed the true king, Psa.41:9.

(Jn.13:18; Acts 1:16); Psa.55:12-14). See also Psa.109:4. Absalom trusted in his charisma, popularity and the counsel of Ahithophel. David trusted in the wisdom of God. He prayed. 15:32.

3) He refused to lash out at his enemies.

- ✓ Hushai overturned the counsel of Ahithophel.
- ✓ Why didn't Absalom receive the counsel of Ahithophel? See Prov.21:1. 2 Sam.16:14. Psa.33:10-11.
- ✓ 2 Sam.17:23. Ahithophel committed suicide because he knew Hushai's plan would result in Absalom's defeat. He realized he was backing the wrong horse. But also his counsel was rejected.
- ✓ 18:1. David had time to regroup. More were joining his army. He grew in confidence, knowing the outcome. David was not allowed to go to battle. He didn't want to anyway.
- ✓ 18:7-8. The wood devoured more than the sword. God didn't need an army to defeat Absalom. All He needed was a branch. His hair, in which he took such pride, was his downfall.
- ✓ 18:9-15. Absalom's reign was short-lived. What begins in rebellion ends in disaster.
- ✓ 18:17. What an ending for this rebel! Died hanging on a tree, buried in a pit, covered with stones, childless, abandoned by his followers. Prov.10:7. David wept and wished he could have died instead.
- ✓ God's grace is for all occasions. When you are confronting a giant, running from a murderous king and also when we have fallen into sin and suffering the consequences.
- ✓ David submitted to chastening but he also trusted God to work in his life and circumstances.
- ✓ Public opinion turned. Bringing back the King was the only hope of a united kingdom. David returns.

**12) The Triumphs of Grace**

- ✓ 2 Sam.22 is a psalm of thanksgiving celebrating David's victories given to him by the Lord (2 Sam.22:1).
- ✓ 'Deliver' is a key word, (see 2 Sam.22:2,18,20,44,49). See 1 Sam.27:1; Psa.34:19.
- ✓ God is his rock; and though he was in a narrow place for many years God brought him into a broad place.
- ✓ God was faithful to David and established him, so that he unified the nation and was established on the throne with the promise of an everlasting dynasty, 50-51. David saw God in everything.

*'Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel' (2 Sam.23:1):*

- ✓ The son of Jesse (humility – 1 Sa.17:58)
- ✓ The man that was raised up on high – exaltation comes from God.
- ✓ The anointed of God (2 Cor.1:21). 'Never follow a leader until you see the oil on his forehead' (Tozer).
- ✓ The sweet psalmist of Israel. He wrote approximately 73 of the psalms.

2 Sam.23:2-3. God spoke to him by the Holy Spirit. See 2 Pet.1:21:

- ✓ Divine revelation is the communication by God to man of truth which he could not have otherwise known
- ✓ Inspiration is God's work to assure that the revelation is transmitted accurately to others in the scriptures (2 Tim.3:16).
- ✓ Whilst revelation takes away the veil of God's mind, illumination removes the veil from man's heart.

2 Sam.23:3&5. David failed in many areas, yet God made a covenant with him.

- ✓ 2 Sam.24:1. Success can sometimes be more challenging than seeming unfruitfulness. Only few handle success well. David was off guard and in view of all his victories wanted to know the extent of his power. He numbered Israel as though they were his people.
- ✓ The Lord moved David to number Israel because God was angry with them. He even used Satan (1 Chron.21:1). See 1 Kings 22:20-22. Satan the accuser of the brethren 'stood up' in a forensic sense (see Zech.3:1; Rev.12:10; Job; Rom.8:1, 33-34).
- ✓ The Israelites had displeased God by their continuous rebellion against David and especially in choosing Absalom in the place of David. Psa.12:1.
- ✓ David's choice: 'Let me not fall into the hands of man'. David had enough of that.
- ✓ An altar and a sacrifice. The appeasement of the wrath of God. This is the true meaning of propitiation. Gen.4:4; Judges 13:23. The offering was consumed by God and the angel sheaths his sword.
- ✓ Oranah and his sons hid before an altar was revealed. What was terrifying to Oranah was not to David.
- ✓ What 2 things are David most known for? Bathsheba and numbering the people. Yet out of these 2 things came Messiah and the temple ground. '*...where sin abounded, grace abounded much more*' (Rom.5:20).
- ✓ David knew that the temple was to be built with gold, silver and precious stones (1 Chron.29:2).
- ✓ Incredible wealth was given by David, the leaders and the people. All gave willingly, see 2 Cor.8:1-5; 9:7.
- ✓ Much fruit may become visible after our death. Our works follow us.
- ✓ Paul applied this to the church. Gold, silver and precious stones stand for the wisdom of His Word. Wood, hay and straw are *common* and *combustible*. The Church is built on the wisdom of God not the clever ideas of man. It was built to display the glory of God (1 Chron.22:19), which is the purpose of the church.
- ✓ David had shed much blood. Jesus builds His Church by saving lives, not destroying them.
- ✓ 30,000 Jews cut timber in Lebanon and 150,000 alien labourers cut stones from the hills. Thus Jews and Gentiles worked to build the temple. It was a house for all nations.

*'For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers' (Acts 13:36).* David was a man after God's own heart. This is God's testimony of him at the beginning and at the end.

When you serve your own generation well you also serve future generations (1 Jn.2:17).