

# David the Great

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## David the Great

*Deconstructing the man after God's own heart*

- **1 Samuel 13:14**

But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

- Samuel is speaking to King Saul, looking forward... before David
- How can God be speaking about David, a man whose sins are so robust?
- David's sins are huge — adultery, premeditated murder, pride
- Paul then writes 1,000 years after David — knowing fully David's history

- **Acts 13: 21-23**

And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. And when he [God] had removed him [Saul], he [God] raised up unto them [Israelites] David to be their king; to whom also he [God] gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

## Historical perspective

- Lived 1,000 years before Christ; born in the same village of Bethlehem
- Born 3,000 years ago — during the cusp at the end of bronze age and beginning of iron age
- Goliath's spear head was made of iron; Israeli army's swords were made of bronze
- David was a Jewish warlord, living in a time of constant violence, invasion, conquest
- It was respectable at that time for a man to have a harem of wives and concubines
- We cannot project our 21<sup>st</sup> century mores, our New Testament, Christian worldview onto a Jewish, bronze age, warlord living 3,000 years ago

## David's lineage

- Six generations from those born into slavery in Egypt
- Five generations before were those who conquered the city of Jericho with Joshua
- Rahab (pagan, Gentile, ex-prostitute), rescued by Joshua; married one of his soldiers, Salmon
- Boaz, son of Rahab and Salmon
- Obed, son of Boaz and his wife Ruth (a Moabite Gentile)
- Jesse, son of Obed
- David, son of Jesse
- David — Lion of the Tribe of Judah
- David — Lion of his generation

- David — Founder of the city of Jerusalem
- David — Established nation of Israel; gave them a sense of national identity

## David the complex genius

- In warfare — strategically planned battles, guided by Holy Spirit
  - Beginning with Goliath
  - Responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths
- Wrote tender moving poetry
  - Psalm 23 — translated into 6,000 languages
- Musical prodigy
  - Was brought from Bethlehem as a child to sing the king to sleep
- Gifted politician
  - Built new capital; welded tribes together
- Brilliant CEO
  - Restructured the government
  - Led a capital campaign that raised the equivalent of \$56 billion dollars
  - Did all that knowing that his name was not going to be on the temple

## David and repentance

- **He was so good at so many things, but —**
- ***He was so bad at family and relationships — poor at marriage and being a father***
- Biggest sin — taking the census
  - Forbidden by scripture; sin of pride
  - 70,000 died
- David and Bathsheba
  - Asks about her ceremonial cleanliness
    - Tries to justify the spiritual by satisfying the religious
  - He intentionally commits adultery; she gets pregnant
  - David has her husband Uriah murdered
- David is confronted in open court by Nathan the prophet
  - After Nathan accuses David of his crimes, David acknowledges them
  - The baby born of sin and judgment dies
  - After David and Bathsheba marry, the baby born of grace (Solomon) lives
- Psalm 51 — wants his confession and repentance memorialized
  - It is titled: “To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.”
  - he fell forward — eyes constantly on God
  - his confession was all about him and what he did; not what made him do it
  - structure of restoration
  - purify me from my sins
  - remove the stain of my guilt
  - restore to me the joy of your salvation
  - clear statement of repentance and grace
- Psalm 22
  - David described crucifixion in graphic detail
  - He described what he had never seen
  - Hundreds of years before the Romans invent crucifixion

- Pierced my hands and my feet
- Divide my garments among themselves
- My tongue sticks to the roof on my mouth
- In the last few minutes before Christ dies, he quotes verse 1 of Psalm 22, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”
- He validates the prophetic insight of King David
- *Shall David then be numbered among the prophets?*

**Application** — We should come away not remembering David as a great man, but remembering David’s God as a Great God. Despite all of David’s flaws, failures, and weaknesses, God forgave him. Despite all of our flaws, failures, and weaknesses, God will forgive us, when we come before Him in true humility and repentance.

**Question** — *Do you need to confess your sin and repent today?*

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## Discussion Questions

1. After today’s message, what do you remember the most about David?
2. Why was David a man after God’s own heart?
3. What does the lineage of David (therefore of Jesus) tell us about who God can choose to use?
4. What does Psalm 51 teach us about “true” confession and repentance?
5. Do you need to confess your sin and repent today?