

# David the Great

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## David the Great

*Heart of a Poet — Life of a Warrior*

- **Psalm 55: 1-14 — To the chief Musician on Neginoth, Maschil, A Psalm of David**

Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication. Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise; Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me. My heart is sore pained within me: and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me. And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah. I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest. Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues: for I have seen violence and strife in the city. Day and night they go about it upon the walls thereof: mischief also and sorrow are in the midst of it. Wickedness is in the midst thereof: deceit and guile depart not from her streets. For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

- Deals with one of the deepest of all human wounds — betrayal
- “Oh that I had wings like a dove! For then would I fly away...”  
...if I could escape this
- It was not an enemy that wounded him, but “a man mine equal... We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.”

## David and the Psalms

- He is identified as having written 75 of the Psalms
- 73 are identified within the Psalms themselves
- 2 are identified in the New Testament, Psalm 2 in Acts 4, and Psalm 95 in Hebrews 4:7
- The superscriptions, Hebrew notations before the Psalm are important in telling about the Psalm or how it should be sung
  - With stringed instruments
  - Sung with men’s voices (low)
  - Maybe one played with a Philistine instrument, probably from the city of Gath
  - On the death of a son
  - Golden, precious
  - Tune name
  - With dancing
  - Words of wisdom
  - A silent dove in a distant place
  - A variable song
- David died at age 70, after having lived a life of constant struggle, as a Bronze age warlord.
- He could sit down with you and understand anything you are dealing with, he had lived it.

## David's Psalms — not theoretical, but experiential

- **Psalm 3** — “A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.”
  - Rebellion, attack, loss, grief, betrayal by one he loved
  - “Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God.”
- **Psalm 59** — “To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David; when Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him.”
  - Saul’s constant attempts to kill him were a great grief to David
  - David was unfailingly loyal, he loved Saul
  - David had the opportunity to kill Saul two times, and he spared his life
- **Psalm 56** — “To the chief Musician upon Jonathelemrechokim, Michtam of David, when the Philistines took him in Gath.”
  - He is honest with himself and with God
  - My enemies would swallow me up
  - Works toward the sense of God’s power and grace
  - “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”
- **Psalm 7** — “Shiggaion of David, which he sang unto the LORD, concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite.”
  - Hurt, emotional pain — private hurt
  - Cry for justice, “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”
- **Psalm 52** — “To the chief Musician, Maschil, A Psalm of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, and said unto him, David is come to the house of Ahimelech.”
  - Ahimelech had given David shewbread from the temple, and also given him Goliath’s sword
  - Doeg told King Saul; Saul sent his army back and slaughtered the whole city of priests
  - Calls Doeg deceitful, and says God will destroy him forever
  - But, “I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.”
- **Psalm 51** — “To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.”
  - Memorializes his shame and failure
  - Clear statement of repentance and grace
- **Psalm 57** — “To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.”
  - Alone in the wilderness, hunted by Saul’s army
  - Verse 7 — “My heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.”
  - Psalm for when someone feels like a total failure.
  - *Sometimes you have to reach down and catch hold of the bootstraps of your spirit, and command your soul to awake and order it forth to praise God. ~ Rutland*
  - David says he will praise in the future — among the people, among the nations.
- **Psalm 63** — “A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.”
  - Experiencing isolation and rejection
  - “My soul thirsteth for thee; my soul longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land.”
- **Psalm 142** — “Maschil of David; A prayer when he was in the cave.”
  - Isolated without hope — “no man cared for my soul”
  - “Thou are my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.”
- **Psalm 30** — “A Psalm and Song at the dedication of the house of David.”
  - “weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”
  - “Thou has turned for me my mourning into dancing:”

- **Psalm 34** — “A Psalm of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed.”
  - Out and out joy
  - “I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”
  - He had been staying with Samuel, where Saul’s soldiers, and even Saul had prophesied for him.
  - Inexplicably, he fled to Gath, where he was put in jail, and feigned craziness, so the king would release him.
  - King Abimelech let him go.

## Most famous Psalms

- **Psalm 51**
  - Most theological
- **Psalm 22**
  - Most prophetic; quoted by Jesus on the cross
- **Psalm 23**
  - Most beautiful poem ever written
  - Translated into 6,000 languages
- **Psalm 110:1**
  - Most frequently quoted Old Testament passage in the New Testament
  - “The LORD said unto my lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”
  - Matthew 22:44, Luke 20:42, Acts 2:34
  - Jesus asks the Pharisees, “If David then calls him Lord, how is he his son?”
  - David is writing 1,000 years before Jesus was born
  - *Jewish tradition says that David died on Pentecost*

## David’s Psalms

- Some say that the book of Psalms is for old people. They are not for old people, but for those who have lived and experienced life — for those who have been hurt, and those who have experienced great joy.
- **No matter what you are going through, there is a Psalm that will speak to you**
- **No matter what you are facing — God is at the end of it all.**

***We should come away not remembering David as a great man,  
but remembering David’s God as a Great God.***

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## Discussion Questions

1. Does one of the Psalms that Dr. Rutland mentioned speak to you in particular?
2. What advice would you want from David, if he were in your living room today?
3. Does it give you direction to see how David would “work his way through” from hardship into victory, through praise and thanksgiving?
4. Do you think you can emulate that?
5. Do you have a particular favorite Psalm? What is it and why?