

OT Essentials: David - a kingdom forever

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We are going to press the fast forward button this morning jumping ahead from the Exodus about 500 years to talk about the biblical character of David. Let's start with a poll: How do you know David? When I say David, what do you think? There's no wrong answer so don't be afraid to boldly say what you think.

- Author of most of the Psalms
- Killing Goliath with a stone and a sling
- His sin against Uriah and Bathsheba
- My cousin from Missouri
- None of the above

David was the youngest son of a man named Jesse who was from the house of Judah, which simply means his lineage to Israel/Jacob was through Jacob's 4th son, Judah. David was a shepherd boy whom God had very different plans for. Rather than remaining in the fields for his father, God had singled out David with his very anointing; he was going to be God's chosen king. David became a trusted advisor to the first king of Israel, Saul. But it didn't take long for Saul to hate David; he was jealous of David because everybody loved him so much. In fact, Saul tried to kill David several times. But God's hand of protection was on David; David was anointed to be king in Israel and had God's blessings on him. That was his destiny.

Many of you, I'm sure, remember the Bible describing David as "a man after God's own heart." What a great reputation, right? I'd love to have a reputation like that; not for human accolades, but as an accurate description of the kind of man I am and the life I live. But being a man after God's own heart didn't mean David was perfect or that he never made any mistakes. Sadly, David made a ton of them. He killed the man, Uriah, after he stole Uriah's wife Bathsheba. He tried to cover up his adulterous sin through manipulation and when that didn't work he had Uriah killed in battle. David was a bad husband and wouldn't control his sexual urges and had many other inappropriate relationships.

I hate to say it this way because I've made a lot of mistakes as a dad myself, but David was a terrible father, too. He played favorites; he was often absent and disinterested with his children. Probably his worst sin as a father was a sin of omission, which means he sinned by doing nothing he should have done something. Here's what happened: David's son, Amnon, raped his half sister Tamar (yes, David's own daughter) and do you know what David did? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And when David's oldest son and Tamar's full biological brother, Absalom, saw that his dad was turning a blind eye to Amnon's sin, Absalom avenged his sister and killed Amnon. Absalom's resentment towards his father David only grew and David's apathy towards his family started a civil war in Israel that destroyed his family and almost split the nation. There's a lesson in that for us, dads: one of the worst things you can do is sit on your hands and do nothing when the demands of life and the needs of your family are crying for you to step up and doing something. Maybe your son needs a spanking for kicking his mom. Maybe your daughter needs her cell phone snatched from her hands

because of the danger she's getting herself into with it. Maybe you need to call the police on your son because of a crime he committed. Those all might be necessary things you need to do, dad, but you're going to be tempted to do nothing. Don't make David's mistake and avoid making the hard call. There's little that erodes the trust of your family like doing nothing when something needs to be done.

Sadly, too often, David was a good example of what not to do. But do you know what his best example is to us? Do you know why David is called a man after God's own heart in the Bible? He was a repenter. For all of David's mistakes and sins, he was humble enough to learn from them, to admit his sin, and turn back to God. When David was caught and confronted about his adultery and murder, he was humbled and admitted his sin. While David didn't repent from his fatherly sins soon enough to avoid his family feud, he became sorry for his sins and mourned over the ruin of his family. David could have been a womanizer his whole life if he wanted to; nobody was going to stop the king from having any woman he wanted. But in his old age, he repented and started relating to women with purity of mind and actions.

There are many ways David's example would be really good for us today. It would be well worth your time to study and read about David. You can read about David primarily from 1 and 2 Samuel in the OT. That is by far the most extensive treatment of David's life.

But that's not why David is a part of our *OT Essential* sermon series. As good as it is to know and read David's example, what's essential about David is his connection to Jesus, our Savior, and the covenantal promises God made to him (REPEAT). Turn with me to one of the more important passages in the OT, 2 Samuel 7. David is caught up in a worshipful moment; he's thrilled with what God has done in the nation and in his own life that he wants to build God a glorious temple to honor him. But God doesn't want anything from David except his heart. Instead, God wants to give a gift to David - an enduring kingdom. We're going to start reading in the middle of God conferring his blessings and promises to David for the sake of time, but notice God's unilateral and unequivocal promises to David (READ vs. 12-17).

The promise of a kingdom forever should stand out to you. That's probably the grandest of all his promises here. As you pay attention to God's covenants as you read through your Bibles, you'll notice God changing or adding to his covenantal promises. He's filling them out; he's giving us a bigger picture of what he means with his promises. And what's unique about this Davidic covenant is this idea of a kingdom forever. The promises God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are now going to be fulfilled through the establishment of David's kingdom. The promise of blessing, the promise of land, the promise of security and legacy are now going to be found in the permanence of David's kingdom. This kingdom is going to last forever; so what does that imply about covenantal promises? They will last forever, too. David will always have a king on the throne and he will always have a kingdom.

But over the course of several hundred years, it looked like this promise was going to be unfulfilled. Because after centuries of disobedience and idolatry by the nation of Israel there is no king and there is no kingdom. By 586 BC, the northern tribes of Israel have been completely destroyed

and taken over by hostile powers decades earlier. And the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin are taken into captivity by Babylon. David does not have an heir to the throne. In fact, there isn't even a throne anymore. No king. No kingdom. I thought God made a promise.

This absence of a king and a kingdom became a crisis to the nation of Israel. Not just for rule and order; not just for history and identity. But even a theological crisis. Can we believe God's word? Are God's promises true? Will God come and save us? I mean, think about it. God promised a king and a kingdom, but we have no king and our land is ruled by a foreign power. Here's how the prophets helped the people understand: the prophets said God will provide another king. He will be a grandchild of David. He will reign forever. Don't give up on the promises of God. Listen to the prophet Isaiah (READ 11:1-4, 10).

Now, if you've read the gospels a time or two you may recall the variety of situations and events where people call Jesus the son of David. "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" the sick and the poor would cry out to Jesus. In Matthew 12 when Jesus heals the demon-oppressed man the people ask one another, "Could this be the Son of David?" Why did they want to know that? Why were they curious if Jesus was the Son of David? Because that was the promise; God would bring his king, the Son of David, and the nation of Israel would be saved.

Of course, that's exactly who Jesus is. In Luke 1 when Mary is told about the baby who would be born to her God said this about her baby (vs. 32-33) "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Are you catching it, FBC? Are you seeing how essential David is to Jesus and to our faith in Christ? Jesus is the promised Son of David, the one who would sit on the throne forever and ever. He is the one who will fulfill all of God's promises of justice, righteousness, mercy, and blessing. Do you want to receive the benefits and rights of the kingdom of God? Then become a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven by declaring your allegiance to the King, Jesus Christ, the Son of David!

Now, when I hear about this, my heart is stirred towards worship. When I see the grand design of God's plan to save the world and to extend his covenantal love and reign I delight in God. Remembering Christ as king should make a daily impact for you. Get this my independent-loving, American-patriot, brother or sister in Christ: you have a king. I know we all celebrate the fact that our American forefathers and mothers declared independence from King George III in 1776. We're all so thankful that happened. But there's a king you can't declare independence from; in fact, you don't want to declare independence from. That's King Jesus. The King of all kings and the Lord of all lords. Every morning, you wake up in his kingdom; you breathe the air of his reign. His rule extends from sea to sea. There is no place, no land, where he does not reign supreme. And throughout his kingdom, Jesus has edicts; he has made decrees. And do you want to know something about these edicts and decrees? They are all glorious and good. They are all for the flourishing of his kingdom and for all his subjects.

But you have this gnawing temptation to disobey his orders and edicts. There is a revolutionary inside of you that wants to throw off his authority. You see others within the kingdom who are doing just that. They are actually living in open defiance to King Jesus. And here's the thing: nothing really bad is happening. Jesus doesn't seem to be doing anything about it. And King Jesus' way does seem burdensome at times. In his kingdom, service is demanded. Giving and generosity are praised and accumulating and storing up things for yourself are frowned upon. Jesus demands lifelong fidelity between husbands and wives even when things get really hard in marriage; he even forbids sexual interaction between people who are not married to each other. In Jesus' kingdom, even what you have you can't count as your own, but your stuff belongs to him and for the glory of his kingdom.

So, there's this rebel inside of us that wonders, "Wait a minute! Maybe I don't want to live under the reign of King Jesus. Maybe I want autonomy from him. Maybe I want to do what I want rather than serve others. Maybe I want to keep as much as I can for me rather than use it for his kingdom. Maybe I don't want to be tied down socially, relationally, materially, spiritually the way he decrees; maybe I want to do life my own way like all these other people are doing."

Two thoughts to that: the first one is the sobering one. In Revelation 19:11-16 we're told about when the King finally brings his punishment and justice on all those who declared independence (READ). The king is coming with his judgment, isn't he? Don't be fooled, friends, by the apparent absence of punishment that declaring independence from King Jesus won't end badly for you. It will. And who are those who will be punished? Rev. 20:8 tells us; "But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." The king will come and he will bring the fury of his wrath on those who rebel against his kingdom.

Now, if that's not enough motivation, I'm also encouraged to trust in King Jesus when I hear what the king is like. Turn with me to Psalm 72 in closing. This chapter highlights what the King of David is supposed to be like. It tells us what the King of David will be and what he will do. As we read this ask yourself these questions: Do I want to be a part of that kingdom? Do I want the blessings of this king? Is the King of David and all of benefits worth the sacrifices Jesus is calling me to?" I hope you answer "yes" to those questions, but hear the words of scripture and let them draw you near to the King (READ Psalm 72)

Key vs. 2 Sam. 7:16

Questions for the week

- What was the most important thing you heard today? Why?
- What will you do differently in your relationship with God because of what you heard today?
- Do you see any connection between these OT sermons? What are some of those connections and why might they be important?