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March 6, 2005

David: Prince of Israel and Patriarch of the Promised Seed **1 Samuel 16; 2 Samuel 7; 12**

INTRODUCTION

About 1000 years has passed since Israel's commission to become the people of God. Did they successfully obey the commands of God? No. Yes, they had moments of general obedience but they failed miserably at being the people God called them to be.

One of the things that God had instituted with Israel was a sacrificial system for the purpose of atoning for the sins of the people, but that was always temporary and was never intended to have any lasting affect. It could not have any lasting affect because that which was sacrificed was only an animal and nothing more. It was, however, a picture of what God would do through His son in a permanent way.

God called Moses to lead Israel into the promised land and design a tabernacle for Him to dwell in. In that temple there was a place called the Holies of Holies where the presence of God dwelt; no one was permitted to go into the Holy of Holies but only one qualified man: the High Priest and if he went into the Holy of Holies without being right with God he would die.

But time and time again Israel fell into the same sin she fell into that fateful day in Exodus 32 – idolatry. God just didn't renew his covenant with Israel once, but multiple times. Read Joshua 24:14-28.

What does Israel do? They wind up turning from the Lord to serve other Gods! What we see in the book of Judges is a cycle of obedience → disobedience → idolatry → repentance → obedience → disobedience over and over and over. At the point of repentance they would cry out for a deliverer and God would provide one for them: they were called judges.

But a judge was not enough to sway the evil of the heart of Israel, so what we read at the end of Judges is this: "*In those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*" (Judges 21:25)

You see the system that God had set up with Israel was that He would not only be their God but would function as their King, for this was one of the distinctions of Israel from the rest of the nations.

Hundreds of years later, God provides Israel with a judge/prophet by the name of Samuel. But it would not be long before Israel would demonstrate her abstinence before God, for they would demand a king to rule over them. Now I am not so sure it was their desire for a king that was

wrong for it was prophesied that the captor would not depart from the descendent of the tribe of Judah. I think that what was wrong with their desire for a king is the motive behind wanting a king; look at 1 Samuel 8,

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them."

Israel wanted a king just like all the other nations had. No longer was Israel interested in being a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. They wanted to be like the other nations, so God granted their request!

God gave Israel Saul as their first king, and what a nightmare he turned out to be. Saul decided to take the role of a Levitical priest by offering a sacrifice to God because Samuel was late in performing the duty. Then God told Saul to totally destroy a group of people called Amalekites along with everything they owned, but he did not. Samuel then confronts Saul. After Samuel confronts Saul, Saul responds...

²⁴ Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. ²⁵ Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may worship the LORD." ²⁶ And Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." ²⁷ As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you."

So God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to the home of Jesse who was a descendant from the tribe of Judah. Who out of Jesse's household does God pick to be Israel's king? Does he pick the biggest, strongest, or best looking?

David Knew God (1 Samuel 16)

No, God picks David: one who was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. Why did God pick David? Because, "*the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*" (1 Samuel 16:7)

David's heart belonged to the Lord; he had a heart for God! We see this in the next chapter. We all know the story: Goliath, a Philistine warrior, who was over 9' tall is taunting Israel's army for someone to fight him (and he was doing this for forty days). Every soldier was afraid, but when David came along to bring his older brothers food, he heard Goliath's taunts. So what does this little ruddy shepherd boy say?

And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

This is David's heart! He doesn't care about the fact that Goliath was over five feet taller than he was, a trained and skilled warrior, and all this guy had to do was step on him and he would be dead. David's concern is that Goliath was making the armies of the living God look bad and therefore making God look bad.

Because nobody will fight the giant, David volunteers to do it. David was so small and young that nobody's armor will fit him (17:38-40), King Saul knew that Goliath would squash David like a bug, but David didn't care. Why, because he knew his God. Look at 1 Samuel 17:34-37, *But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"*

So as David prepares to battle Goliath, he is offered armor (of which none fits because he is too small). All David takes with him is five smooth stones, a slingshot, and a confidence in the God of the universe unparallel to any confidence the armies of Israel had.

Goliath then approaches David and tells him that he is a dead boy. What does David tell Goliath?

The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." ⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

So David launches a stone and hits Goliath in the head, who then falls to the ground, and is beheaded by David, just as David predicted. This is only a snapshot of the many things David did in his life.

David was not a perfect king, but he had a deep love for God. If you really want to get into the mind of King David, read the Psalms. David wrote most of the Psalms and what you see is a

man who had a deep love for his God.

But what is even more fascinating than David's life in my mind is the covenant God made with David, so my second point is...

God Covenanted with David (2 Samuel 7)

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

Have you seen throughout our studies each Sunday how God becomes more specific in His plan of redemption?

- God promised that out of Eve would come a seed that would crush the head of Lucifer.
- God then started the human race over with Noah and his family.
- After God confused the languages at the tower of Babel, He called Abraham from the land of Ur and promised that out of him He would make a great nation.
- We then saw how God reiterated His promise to Isaac and Jacob, and from Jacob came the twelve tribes of Israel. Out of those twelve tribes we reflected on the responsibility that would become the Levites (priestly) and Judah (kingly).
- We saw how God used Joseph to save all 70 members of Israel's family.
- We saw how God called Moses after 400 years of Egyptian bondage and delivered Israel through the red sea.
- And we saw how God called and entered into a covenantal relationship with Israel.
- Now years and years later, we witness God entering into a covenant with David (similar to the one he made with Abraham).

But God is more specific, the seed that God promised to Eve, Noah, Abraham, and Judah would be David's descendent and would sit on His throne forever. There are several things we need to understand about this covenant:

- 1) It was unconditional in the sense that a son of David would sit on the throne forever.
- 2) This covenant also included David's direct descendent.
- 3) It was a covenant that included not just the Messiah who would be David's descendent, but it would also include that other descendants of David would also sit on his throne. But their sitting on the throne of David would be conditioned on their obedience and faithfulness to God.

What we learn about Solomon is that 1) He built a house for the Lord (a tabernacle in which the Lord dwelt, 2) He experienced peace during his reign and 3) He married 100's of women who worshiped different gods which led to his heart being enticed away from God to other gods.

Shortly before David died and the kingdom was transferred to Solomon's care, David warned Solomon,

I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, ³ and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, ⁴ that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

But Solomon did turn away from God and the consequences were devastating, listen to God's rebuke to Solomon,

Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this has been your practice and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. ¹² Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. ¹³ However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen."

What Israel learned over the years following David and Solomon was that the disobedience of her king always resulted in severe consequences, but those who worshiped the true God knew that God had promised that David's throne would be established forever (2 Samuel 7:4).

The godly looked forward to the day when a Son of David would come who would fulfill the conditions of the covenant perfectly, sit on David's throne and rule forever; the godly knew that this Son of David would be Messiah. Turn in your Bibles to Psalm 89:29-37,

"I will establish his offspring forever and his throne as the days of the heavens. ³⁰ If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my rules, ³¹ if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, ³² then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes, ³³ but I will not remove from him my steadfast love or be false to my faithfulness. ³⁴ I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips. ³⁵ Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. ³⁶ His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. ³⁷ Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies."

But David is not a perfect king by any means, for only four chapters later, we learn that he takes a man's wife by the name of Bathsheba and commits adultery, gets her pregnant and then tries to cover it up which ultimately leads to having Bathsheba's husband killed; listen to 2 Samuel 11:14-15,

"In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die."

And that is just what happens! Some time goes by, nobody suspects a thing. David takes Bathsheba as his wife. But what David failed to realize is that there was someone who was aware of David's sin and it was Yahweh!

God then sends Nathan the prophet to David to confront him regarding his sin through a story about a rich man who had many lambs who took the one lamb that a poor man had. After telling David that story, David was ticked off that the rich man would do such a thing, and then Nathan drops the bombshell,

You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, I anointed you king over Israel and I delivered you out the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

What is David's response? *"I have sinned against the Lord."* And Nathan then told David, *"The Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die."* Now how could God be just in forgiving David's sin? If any judge in Denver exonerated a rapist and murderer by simply telling him, *"your sin is wiped away, you are free to go,"* it would be considered unjust.

Even though David's sin was extremely serious, God promised unconditionally that one of David's descendants would sit on his throne forever, for we read...

- Ezekiel 37:23. *They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. But I will save them from all the backslidings in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. ²⁴ "My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.*
- Jeremiah 23:5-6. *Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'*
- Isaiah 9:6-7. *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to*

uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Why was God able to forgive David of his sin? Because of what He would do about 1000 years down the road on a roman cross. Isaiah spoke of that day in Isaiah 53.

This is why God was able to forgive David's sin and remain just. God exercised His justice on His own Son. This is why we read in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*"