

C10 - The Life Of David

Study 1 - Accepted and Crowned

BIBLE READING:

2 Samuel 2: 1-11; 3: 1; 5: 1-10, 17-25

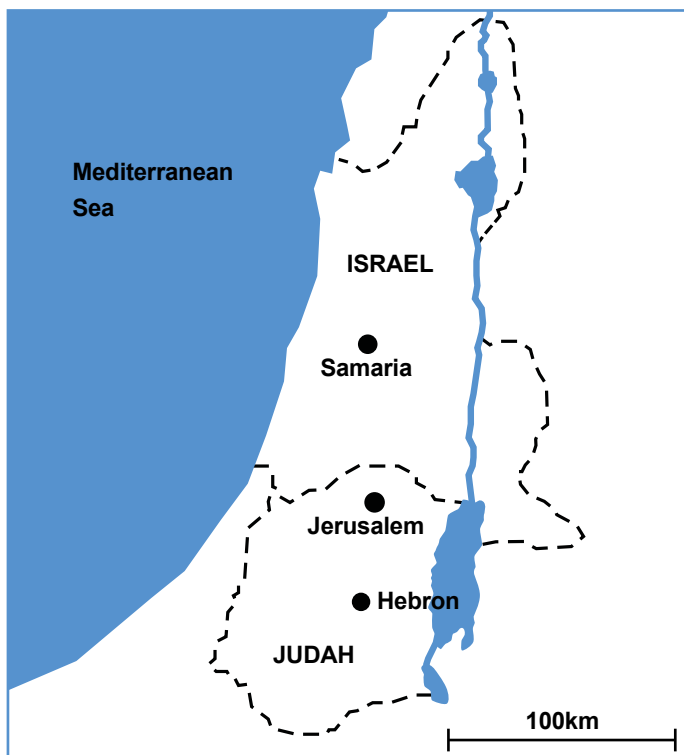
KEY VERSE:

“And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of Hosts, was with him.”

2 Samuel 5: 10

As we have learned in our previous studies, David was chosen by God and anointed as the future king when a youth, but then spent years in waiting. Even when the day came that Saul and Jonathan both died in the battle of Mount Gilboa (**1 Samuel 31**), David did not become king immediately. Saul's reign had produced a sad deterioration in the nation's spiritual standards, and he was consumed by his hatred of David, diverting attention from other matters. The Philistines had gradually gained the ascendancy over the land. Consequently, David faced many difficulties in his accession to the throne of Israel.

Before we look at these difficulties it is worth noting David's lament for Saul and Jonathan. In the true generosity of heart that characterised David, he paid tribute to them both (**2 Samuel 1: 23**) and invoked the Lord's blessing on the men of Jabesh Gilead who had shown kindness in burying Saul. (**2 Samuel 2: 5-6**) We shall learn more about David's kindness to Saul's descendants in an upcoming study.



DAVID KING OF JUDAH

The majority of Israel wanted Saul's line to continue! David was anointed king in Hebron over the tribe of Judah (**2 Samuel 2: 4**) but because of the long and severe strife between the house of David and the house of Saul, Ishbosheth, one of Saul's sons was anointed king by the other tribes at Mahanaim. (**2 Samuel 2: 8-9**) For two years the nation was divided and after a failed attempt to settle the issue, the situation escalated into a full-scale civil war. But the outcome was that **“David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.”** (**3: 1**) Clearly this was evidence of God's purposes working out. David was God's anointed king who would reign over all of Israel so it was inevitable that Ishbosheth would be removed.

DAVID KING OF ISRAEL

In **2 Samuel 5** David is enthroned over the whole nation. All the tribes came to David at Hebron and assured him of their loyalty. They recognised the leadership he had given in the past when Saul was king, but more than that they knew that it was the Lord who had appointed him to feed and to lead them as Shepherd and Sovereign. (**verse 2**) They were proclaiming that David was worthy to reign! David then took control of and established himself in Zion, the city of David which we know as Jerusalem. (**verses 7, 9**)

DAVID'S GREATNESS

Our Key Verse (**verse 10**) describes David's strong position at this time and the reason for it! God had been with him since his days as a shepherd boy, when he defied Goliath in His name and later when he trusted God for protection from Saul. Step by step, David had grown in trust and his character developed. For a Christian the pathway to growth and victory is the same. We must learn to trust God one step at a time, and He will accomplish His purposes in us.

The threat from the Philistines still had to be addressed. Note how David sought God about this, was given clear direction and how he attributed their subsequent defeat to the Lord's doing. (**verses 17-20**) In a further conquest, God's strategy for the battle was different but **“David did as the Lord commanded him”** and victory was achieved. (**verse 25**)

DAVID'S ENTHRONEMENT AND ISRAEL'S BLESSING

When all of Israel crowned David as absolute monarch the nation was blessed by God. A king who loved God, as well as having a shepherd heart for the people meant that peace and prosperity gradually developed. This is a preview or picture of the future reign of the Lord Jesus when He will be king over all the earth. (**Psalms 2: 6**)

There is a present application for us too as Christians! With Christ enthroned in your life as Lord and King, joy and peace will ensue. Only Jesus is worthy to command and control our lives. When He does, sin's power is broken. Satan's rule is defeated, and self-will is denied control of our ways. Are you living in the blessing of Christ as King of your life?

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Study 2 - A Promise and a Prayer

BIBLE READING:

2 Samuel 7: 1-29

KEY VERSE:

“Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.”

2 Samuel 7: 22

We learned in the previous lesson how David was enthroned and established as King of Israel. Our Bible Reading commences with the king settled in his palace and enjoying the rest that **“the Lord had given him from all his surrounding enemies”**. (verse 1)

David, however, had a project in mind! It seemed incongruous that he should be living in a house of cedar whereas the ark of God was in a tent, as it had been since God gave Moses the pattern for the tabernacle many years previously. David mentioned his idea to Nathan the prophet who without hesitation endorsed it. That night, however, God spoke to Nathan with a message for David. Instead of giving David confirmation to carry out what was in his heart, God began by reminding him what had already happened in his life:

Verse 8 – From tending sheep, God had appointed him as ruler over Israel.

Verse 9 – He had been with him wherever he had gone and had cut off his enemies.



Medieval Tower of David (Migdal David) in Jerusalem today (Source: Wikipedia)

GOD'S PROMISE

There then follows a series of promises which form God's covenant to David, known as the Davidic Covenant. The covenant or agreement is unconditional in that God does not place any conditions of obedience from David to ensure its fulfilment; instead, it hinges completely on God's faithfulness. The promises made to David were:

Verse 9 – He would have a great name.

Verse 10 – The people of Israel would have a land. (God had already made this promise to Abraham and Moses)

Verses 11-13 – David's 'house' or dynasty would continue after his time as king. Instead of David building a house for the Lord, the Lord was going to make a 'house' for David! His son Solomon would be his successor and build the temple. More detail is then given about this part of the promise. Note the following:

Verse 13 - God would establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Verse 16 - **“Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.”**

Now the promise has turned into something much greater – the promise of an everlasting kingdom! This connection was confirmed approximately 1000 years later in the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the Lord Jesus - **“And the Lord will give to Him (Jesus) the throne of His father David”**. (Luke 1: 32) Jesus was born of the house and lineage of David. (Matthew 1: 1) King David, now at the peak of his power, was given a glimpse of his far greater Son, the Lord Jesus who will sit on the throne of David forever. (Isaiah 9: 6-7)

DAVID'S PRAYER

What was David's reaction to Nathan's message? How did he respond to not being the builder of the temple? God knew David's heart and his good intentions, but it was not part of God's plan for his life. (1 Chronicles 28: 2-3) David was accepting of this and was overwhelmed with gratitude for all that God had given him and revealed to him. There is a lesson here for us too! God has a unique role for each of us and in following that path we will be perfectly fulfilled and blessed. Can you thank God for His working in your life?

David was not overcome with a sense of embitterment at what he did not get to do, nor did he display superiority or arrogance as the recipient of such amazing promises. He intentionally came and sat before the Lord and his response was one of deep humility – **“Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house that You have brought me thus far?”** (verse 18) He referred to himself as the Lord's **“servant”**. We must never forget that we were hopelessly lost in our sin before the Lord graciously forgave us and bestowed on us so many blessings.

In the remainder of his prayer David exalts God's character and praises Him for His dealings with Israel. He expresses his certainty that God will be faithful to the promise He has made and is overjoyed at the prospect of the blessing to follow. (verses 28-29) This was indeed a very high point in David's life!

Answer Sheet

C10 - The Life Of David

Study 1 - Accepted and Crowned

Return address on back of answer sheet

Name: _____

Address: _____

1. David's tribute to Saul reflects his generosity of spirit and kindness. (2 Samuel 1)

- a) What adjective did he use of Saul and Jonathan? (**verse 19**) _____
- b) Find four noteworthy things in their lives. (**verse 23**) _____

 /3

2. Read 2 Samuel 2: 1-11 again.

- a) Explain briefly why David did not immediately become King of Israel after Saul died.

- b) What explanation would you give for David becoming "stronger and stronger"? (**2 Samuel 3: 1**)

 /4

3. Look up the details of David's reign. (2 Samuel 5: 4-5)

- a) Complete the grid below:

	Length of reign	Where was his base?
David King of Judah		
David King of Israel		

- b) At what age did David become king? _____

 /5

4. Read 2 Samuel 5: 18-25.

- a) Why was David successful in defeating the Philistines? _____

 /2

- b) How is the Lord's action pictured in **verse 20**? _____

 /1

- c) How did David know it was time to strike in the later battle? _____

 /1

5. Answer these questions:

- a) What two personal characteristics made King David different from his predecessor? _____

 /2

- b) What impact did this have on the nation as a whole? _____

 /2

- c) The Lord Jesus has been called 'great David's greater Son'. Where will He be installed as King? (**Psalms 2: 6**)

 /1

6. What lessons have you learned from the life of David that help you to develop Christian character?

 /4

THINK: In what way does David's rule illustrate our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

C10 - The Life Of David

Study 2 - A Promise and a Prayer

Return address on back of answer sheet

1. Give brief answers to the following:

a) Why did David want to build the temple? _____

 /2

b) How did God communicate to David that he was not to do this? _____

 /1

c) What reason is given for David not being God's chosen one for this task? (**See 1 Chronicles 22: 8**)

 /1

d) Who built the temple? _____

 /1

e) How did David prepare for this great project? (**1 Chronicles 22: 14-16**) _____

 /2

2. God made a covenant with David.

a) What does it mean when we say that the covenant was unconditional? _____

 /2

b) Name two of the things promised to David that were fulfilled in the Old Testament. _____

 /2

3. The word 'forever' denotes the promise of an everlasting kingdom.

a) Which descendent of King David would bring this about? _____

 /1

b) What four names are given to Him in **Isaiah 9: 6**? _____

 /2

c) Write three characteristics of His rule which are mentioned in **Isaiah 9: 7**. _____

 /3

4. Read David's prayer again. (**2 Samuel 7: 18-29**)

a) David was king but he prayed with humility. Make a list of the verse numbers in which he referred to himself as God's servant. _____

 /2

b) What attributes of God's character does David praise? _____

 /4

c) In what way is God's relationship with Israel special? _____

 /2

THINK: Think about the many promises God has made to you. Respond in prayer as David did.

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

C10 - The Life Of David

Study 3 - Reigning in Justice and Kindness

Return address on back of answer sheet

1. According to *2 Samuel 8: 15* what were the two qualities that characterised David's reign? _____

/2

2. Answer the following:

a) Give two reasons why David wanted to find Mephibosheth. _____

b) Why was this unusual? _____

/4

3. Explain in your own words how David fulfilled his covenant promise to Jonathan.

/2

4. Answer the following:

a) What did David give to Mephibosheth? _____

b) What role were Ziba's family to play in this? _____

/4

5. In what ways did David's kindness change Mephibosheth's life?

/3

6. Answer the following:

a) In what way have we experienced the "*kindness of God our Saviour*"? (*Titus 3: 4*) _____

b) Give an example of a way that we could show God's kindness to someone else. _____

/4

7. What do the following Bible verses teach us about kindness?

a) *Romans 2: 4* _____

b) *Ephesians 4: 32* _____

c) *Colossians 3: 12-13* _____

/6

THINK: Is there someone to whom you could show "*the loving kindness of God our Saviour*", perhaps even someone who could be considered an enemy?

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

C10 - The Life Of David

Study 4 - Failure and Restoration

Return address on back of answer sheet

1. Read *2 Samuel 11: 1-5* again and outline the steps that led to David's fall.

 /4

2. How did David try to cover up his sin?

 /3

3. Which of the Ten Commandments did David break in this story? (See *Exodus 20: 1-17*)

 /4

4. Read *James 1: 13-15*. What do these verses teach us about temptation and sin?

 /2

5. Answer the following:

a) Briefly summarise the story of the ewe lamb which Nathan told David. _____

b) What was the meaning behind this parable? _____

c) What was David's response to this story? _____

 /6

6. Read *Psalms 51*.

a) Write down two things that David asks of God in this prayer. _____

b) Write down two things that David promises God in this prayer. _____

c) What does this Psalm teach us about repentance and mercy? _____

 /6

THINK: Is there any hidden sin in my life, anything I need to confess?

Return your completed answer sheet to:

TOTAL = /25UNIT TOTAL = /100

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Study 3 - Reigning in Justice and Kindness

BIBLE READING:

2 Samuel 8: 1-18; 2 Samuel 9: 1-13

KEY VERSE:

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy.”

Titus 3: 4-5

DAVID'S VICTORIES (2 SAMUEL 8)

Chapter 8 gives details of the spread of David's rule, and the way in which he extended the scope of his possessions. David's exploits were tremendous. He achieved great victories which were for his own advancement and for the good of his people. Not only were the Philistines subdued, but also his power was felt by Moab, Ammon, Syria and other old enemies of Israel. **Verse 14** makes it clear that it was God who gave David these victories. We get the impression, from this chapter, of a king who not only attained power, but knew how to organise and use it to the best advantage. The closing verses of **chapter 8** describe the way in which David built his government, using men whom he could trust.

DAVID'S KINDNESS (2 SAMUEL 9)

David's kindness and mercy were evident in his rule. **Chapter 9** opens with David asking the question, **“Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?” (verse 1)** David did this because he remembered his friendship and the covenant he had made with Jonathan. **(1 Samuel 20: 14-15)** This question also demonstrates great love because Saul had made himself an enemy of David. It was common in those days for a new king to completely destroy the rest of the royal family so that there was no one to challenge the throne.

He discovers from Ziba, a former servant of Saul, that Jonathan has a son called Mephibosheth who **“is crippled in his feet”**. **(verse 3)** From **2 Samuel 4: 4** we learn that Mephibosheth became lame from an accident when the household heard that his father Jonathan and his grandfather Saul died in battle. Mephibosheth fell when his nurse picked him up quickly and fled in haste, fearing that the leader of a new royal family would execute every potential heir of the former royal family. According to the previous dynasty of Saul, Mephibosheth had the right to the throne. He was a son of the first-born son of the king, and other potential heirs were dead. David could have viewed Mephibosheth as a rival or a threat, however, he goes against the principle of

self-preservation and extends kindness to Mephibosheth. **(verse 5)**

Mephibosheth must have been terrified when messengers from David knocked at his door and demanded that he come with them to see the king. When Mephibosheth entered the king's presence he was expecting to be killed and fell on his face and paid homage to him. David, however, went against all custom and showed kindness to Mephibosheth saying, **“Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father and you shall eat at my table always” (2 Samuel 9: 7)**. David not only promised Mephibosheth that he would receive the land which was rightly his, he gave Mephibosheth a seat at the king's table - a place of honour and acceptance. David's words were not just a token gesture; they were extravagant - an act of grace - symbolic of God's love for David.

This story is a wonderful picture of the kindness and grace of the Lord Jesus to us as sinners. Just as David demonstrated love and kindness toward someone who did not deserve it, God reaches out in love to us and adopts us into his family. Like Mephibosheth we are weak, broken and unworthy, yet God has a place for us one day at His table. **(Luke 22: 30)**



King David, stained glass windows from the Romanesque Augsburg Cathedral, late 11th century. (Source: Wikipedia)

C10 - The Life Of David

Study 4 - Failure and Restoration

BIBLE READING:

2 Samuel 11: 1-27; 2 Samuel 12: 1-25

KEY VERSE:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me.”

Psalm 51: 10

In these two chapters of **2 Samuel** we read some of the most terrible deeds committed in the whole of Scripture. Lust and murder are seen in their worst context, and David, the king, is the person involved in both cases. He was so appealing in his nature and achieved so much for Israel, that it almost seems impossible that he could commit such evil. Yet the Bible gives a true record of the lives of its characters. Good qualities are given their proper place, but the bad things are not overlooked.



The Statue of David, completed by Michelangelo in 1504. Galleria dell'Accademia, Florence(Source: Wikipedia)

We ask then, ‘What went wrong?’ as we read the account of **chapters 11-12**. Perhaps we get a hint as to how David could have avoided temptation from **verses 1-2**. Kings normally went out to battle, but David stayed at home. Perhaps if David had been active in battle, instead of resting on his bed at home, the temptation need not have come. David had indulged his sexual lusts for years (**2 Samuel 5: 13**), therefore staying home from the battle merely provided an opportunity for the long-standing lack of sexual restraint and indulgence of passion to display itself.

It is essential to notice here the progression of events. David was tempted by what he saw. Now temptation is not, in itself, wrong. Where the sin came into David’s life was when, through his lust, he committed adultery with Bathsheba. When David heard the news of her pregnancy, he should have used it as a prompting to repent. Instead, he tried to hide his sin, employing every strategy he could think of to draw her husband Uriah back home from war to have relations with Bathsheba to give a reason for her pregnancy. (**11: 9-13**) Uriah, however, was a man of integrity and refused to enjoy the comforts of home while his fellow soldiers endured hardship on the battlefield. When David’s attempts at deception failed, he resorted to murder.

All seemed to go well for David immediately afterwards. He brought Bathsheba to his palace and she became his wife. It looked like he had got away with this sin. However, just because David wasn’t caught at the time doesn’t mean that he got away with anything. The truth of the matter was that David had done something harmful and destructive to himself and others, and great harm and destruction would come because of it.

“But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord” (11: 27) The final assessment of sin does not lie with humans, but with God. Nathan, the prophet, arrives on the scene and the whole sordid episode is exposed. David is made to see himself as God sees him; a humbling experience for a king. He is brought to his knees in repentance. The parable of the ewe lamb belonging to the poor man and the rich man’s greed was a masterpiece in illustration and touched the king’s heart and conscience. He confessed, **“I have sinned against the Lord.” (12: 13)** God’s forgiveness was immediate, however David had to bear the consequences of his sin. You can read David’s cry to the Lord for forgiveness in **Psalm 51**.

The story of David and Bathsheba shows how even godly people can fall into the worst of sin. David, a man chosen by God to be king, a man after God’s own heart committed adultery and murder. Each one of us has evil desires within our hearts. If left alone these evil desires grow and lead to sin. Satan knows our weaknesses and makes it his aim to defeat us. How wonderful it was that David was dealing with a loving God who forgave him his sin. Like David we too can experience the Lord’s forgiveness when we go to Him in repentance, **“If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1: 9)**

This is the second of two units on **The Life of David**.

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