

Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – After God's Heart
Lesson 19 – March 29, 2022
David in Retrospect

... [God 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.* – Acts 13:22-23

How to look back? So much has been written about David. We have studied him from every angle. Yet there is more to know! Much of what we learn of David is in the many psalms that he wrote. We have looked into many of them, and today we will read a few more. The amazing beauty and insight in David's psalms could come only from the Lord, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

David was an imperfect man (as all people are), and his one great personal sin marred his life and his family's lives. Yet he never stopped trusting God. And he was a type of Christ in a number of ways, as Mary taught us recently. David wrote a number of Messianic psalms that speak of the coming King Jesus Christ. One of my favorites is *Psalms 22*. *Psalms 22* speaks of Jesus on the cross; *Psalms 23* describes the present Christian life; and *Psalms 24* looks forward to the Lord in the Millennial Kingdom. Let's READ *Psalms 24* now.

Verses 1-2 The Lord made the world – all of it – and it belongs to Him.

Verses 3-4 Who can be there with Him? Only His people, whose inner lives and outer lives are righteous.

Verse 5 What do we receive there? The Lord's blessing, and HIS righteousness that brings salvation. One New Testament scripture that expounds on this is *Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Verse 6 THIS is that generation [people] who seek Him.

Verse 7-10 Worship of the King of Glory, the Lord of hosts.

In our study this year, we covered many of David's psalms that relate to events in his life. But a few were not mentioned. So I chose those few to close out our year on a high note.

David wrote the first two of these psalms while he was "on the run" as Saul pursued him. He was still young – perhaps 23 years old. Although this was an extremely low point in his life, he took up his harp and sang these songs. What a blessing it must have been for his family and small band of men around him. Let's first read *1 Samuel 21:10-15 & 22:1a*.

As David escaped from the danger, he was grateful to God and expressed this as he began to sing. He feared the Lord and had sought His help.

As we read *Psalms 34*, think about how the people were gathered around David to listen:

Verse 11 (and following) even in this situation at such a young age, he began to instruct those around him.

Verse 15 (and following) the ways that the Lord provides.

Verse 20 a prophecy concerning Messiah (though David could not have known the importance of this verse) (*John 19:33*).

READ *1 Samuel 22:1-2* David was there in the cave with his family and about 400 men (some of them were men in his family).

Again, as we read *Psalms 57* we can picture them all together there in the cave. Then David picked up his harp and began to sing. David sang his praise to the Lord and cried out to Him in this desperate situation.

Verses 2-3 David's confidence in God.

Verses 4-7 David described his great distress and his praise and trust that God will provide.

No wonder they followed David as their leader.

Verse 8 David sang this to himself – his “glory,” his inner being, or soul: Wake up! And praise the Lord.

Verse 9 He now sang of how he will sing among the people. Wow, David had a vision for the future, even though he was here a young man in distress with a small band of men.

Nations = peoples

Verses 10-11 Final words of worship.

David's Army

BY HENRY M. MORRIS, PH.D.

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“David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.” (1 Samuel 22:1-2)

As David was fleeing for his life from King Saul, a rather pitiful and unpromising company began following him, and they became the nucleus of what would soon be his army. Others joined them, and David trained them, “for at that time day by day there came to David to help him, until it was a great host, like the host of God” (1 Chronicles 12:22). Soon they were no longer discontented misfits but a remarkable array of “mighty men” (v. 21). One group, for example, was said to be “men of war fit for the battle,...whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains” (1 Chronicles 12:8).

In many remarkable ways David was a type of Christ, his life foreshadowing the experiences of the greater “son of David” who would come a thousand years later. In such a parallel, his army is a type of the earthly “host of God,” the great company of those who have chosen to follow Christ, each of whom has been called to “endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:3).

The followers of Christ were once also in distress, for the “base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen” (1 Corinthians 1:28). He is now “the captain of their salvation” (Hebrews 2:10), urging that each one should strive to “please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (2 Timothy 2:4). When He is finally ready to take the Kingdom, these will be with Him in His triumphant return and eternal reign (Revelation 19:14; 22:5).

Many years later, after much blessing and much trouble, David's life came to a close in strength, victory and joy. A special privilege for him was to see his son Solomon on the throne, and to be able to help prepare Solomon for the great work of building and furnishing the temple.

An interesting aspect of David's – and Solomon's – psalms is that a few were included in the *Songs of Degrees* (“*Journey to Higher Place*”) [*Psalms 120-136*]. Some time after these psalms were written, they were arranged in this manner. These songs were special to the Jews who travelled to Jerusalem for the worship at the feasts of the Lord. They memorized them and sang them as they walked and then climbed up to the temple together. The journey began with difficulty and opposition [*Psalms 120*], but progressed on to anticipation and joy. *Psalms 131* is by David, *Psalms 132* is most likely by Solomon, and *Psalms 133* is by David. David also wrote *Psalms 122* and *124*.

Psalms 122:1 David loved the house of the Lord and being there with fellow believers. Also note verse 6 has that well-known admonition to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. How David longed for that peace.

Psalms 124:8 Again, David looked only to the Lord – and again acknowledged Him as the Creator.

READ *Psalms 131* David expressed his humbleness before the Lord.

READ *Psalms 132:1-9* Solomon remembered his father David's commitment to the Lord and his efforts to make a place for God's presence (the ark) to reside in a worthy place in Jerusalem.

Verses 10-12 God's promise to David.

Verses 13-18 The Lord's everlasting promises and fulfillment to come in the future Kingdom. Zion – Jerusalem ; “horn of David” = Jesus Christ

How amazing that David and Solomon wrote about, and the people sang about, the wonderful prophecies of God about their blessed future.

READ *Psalms 133* David rejoiced in the sweetness of the brethren dwelling in unity together. The people would sing this as they were near the temple and looking forward to finally being together in the Lord's presence. Verse 3 ...*for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.*

Only in the Lord is there peace and unity. David knew this and longed greatly for them. He always kept hope in the Lord, trusting Him and fearing Him with great reverence. AND he made possible for us to know about these things as well, through his psalms.

David wanted to build the temple, but God spoke to him through the prophet Nathan that it would be his son who would do it. The prophecy was long and contained amazing promises of God (2 *Samuel 7:5-16*). David realized the greatness of it all. 2 *Samuel 7:18* *Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?*

Doesn't that sound like us sometimes? “Who, me? Do what??” Yet, if David was used so greatly though he was imperfect and flawed – well, we can let God use us, too. And if God forgave David for his great sins, He will forgive us as well when we go to Him in repentance.

As we close out our year of studying David's life, let's read the last of the *Songs of Degrees*, *Psalms 134*. It wasn't written by David, but certainly has the same spirit as his psalms. The people finally, at evening time, had arrived inside the house of the Lord.

*Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD,
which by night stand in the house of the LORD.
Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD.
The LORD that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion.
–Psalms 134*

