

David - The Man after God's Own Heart

After Saul "forced himself" to offer the burnt offering, which clearly revealed his inability to "trust in the Lord with all his heart and not lean on his own understanding"(Pr 3:5-7), God revealed immediately to Samuel that He would find "a man after his own heart:"

*But now **your kingdom shall not continue.** The Lord has **sought for Himself a man after His own heart,** and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." 1Sam. 13:14*

Yet though God foretold it would occur, nothing more happened until Saul again rebelled when told to utterly destroy the Amalekites. When God saw his blatant disregard for His specific command, the consequences were immediate. First spoken to Samuel, the Samuel revealed them to Saul, and then Samuel cut off all ties and relationship with Saul.

*Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, 11 "**I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king,** for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." 1Sam. 15:10-11*

*Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also **has rejected you from being king.**" 1Sam. 15:23*

*And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and **the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.** 1Sam 15:35*

Whatever repentance Saul exhibited after this rebellion, it was not enough to remove these consequences. God had already made the decision after the burnt offering and moved to bring it about after the failure to obey in the matter of the Amalekites. He would not relent.

*Then 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." 1 Sam 15:24-25*

*But 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 And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. 28 So Samuel said to him, "**The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours,** who is better than you. 29 And also **the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent.** For He is not a man, that He should relent." 1 Sam 15:26-29*

David Anointed King

At this point, the history of God's people changes. God has sought and found a man after His own heart and at this time makes His will known to Jesse and his sons.

*Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing **I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?** Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For **I have provided Myself a king among his sons.**" 1 Sam 15:35-16:1*

Samuel reveals his own fears regarding Saul's attitude's when he pleads with God revealing that he feared for his life if Saul were to find out.

And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." But the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you." 1Sam. 16:2-3

God gives Samuel a second reason to go to find Jesse. This offers us an insight into lying, since it is impossible for God to lie, and there was no reason for Saul to know the true reason. Obviously if Saul had asked Samuel would have told the full truth, but since he never asked, the second reason stood.

Before we look at what happened next it is interesting to see the genealogy of Jesse.

*And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David. Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; 19 Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; 20 Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; 21 **Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; 22 Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.** Ruth 4:17-22*

David's genealogy first revealed in Ruth was that she was the grandmother of David. Boaz became Ruth's husband and her firstborn child was Obed. Obed then went on to have a son named Jesse who was the father of David. But the Holy Spirit wanted us to know more, so in the book of Matthew he adds that Boaz mother was Rahab the harlot.

*Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 **Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth,** Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king. Mt. 1:3-6*

So David's great grandmother was Rahab the harlot and his grandmother was Ruth. One can't help but wonder if these two great women of faith had some influence on David's heart being after God's own heart. That was certainly the case with Timothy.

when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 2 Tim 1:5-6

Samuel arrives in Bethlehem and after the sacrifice goes to the home of Jesse. Samuel made a classic mistake by moving just a little ahead of God in his reasoning which God quickly removed with a powerful statement that we should all ponder when seeking to judge righteously.

So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him!" 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1Sam. 16:6-7

God doesn't see as man sees because God can see something no one else can see. He looks directly into the heart. Because of that he rejected the one Samuel thought should be king and then in quick succession all the rest of David's brothers as well.

Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." 1Sam 16:10-11

As soon as he arrived, God made known his choice.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. 1 Sam 16:13

At that time, God also gave David the Holy Spirit which Jesus later clearly revealed gave him the inspiration to write Scripture.

Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, "'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.'" Mk. 12:35-36

Later, in one of his Psalms, David captured these amazing and wonderful truths:

O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. Ps 139:1-6

King Saul meets David

After the events with the Amalekites, the Holy Spirit who had been given to Saul when he was anointed was taken from him.

But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him. 15 And Saul's servants said to him, Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. 1 Sam 16:14-15

The account is not very detailed so it is difficult to fully understand or explain exactly what occurred. We know the Holy Spirit had come upon Saul immediately after he was anointed and that he did prophesy at least that one time.

Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. ... So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. 10 When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. 1Sam. 10:6-10

But there is no further information as there is with David to guide us. While David wrote Psalms and used his inspiration, Saul did nothing later to help guide us. But whatever guidance had been provided, it was all taken from Saul at this time.

Some are ready to jump to the conclusion that the “*distressing spirit from the Lord*” was some kind of demon possession. But nowhere in Scripture has God been the author of sending demons, and there is nothing here to force us to conclude that this “*distressing spirit*” was a demon. It is just as possible that with the removal of the Holy Spirit and the realization that his kingdom was being given to another, his descent into depression and madness was sown and increased over time.

It was this problem that led to David’s being introduced to Saul.

So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." 18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him." ... 21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. 1Sam. 16:17-18, 21

These early days show that Saul felt great affection for David, and that through David’s skillful playing on the harp, Saul’s sense of well being would return.

David & Goliath

While, English speaking people are always aware and concerned about chronology and time, the Scriptures often place them in a position of secondary importance. Such is the case here. The chapter records the events as they occurred but with no concern to fit them into what had been recorded in the previous chapter. It is up to us to fit David as a harp player who became Saul’s armor bearer with David the slayer of Goliath.

The chapter simply opens with a description of a battle between Israel and the Philistines(17:1-3). Before the battle begins, a champion, Goliath throws down a challenge to Israel. Before the challenge, a brief description of Goliath(17:4-7):

- ◆ Height was six cubits and a span. ≈ 9' 9"
- ◆ Helmet of brass upon his head
- ◆ Coat of mail (rings or fish scales); 5000 shekels of brass. ≈125 lbs
- ◆ Greaves of brass upon his legs,
- ◆ Javelin of brass between his shoulders (either a lance/small spear or a shield).
- ◆ Staff of his spear like a weaver's beam;
- ◆ Spear head weighed 600 shekels of iron ≈15 lbs.

His appearance was so fearsome that none in Israel was bold enough to accept his challenge.

Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. 1Sam. 17:8-11

David is now introduced as though it is for the first time and the events surrounding how he providentially came to be there is described.

Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul. 13 The three oldest sons of

Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul. 15 But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem. 1Sam. 17:12-15

David came and went from time to time, and just happened to arrive during that forty day period when Goliath made the same challenge every morning and every evening.

As he was seeing the confusion and the fear, someone happened to tell him of the offer Saul had made.

So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel." 26 Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "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?" 1Sam 17:25-26

The way David spoke these words created anger in the heart of his brother Eliab and confidence in the hearts of others that led them to repeat David's words to Saul who then sent for David.

Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, ... 31 Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him. 32 Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 1Sam. 17:28, 31-32

When Saul sees David, his heart is troubled because of his youth, but some very important facts about David's character are then revealed. Though but a youth, during the time that he was caring for his father's sheep, he had faced both lions and bears, and instead of fleeing, he had stood his ground and killed them. These events had given him the opportunity to face danger and through his trust in God's providence he had prevailed. He was confident what God had done to help him with the lion and bear would also bring him the victory over Goliath. His words convinced Saul.

And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!" 1Sam. 17:33-37

David's confidence is seen in what he chose to go into battle. Those who could sling stones in that day had refined it to an exact science. Yet it was also something God's providence can direct.

Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine. 1Sam. 17:40

Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss. Judg. 20:16-17

Goliath's confidence are seen in his scorn and disdain of David. His words had struck fear in the hearts of all Israel, but did not alter David's faith and confidence in God.

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, 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 and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands." 1Sam. 17:45-47

David took control over the battle by running toward Goliath, taking a stone and slinging toward Goliath. The stone hit just the right spot and knocked him unconscious. Then David took Goliath's sword and killed him.

So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. 49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. 1Sam. 17:48-50

Once the champion had been so easily vanquished, Israel became confident and the Philistines lost heart and the battle was quickly decided. The conversation between Saul and Abner, leave one wondering which came first, this event, then the harp playing, or a renewed interest that led Saul to ask these questions of someone he was already acquainted with, but did not know.

When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know." 56 So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is." 57 Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. 58 And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" So David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite." 1Sam. 17:55-58

The events move quickly. Saul's son Jonathan, feels a sense of friendship and brotherhood that led to a lifelong bond. The people begin to show their respect and love for David with a proverb that leads to Saul's anger and change of attitude toward David.

Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. 2 Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 1 Sam 18:1-3

So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. 1Sam. 18:5-6

So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." 8 Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 So Saul eyed David from that day forward. 1Sam. 18:7-9

The "distressing spirit" leads to Saul's need for David to play, but the difference in his attitude now leads Saul to seek to kill David and then to fear him.

And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. 11 And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice. 12 Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul. 13 Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. 1Sam. 18:10-13

The rest of the First Book of Samuel reveals the sad chronicle Saul's self-destruction. It is sad but instructive to note that Saul never thought of repentance and the desire to serve God faithfully. This would have solved his problems. Instead, like Judas his worldly sorrow led to continued treachery caused by his own jealousy, envy and fear.

Saul sought to kill, Jonathan interceded	19:1,4-6	When Saul filled with remorse.	24:16-17
Saul used his spear but David escaped	19:10-12	Death of Samuel	25:1-2
Saul sought David at Naioth	19:19-20	Saul sought to kill in wilderness of Ziph.	26:1-2
Saul hoped to kill at his table.	20:5,24-25;30,33-34	David spared Saul while he was sleeping.	26:6-11
Saul sought to kill David at Keilah.	23:7-9	Saul again filled with remorse.	26:21
Saul sought to kill him every day.	23:14	David lives Philistines to escape Saul	27:1-2
at Engedi	24:1-2	David tried to help in battle of Philistines	28:1-2
David spared Saul in the cave.	24:3-6	Saul brought Samuel back	28:8-12

Samuel told Saul he would die in battle. 28:16-19
David forbidden to go to this battle. 29:3-5
Saul and Jonathan are killed. 31:1-5

David punished man claiming to kill Saul 1:10-16
civil war between David and Saul's heir. 3:1

Though Saul's attitude had hardened into hatred and a desire for his destruction, the rest of Israel had formed a different opinion.

And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him. 15 Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them. 1Sam. 18:12-16

David - The Man after God's Own Heart 2

David's Reign

The second book of Samuel records how David received the news of Saul's death.

*Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 12 And **they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son**, for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. 2Sam. 1:11-12*

He did not rejoice at the fall of Saul. Contrary to the belief of the Amalekite who brought David the news, David grieved over the news and still believed that anyone who drew his hand against the Lord's anointed should not live.

And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite." 14 So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" 15 Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, and execute him!" And he struck him so that he died. 16 So David said to him, "Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the Lord's anointed.'" 2Sam. 1:13-16

David then asked the Lord whether he should return to Israel and where he should settle and God revealed to him that he should begin his reign in Hebron which is a little over 10 miles from Bethlehem.

His reign begins with Judah alone as the rest of Israel continues to follow Abner and Saul's son, Ishbosheth.

*But **Abner** the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, **took Ishbosheth the son of Saul** and brought him over to Mahanaim; 9 and **he made him king** over Gilead, over the Ashurites, over Jezreel, over Ephraim, over Benjamin, and over all Israel. 10 Ishbosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and **he reigned two years. Only the house of Judah followed David.** 11 And the time that **David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.** 2 Sam 2:8-11*

After both Abner(2Sam. 3:26-30) and then Ishbosheth(2Sam. 4:5-8) were murdered in separate incidents, the other tribes of Israel came to David and anointed him king over all Israel. He initially began his reign at the age of thirty and reigned the first seven years and six months in Hebron.

*Then **all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron** and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh. 2 Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the Lord said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.'" 3 Therefore **all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron**, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord. And **they anointed David king over Israel.** 4 **David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.** 5 **In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah.** 2Sam. 5:1-5*

The next thing recorded is that David conquered Jerusalem and built his house there.

*And **the king and his men went to Jerusalem** against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here." 7 Nevertheless **David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David)**... 9 **Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David.** And David built all around from the Millo and inward. 10 So David went on and became great, and the Lord God of hosts was with him. 11 Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And **they built David a house.** 12 So David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel. 2 Sam 5:6-7; 9-12*

Psalms 78 summarized the history of Israel from through the book of Judges until the time when David began to reign.

56 Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God, And did not keep His testimonies, 57 But turned back and acted unfaithfully like their fathers; They were turned aside like a deceitful bow. 58 For they provoked Him to anger with their high places, And moved Him to jealousy with their carved images. 59 When God heard this, He was furious, And greatly abhorred Israel, 60 So that He forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, The tent He had placed among men 61 And delivered His strength into captivity, And His glory into the enemy's hand. Ps 78:56-61

The Psalm concludes with the period of time that began with David conquering Jerusalem.

Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, Like a mighty man who shouts because of wine. 66 And He beat back His enemies; He put them to a perpetual reproach. 67 Moreover He rejected the tent of Joseph, And did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, 68 But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved. 69 And He built His sanctuary like the heights, Like the earth which He has established forever. 70 He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds; 71 From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. 72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. Ps 78:65-72

David Sought to Move the Ark to Jerusalem

The tabernacle, with its furniture and altar had been set up at Shiloh near the end of Joshua's life (Josh. 18:1-3). It was still in Shiloh in Judges 18:31 and Elkanah and Hannah went year by year to sacrifice there (1Sam. 1:1-7). Shiloh is where Samuel was taken after he was weaned (1Sam. 1:24). But the wickedness done at Shiloh led God to reject the place and he allowed the Philistines to take the ark. After terrible plagues the Philistines sent it back after seven months (1Sam. 6:1-2). It first arrived at Beth-Shemesh, but after many were struck dead for looking into the ark (1Sam. 6:19), the ark was taken to Keriath-Jearim and left in the house of Abinadab for 20 years (1Sam. 7:1). It was still in the house of Abinadab and David wanted to move it.

The accounts of this event are recorded in both Samuel and Chronicles and to get the full picture we must go to both places. It begins with David gathering together all the wise people of Israel to discuss with them moving the ark.

*Then **David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader.** 2 And **David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you,** and if it is of the Lord our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites who are in their cities and their common-lands, that they may gather together to us; 3 and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul." 4 Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. 1Chr. 13:1-4*

After deciding to move the ark, he gathers the people to the house of Abinadab in Keriath-Jearim.

*Again **David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand.** 2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the Lord of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. 3 So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. 4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. 2Sam. 6:1-4*

It is evident from the account that everyone was very pleased and excited. They were doing something they believed was pleasing to God and David had carefully planned for all of it after consulting with all the leaders.

*So **David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim.** 6 And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the Lord, who dwells between the cherubim, where His name is proclaimed. 7 **So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab,** and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. 8 **Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might,** with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets. 1 Chron 13:5-8*

It is amazing that not one of those 30,000 people saw a problem with what they were doing. The Scriptures were very specific about how the ark was to be moved.

*17 These were **the sons of Levi** by their names: **Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.** ...4 "This is the **service of the sons of Kohath** in the tabernacle of meeting, relating to the most holy things: 5 When the camp prepares to journey, Aaron and his sons shall come, and they shall take down the covering*

veil and cover the ark of the Testimony with it. 6 Then they shall put on it a covering of badger skins, and spread over that a cloth entirely of blue; and they shall insert its poles. ... 15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, **then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.....** So Moses took the carts and the oxen, and gave them to the Levites. 7 Two carts and four oxen he gave to the sons of Gershon, according to their service; 8 and four carts and eight oxen he gave to the sons of Merari, according to their service, under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. 9 **But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because theirs was the service of the holy things, which they carried on their shoulders.** Num 3:17; 4:4-6, 15; 7:6-9

No one remembered this verse, or if they remembered they did not consider it important enough to stop what was being done. It was in all sincerity, and goodness of heart that they wanted the ark brought to Jerusalem

God Stopped their Worship and Struck Uzzah Dead

Everyone was excited, sincerely worshiping, and praising God. There was celebration, joy, worship, praise, and songs! Everyone with all their might gave God glory. Yet in the midst of all these plans a tiny error was made. The ark was being carried in a manner different than God had specified. In the midst of their celebrations an unexpected event occurred. The oxen stumbled, the cart lurched, and the ark began to tip! Uzzah did what everyone would have expected, he reached up to steady it. At that moment everything came to a halt. It must created great confusion and chaos as everyone watched Uzzah fall dead.

*And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 Then **the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error;** and he died there by the ark of God. 8 And **David became angry because of the Lord's outbreak against Uzzah;** and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day. 9 **David was afraid of the Lord that day;** and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" 2Sam. 6:6-9*

*And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. 10 Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. 11 And **David became angry because of the Lord's outbreak against Uzza;** therefore that place is called Perez Uzza to this day. 12 **David was afraid of God that day,** saying, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?" 1Chron. 13:9-12*

The event is intentionally vague, but there was no doubt in anyone's mind that God had done this to Uzzah. Note the difference "**God smote him for his error**" and "**He smote him because he put out his hand to the ark.**" When Uzzah put his hand on the ark, he committed an error no one but God was aware of. Though he was sincere in seeking to save the ark, it was not supposed to be on a cart, and no one was ever to touch it.

We learn some very important lessons from this event.

1 Due to ignorance they had allowed lawlessness to creep into their worship. God had commanded them to carry the ark on the shoulders of the Kohath. When we compare this to the events with Nadab and Abihu, we see the similarity.

*Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and **offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.** 2 So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. 3 And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace. Lev 10:1-3*

Just as Nadab and Abihu had brought strange fire God had not commanded them and they died, David and Israel were carrying the ark in a way God had not commanded them, and when Uzzah touched the ark he died. Since they were doing this outside of the Law, it was an act of lawlessness.

2 It was in all good conscience they were trying to do a good deed for God by moving the ark to it's new home. Uzza was only trying to keep the ark safe. Yet in spite of all this they had violated the truth. The consequences of the this event are important to see. God does not suspend truth and the consequences of its violation because of their sincerity. He does not accept it as the best they can do. Actually this violation of the truth made God angry, just as it had with King Saul.

*11 **"I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments."** 22 So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, **to obey is better than***

sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king." 1 Sam 15:9-11; 21-23

The only difference between these is that Saul's was a sin of presumption, he knew what God wanted and rejected it. Israel's was a sin of ignorance, but still God's words ring out. "To obey is better than sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams." The passage of hundreds of years of time and the subsequent ignorance of those who were in violation did not change the outcome.

3 No one saw anything wrong with the plan or the method and not one person spoke against any part of their plan. They were sincere in their desire to please God and all wanted to be a part of that day. 'David and all Israel went up,' with the intent 'to bring up from the ark of God.' No one saw a problem that they 'carried the ark of God upon a new cart.' As the cart moved the ark to Jerusalem, 'David and all Israel played before God with all their might' (1 Chr 13:6-8). Everyone was excited, sincerely worshiping, and praising God. There was celebration, joy, worship, praise, and song!

Yet a tiny error had crept into their plans and no one was aware of it. God's carefully drawn up pattern was being violated and his blueprint ignored. The ark was not being carried by the method God had specified in Moses' Law. **They were 'blissfully ignorant!' In all sincerity and goodness of heart they were moving the ark in a 'lawless' manner.** But 'when they came to the threshing-floor of Nacon, Uzzah put forth (his hand) to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen stumbled' (2Sam 6:6).

They put God into the position of rewarding their sincerity or punishing their rebellion. If sincerity and goodness of heart had any power against the violation of law (lawlessness), then this would be that time. This too is a classic illustration of Jesus words to the Pharisees.

He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." 9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. Mark 7:6-10

They were practicing a "doctrine of men." This had not come from God, it was a teaching of men. In ignorance they had rejected the word of God and were using man's ideas. Such worship was vain and God punished Uzzah.

- * In ignorance but all good conscience David and all Israel move the ark.
- * Uzzah, as one of the drivers felt responsible for the safety of the ark.
- * He reached out with every sincere desire to help save the ark.
- * the law of God was broken!

God's Options:

- * Allow disobedience because they were sincere and God is gracious and full of compassion.
- * Accept this as the best they could do since they are so sincere.
- * Allow it to happen and later send a prophet to reveal the error.
- * Stop it with miraculous intervention since He knows they are sincere and He is gracious.
- * Manifest His anger against Uzzah, because they did not seek him after the proper order.

Because God struck Uzzah dead, it is clear that obedience is more important to God than sincerity. It is also obvious that ignorance of law can not absolve one of consequences.

David was first Angry then Afraid

And David became angry because of the Lord's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day. 9 David was afraid of the Lord that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" 2Sam. 6:6-9

As so many in the past, David fell into the same trap that has ensnared many. When something goes wrong instead of humbly trying to figure out what we have done to cause the problem, we blame God. David's anger was misdirected as he would soon learn. The anger also led to fear. It seems the anger subsided and the fear led him to search the Scriptures. The ark remained there

for three months while David pondered and figured out the problem and knew the solution.

So David would not move the ark with him into the City of David, but took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. 14 The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the Lord blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had. 1Chron. 13:13-14

David Found the Answer

During that three month period, David searched the Scriptures seeking for an answer. When everything was fully understood he began making preparations. After preparing a place for the ark and pitching a tent, he revealed the truth.

*David built houses for himself in the City of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. 2 Then David said, **"No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the Lord has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever."** 3 And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the Lord to its place, which he had prepared for it. 1 Chron 15:1-4*

The problem was not with God. The problem was their own lawlessness. David now understood that no one could carry the ark but the Levites. He discovered that passage in Numbers 3 and realized the error they had made.

*And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. 12 He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. 13 **For because you did not do it the first time, the Lord our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order.**" 14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel. 15 And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord. 1 Chron 15:11-15*

*for that we sought him not **according to the ordinance.** ASV*

*for that we sought him not **after the due order.** KJV*

*We did not inquire of him about how to do it **in the prescribed way.**" NIV
because we did not seek Him **in the way He ordained.** AMP*

David realized that it was their fault. They had not consulted, sought, or inquired of God about the proper order, the ordinance, the prescribed way or the way He had ordained. After resolving the ignorance by studying the Scriptures, David set everything up so it would be done properly.

We Must Learn from this Event

As has been emphasized so many times in this study, the things that happened in the Old Testament must be studied, pondered and learned from.

Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come. 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Cor 10:11-12

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope. Rom 15:4

And that from a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 Every scripture inspired of God (is) also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. 17 That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work. 2 Tim 3:15-17

Though so many today fall into the same trap that ensnared David and Israel in the matter of Uzzah, we must be admonished, learn from it, become wise unto salvation, and learn this reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness.

Nothing has changed today. True sincerity is prefaced by "knowledge and all discernment!"

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment; 10 so that ye may approve the things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and void of offence unto the day of Christ; Phil 1:9-10

A lack of love for the truth is often masked by a plea of a sincerity of ignorance. The Spirit reveals that there is no such thing as ignorant sincerity that mitigates and removes guilt. Such cannot be.

(even he), whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God sendeth them a working of error,

that they should believe a lie: 12 that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 2Th. 2:9-12

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Mt. 7:21-23

7 Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people honoreth me with their lips; But their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain do they worship me, Teaching (as their) doctrines the precepts of men. . . . 13 But he answered and said, Every plant which my heavenly Father planted not, shall be rooted up. 14 Let them alone: they are blind guides. And if the blind guide the blind, both shall fall into a pit. Mt. 15:7-9, 13-14

These passages are clearer in light of Uzzah's death and express exactly the same principle. If ignorant sincerity had any value, God would have spared Uzzah. Since He did not, Paul's words become clear. In order to become sincere, we must first approve the things that are excellent.

David, The Man after God's Own Heart - 3

Worship Under David

The Ark enters Jerusalem

After the death of Uzzah, and the three months of study, contemplation and preparation, the ark is brought into Jerusalem on the shoulders of the Levites as the Law of Moses had commanded.

14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the Lord God of Israel. 15 And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord. . . . 29 And it happened, as the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the City of David, that Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David whirling and playing music; and she despised him in her heart. 1 Chron 15:14-15 29

After the ark entered the city of David(Jerusalem), it was taken to a tabernacle that David had erected for it. Once it had arrived, David set up the priests and the manner in which the worship would be conducted. These acts included the playing of music and the blowing of the trumpets.

So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. 2 And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord. 3 Then he distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. 4 And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the Lord, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the Lord God of Israel: 5 Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, and Obed-Edom: Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals; 6 Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly blew the trumpets before the ark of the covenant of God. 1 Chron 16:1-6

The Tabernacle is at Gibeon

We don't know if burnt offerings were also conducted there in Jerusalem, because throughout the entire reign of David, the ark was in a tabernacle in Jerusalem but the tabernacle of Moses remained in Gibeon. How it had found its way to Gibeon is nowhere revealed. It was in Shiloh with the ark during the days of Eli, but while Hophni and Phinehas took the ark and the Philistines captured it, the movement of the tabernacle are not recorded. But now it is simply revealed that this is where the tabernacle was during the days of David and the early days of Solomon.

So he left Asaph and his brothers there before the ark of the covenant of the Lord to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required; 38 and Obed-Edom with his sixty-eight brethren, including Obed-Edom the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah, to be gatekeepers; 39 and Zadok the priest and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the Lord at the high place that was at Gibeon, 40 to offer burnt offerings to the Lord on the altar of burnt offering regularly morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in the Law of the Lord which He commanded Israel; 41 and with them Heman and Jeduthun and the rest who were chosen, who were designated by name, to give thanks to the Lord, because His mercy endures forever; 42 and with them Heman and Jeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and the musical instruments of God. Now the sons of Jeduthun were gatekeepers. 43 Then all the people departed, every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house. 1Chr 16:38-43

The Place for the Temple Chosen

It is not until near the end of David's life that the place where the tabernacle and the ark would be reunited in the Temple Solomon would build was revealed. Hence all through the days of David, the ark was in Jerusalem and the tabernacle was in Gibeon.

After David's foolish sin of numbering the people led God to offer him three choices of punishment and he chose the plague. As the angel approached Jerusalem, God relented of destroying it, but David was commanded by the angel through Gad the prophet to erect an altar at the threshing floor of Onan.

And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for His

*mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man." 14 So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell. 15 And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the Lord looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And **the angel of the Lord stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. ... 18 Therefore, the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.** 1Chr. 21:13-15, 18*

David did as he was commanded. First, he purchased the threshing floor, then he offered burnt offerings and peace offerings there. All of this was validated by God when he answered David's burnt offerings and calling on the Lord by sending fire on the altar of burnt offering David had built.

*22 Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the Lord. **You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people.**" 26 And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the Lord; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering. 1 Chron 21:22. 26*

The ark was then at the tabernacle David had built, the tabernacle was still at Gibeon, and the new altar commanded by God was at the threshing floor of Ornan.

*At that time, **when David saw that the Lord had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there.** 29 For the tabernacle of the Lord and the altar of the burnt offering, which Moses had made in the wilderness, were at that time at the high place in Gibeon. 30 But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the Lord. 1Chr. 21:28-30*

Later, when Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, it is made clear that the place where the threshing floor of Ornan was located was on Mount Moriah, and it was at this site that the temple was built and all the altars were combined, the ark and the other articles of the tabernacle that were still in Gibeon were brought and all was properly set up.

Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. 2 And he began to build on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign. 2Chr. 3:1-2

David Sought a House for the LORD

Soon after David had brought the ark to Jerusalem, he made a decision to bring all the other articles of the tabernacle to Jerusalem by building a house of cedar for the Lord. At first Nathan thinks this is a great plan and as a man agrees that David should do it, but God had other plans.

*Now it came to pass, when David was dwelling in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, **"See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under tent curtains."** 2 Then Nathan said to David, **"Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you."** 3 But it happened that night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, 4 **"Go and tell My servant David, Thus says the Lord: "You shall not build Me a house to dwell in. 1Chr. 17:1-5***

David was not allowed to build the temple. The account doesn't give any reasons here other than God never asked anyone to build him house.

For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another. 6 Wherever I have moved about with all Israel, have I ever spoken a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, "Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?"" 1 Chr. 17:5-7

Later, it was also revealed that it also had to do with David's having to fight wars.

*Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the Lord God of Israel. 7 And David said to Solomon: **"My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the Lord my God; 8 but the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. 9 Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. 10 He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be***

My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.' 1Chr. 22:6-10

God's Promise to David

Although God does not allow David to build a house for him, he reveals to David all that he has done for him and all that he will continue to do. God has been with David everywhere he has gone. God has cut off his enemies and made him a great name.

Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel. 8 And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a name like the name of the great men who are on the earth. ...1Chr. 17:7-8

God now gives David the great promise he had already given to Abraham. He promises that he will build David a house. It is impossible to determine if David understood everything that was implied in this promise, but we now understand and through later revelation, it was made clear to David that he would be in the lineage of the Messiah. David himself later called this son his Lord.

*Also I will subdue all your enemies. **Furthermore I tell you that the Lord will build you a house.** 11 And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom. 12 **He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.** 13 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took it from him who was before you. 14 **And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever.**"" ... 16 **And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.**"" 1Chr. 17:10-14; 16-17*

*While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David." 43 He said to them, **"How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 44 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?" 45 If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?"** 46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore. Mt. 22:41-46*

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." Ps 110:1-3

*"For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: **'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'**" 36 **"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."** Acts 2:34-36*

David was deeply moved by these promises. He praises God for such a wonderful promise.

Then King David went in and sat before the Lord; and he said: "Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? 19 And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord God; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord God? 20 Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord God, know Your servant. 21 For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. 2 Sam 7:18-21

Soon after this, David began writing the Psalms that are quoted by the apostles.

For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.' 29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, 31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. 3 Acts 2:25-32 25

"Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25 who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.' 27 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and

Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. 2 Acts 4:24-29

And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.' 35 Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.' 36 "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; 37 but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. Acts 13:34-38

And David says: " Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. 10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, And bow down their back always." Rom 11:9-10

Again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts." Heb 4:7

David's Sin - Bathsheba and Uriah

David was 30 when he began reigning and remained in Hebron for the first 7½ years of that reign.

David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. 2 Sam 5:4-5

So he was 37½ at the time he began reigning in Jerusalem. Then the following events are listed.

David took Jerusalem and began great building projects (2Sam. 5:6)
The king of Tyre sent materials for David to build his house(2Sam. 5:11-12)
A battle with the Philistines (2Sam. 5:17)
David gathered all Israel to move the ark to Jerusalem(2Sam. 6:1-11).
After three months, he completed the moving of the ark(2Sam. 6:12-15)
David attacked and subdued: the Philistines(2Sam. 8:1); Moab(2Sam. 8:2),
Hadadezer(2Sam. 8:3); Syrians(2Sam. 8:5);
Ammon(2Sam. 10:1-14), Syria(2Sam. 10:15-19)

How long this would have taken is pure conjecture, but it seems reasonable to conclude that David was between 40 and 50 when the events that forever changed his life and reign occurred. He had been reigning peacefully with God blessing him in every way for 10 - 20 years.

David wrote a Psalm at some time after God had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies.

*Then David spoke to the Lord the words of this song, **on the day when the Lord had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies**, and from the hand of Saul. ... 2Sam 22:1*

This is an important Psalm and the date of its writing is also important. From what God said to him after he had wanted to build God a house in Jerusalem, it is evident it had already occurred.

*Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and **the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies all around**, 2 that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and **have cut off all your enemies from before you**, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. 2Sam 7:1-2,9*

When David wrote this Psalm, praising God, he spoke of this time of purity and holiness. A time when he could still feel innocent and clean.

*He also brought me out into a broad place; **He delivered me because He delighted in me**. 21 "The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. 22 For I have kept the ways of the Lord, And have not wickedly departed from my God. 23 For all His judgments were before me; And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them. 24 I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity. 25 Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes. 26 "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; 27 With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. 28 You will save the humble people; But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down. 2Sam 22:20-28; Ps 18:19-27*

The Matter of Uriah the Hittite

At some time after this Psalm was written all of this changed. David had been pure and clean, righteous and godly up to the time that he witnessed a beautiful woman bathing, but that night everything changed when it became **the matter of Uriah the Hittite**

*Nevertheless for David's sake the Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem; 5 because **David did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite**. 1 Kings 15:4-6*

Like all great changes in the lives of men and women, it began with everything being normal until the moment when it occurred. David was home in Jerusalem while his army was fighting Ammon

at Rabbah.

It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. 2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. 3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" 2Sam 11:1-4

After a mid day rest David arose at even time(near sunset) and was walking on the rooftop which was a common occurrence.

"When you build a new house, then you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring guilt of bloodshed on your household if anyone falls from it. Deut 22:8

But then something very uncommon occurred. As he was looking around, his eye caught on a woman bathing. This woman was exceptionally beautiful. What David was thinking when he inquired about the woman is not revealed. Perhaps he was hoping to add another wife. But the answer should have sobered David for two important reasons. First because she was someone's wife and the commandment should have stopped him in his tracks.

'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.' Deut 5:21

The second reason is that this was an important man in David's army and should have created respect and concern in David's heart.

8 These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: 39 and Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all. 2 Sam 23:8, 39

But these two things did not stop David. Unlike Joseph, David had not prepared his heart against this.

And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. 9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Gen 39:7-9

The lust had already conceived and these two things that had stopped others did not quench them.

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no man: 14 but each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then the lust, when it hath conceived, bears sin: and the sin, when it is fullgrown, brings forth death. Jas 1:13-15

His desire was too strong and he did not rule over it. He had already violated the 10th commandment and now the 6th is also violated.

'You shall not commit adultery. Deut 5:18

Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. 5 And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child." 2 Sam 11:4-5

But a terrible unintended complication occurred. The women became pregnant, and the husband had been gone far too long for it to be concluded that it was Uriah's. David is not yet penitent, and resolves to continue his sin by hiding it.

David first simply brings Uriah home, hoping that the man would stop by his home and have relations with his wife. But Uriah has a greater sense of duty and pours coals of fire on David's head for what Uriah would not do David had done with the wife of another.

Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. 7 When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered. 8 And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him. 9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. 10 So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come

from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?" 11 And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing." 2Sam 11:6-11

David then resorts to making Uriah drunk, hoping that this would lead him to forget his duty. But it too failed.

Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. 13 Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. 2 Sam 11:12-13

These things took a few days and David's tender conscience should have forced him to consider and repent, but it did not. Now along with the 10th and 7th, the 6th commandment is also violated.

*'You shall not **murder**. 18 'You shall not **commit adultery**. 19 'You shall not steal. 20 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 21 'You shall not **covet your neighbor's wife**; Deut. 5:17-21*

There is something despicable and disgusting about what David does next. He sends the letter of subtle execution in the hands of innocent Uriah. Uriah as a good servant, takes that letter to Joab who does what David asked him to do. Yet not only did Uriah die, but so also some other servants of David were also killed because of David's desire to murder Uriah.

In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. 15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die." 16 So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men. 17 Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also. 2 Sam 11:14-17

Whether Bathsheba was ever aware of all these facts is not revealed. It only states that she mourned for Uriah, then became David's wife.

When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord. 2 Sam 11:26-27

The Wages of Sin

After David took Bathsheba to be his wife, life seemed to proceed normally, until the child is born.

When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 27 And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord. 2 Sam 11:26-27

But life was not proceeding normally. God had witnessed these sins and had chosen his own way to deal with them. He gave David time to repent, and confess those sins, but ever after then nine month period of the pregnancy David had still not done so. It appears from one of his Psalms that he was not enjoying the fruits of his sin.

When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Ps 32:3-4

That these things were happening even before the arrival of Nathan is clear from the fact that David acknowledged his sin the day Nathan arrived and these things occurred before his did that.

I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Ps 32:5

God sees these groanings of worldly sorrow. His agony and bitterness of heart over what he had done had been growing throughout that period of time. To lose God's favor for such a momentary time of pleasure must have been a bitter experience to David, but he could not bring himself to repent. It is at this moment, that God chooses to send Nathan.

God Sent Nathan

This is the second of the four times that Nathan appeared as a prophet to David. The first time occurred when David sought to build the temple and after God forbid that, he revealed to David the eternal nature of the throne God had given to him(2Sam. 7:1-17). The third time was after the birth

of Solomon, when it appears that God used him to name the child and reveal to David that God had truly forgiven him for taking Bathsheba and revealed that He truly loved this child (2Sam. 12:24-25). The final time occurred when Adonijah sought to wrest the throne from Solomon and take it for himself (1Kings 1:5-48).

After the birth of the child, God sent Nathan to rebuke David. He gives a parable designed to move the heart of a shepherd. Since David's began his early life as a shepherd, this parable will "cut him to the heart."

Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. 3 But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. 4 And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 2 Sam 12:1-4

Because it was God who sent him, this parable is clearly inspired and not just an idea of Nathan's. It is also closely aligned with the true facts of the case between David (the rich man with many flocks and herds) and Uriah (the poor man with only one ewe lamb). Although the story diverges with arrival of the traveler, the basic idea is that the rich man did not take from his own flocks (his own wives), but instead stole the sheep from the poor man (Uriah's only wife).

David's anger comes from the righteous indignation of the unfairness of the theft. It was not just the stealing of the sheep, it was the fact that he could have chosen any from his own flocks. It was not simply the fact that the poor man's sheep was taken, but that he loved that sheep and cared for it as one of his children. The fact that this sheep had a long history with the family, had grown up with them at food with them, drank from his own cup, and lay in his bosom. How close this was to Uriah's actual history is impossible to determine, but could have very well been the case.

David is not content with the normal punishment for stealing a sheep. He also demands death.

"If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep. Ex 22:1-2

So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! 6 And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity." 2 Sam 12:5-6

As far as David was concerned, this type of covetousness that showed such lack of compassion for the man's feelings for his lamb deserved much more than simple restitution. The relationship of this lamb to the family required the more severe punishment of death.

You are the Man!

How David's opinion of himself must have come crashing down upon him with these words.

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! 9 Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.' 2 Sam 12:7-10

All the anger and righteous indignation poured out upon the man who had so unfairly treated his neighbor was now turned upon himself. The truth of exactly what David had done was far worse than that of the rich man above.

Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 8 I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! 2 Sam 12:7-9

1 David was not only rich with the flocks and herds, but far more. He was king over all Israel because God had been with him and had delivered him again and again from Saul. After Saul's death, God had given him everything that Saul had possessed. Many have sought to unravel the words "I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping." David never took the wives or concubines of Saul. It doesn't actually say he took them to be wives, only that God had given them into his hands to do with as he pleased.

The true reality of the situation is recorded with: *“if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!”* So much more than the rich man in the parable, David had everything with God’s assurance that he could have much more. He was far above the rich man in the parable.

Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. 2 Sam 12:9-10

2 The crimes were also much worse than that of the rich man in the parable. First he had despised the commandment of the Lord. The truth is he had first violated the 10th commandment and *“coveted his neighbor’s wife,”* the 7th commandment and *“committed adultery”* and the 6th commandment when he *“committed murder.”* Truly he had despised the command of the Lord. God then accused David of the crime of murder by the hands of another.

Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ 11 Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’” 2 Sam 12:10-12

3 God then revealed a punishment far worse than David had decreed for the rich man in the parable.

1. *“The sword shall never depart from your house.”* Since this referred to David’s house while he was alive, the forever simply means as long as you are alive. Yet it was literally fulfilled when Amnon was murdered by Absalom(2Sam. 13:29), Absalom his son was killed by Joab(2Sam. 18:14), and Adonijah was executed by Solomon(1Kings 2:24-25).

2. *“I will raise up adversity from your own house.”* This started immediately with the death of his son through Bathsheba. Then the rape of Tamar and not just the death of Amnon, but the fear that all his sons had died. Then the agony of Absalom’s loss due a murder that David felt somewhat responsible for. The anguish of the rebellion created by Absalom in which David had to flee for his life that culminated in the death of Absalom. The rebellion of Adonijah that led David to have to depose one in order to establish the other.

3. *“I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.”* A clear example of *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap”* (Gal. 6:7). David had stolen the wife of Uriah, now others will steal his wives. The difference is powerful since what David had done was somewhat private, while what would be done to David would be public.

I have sinned against the LORD

While many would have redirected their anger toward the prophet and lash out against them as so many had done and would do to other prophets. David did not do this, but meekly accepted the truth. As noted above, the sense of guilt had been growing in David’s heart.

When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Ps 32:3-5

The words of this parable and the revelation of how it would be punished brought the godly sorrow to fruition leading him to acknowledge his sin to Nathan. He refused to hide it any longer, but freely confessed to the LORD. At that moment, God forgave him, but forced him to reap as he had sowed.

And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.” 15 Then Nathan departed to his house. 2Sam. 12:13-15

Psalm 51?

While some have also ascribed the words of Psalm 51 to this same event, it is not universally

agreed that this is the case. While Psalm 32 is quoted in the NT by Paul and ascribed to David by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 4:5-8), nothing is said about Psalm 51. Only the words of the Psalm can be used to determine this. The Introductions to all the Psalms were not inspired, only Jewish traditions added to the text. So the words "To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba." have no Scriptural authority and were not inspired.

So only the context of the words can be used. What does the Psalm say that would lead us to believe David was the author? Since the words of the Psalm fit very well with the events in David's life, few have questioned it. Yet though it can be so stated that the words fit well, the next step that David was the author is only a guess. Two objections have been raised that David was not the author.

Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight — Ps 51:4

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Ps 51:18

First that the sin was not only against God but against Uriah. Second that the walls around Jerusalem needed to be built (hence had been torn down). Yet neither of these objections are strong. All sin in its most basic sense is against God. The walls of Jerusalem were not yet built until Solomon built them.

Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter; then he brought her to the City of David until he had finished building his own house, and the house of the Lord, and the wall all around Jerusalem 1 Kings 3:1

So the decision can only be based on the context. There is nothing to prove it was not David, but nothing to prove it was.

David Fasted for the Child

Although many children become sick, this illness is directly ascribed to God. It was not a natural occurrence, but a judgment against David. For those who are concerned for the life of this child, remember that God sees things in the context of eternity and of souls and not human life. For this child to die seems tragic to us, but it was also a blessing, for even David revealed that he too would someday be reunited with him after death.

David is not content to simply let this happen, but immediately seeks to influence God. His tools were fasting and prayer. Both together create a very powerful tool to "make our voice heard on high."

'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?' "In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers. 4 Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high. 5 Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the Lord? Isa 58:3-5

David understood all this and used it in hopes of influencing God's decision. His servants did not understand this and thought the fasting was only for mourning and were afraid to tell him, but as soon as he realized the fasting was not going to change God's mind, he stopped fasting.

*David therefore **pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted** and went in and lay all night on the ground. 17 So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them. 18 Then **on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died.** 2Sam. 12:16-18*

*So **David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes;** and he **went into the house of the Lord and worshiped.** Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they **set food before him, and he ate.** 21 Then his servants said to him, "What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food." 22 And he said, "**While the child was alive, I fasted and wept;** for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' 23 But **now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.**" 2 Sam 12:20-23*

Solomon is Born

God simply passes over the intervening years without even telling us how old Solomon was when Nathan came with his words of encouragement.

Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the Lord loved him, 25 and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord. 2 Sam 12:24-25

Whether it was then or later that the events stated by Nathan occurred is difficult to determine.

Go immediately to King David and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, "Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' 14 Then, while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words." 1 Kings 1:13-14

David's Final Years

Since we don't know how old David was when the events with Bathsheba occurred, it cannot be known how much of David's life was under this punishment. His first 7.5 years were in Hebron and at least 5-10 years have elapsed. So at least 15 years and possible as much as 25 years were not happy ones for David. As we evaluate his life we understand that he was persecuted and chased by Saul until he was 30 and died at 70 and the last 15 years of his life were also sorrowful. The punishment consisted of three things:

1. The sword shall never depart from your house.
2. I will raise up adversity from your own house.
3. I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor.

Amnon with Tamar(2Sam. 13:1-21)

How much of David's conduct led to this event is impossible to determine. It may have held Amnon in check if it hadn't occurred. But Amnon fell in love(or in lust) with Absalom's beautiful sister Tamar. Instead of asking the king for her as Tamar later requested he do, he took the advice of his cousin Jonadab who developed an elaborate plan to get the girl to come to his house.

So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'" 2Sam. 13:5

The plan began with Amnon pretending to be sick and David coming to visit him. He then asked for Tamar to come and feed him and David passed on the request. After Tamar cooked the food, Amnon asked everyone else to leave and sought to get her to consent to his fornication. When she refused and pleaded with him to do it properly, he forcibly raped her.

But she answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing! 13 And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you." 14 However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her. 2Sam. 13:12-14

After the rape, Amnon's emotions changed and he despised her and forced her from his room.

Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Arise, be gone!" 16 So she said to him, "No, indeed! This evil of sending me away is worse than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her. 2Sam. 13:15-16

She then took off the clothing of a virgin and wept for her plight. Although David was angry when he heard of this, there is no account of any discipline.

But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. 22 And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar. 2Sam. 13:21-22

Absalom's Revenge(2Sam. 13:23-33)

Absalom's hatred of Amnon grew, but was carefully hidden. After two years when everything seemed to have been forgotten, Absalom also developed an elaborate plan. He had wanted even the king to be present for this revenge, but David would not go. *Then Absalom came to the king and said, "Kindly note, your servant has sheepshearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant." 25 But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you." Then he urged him, but he would not go; and he blessed him. 2Sam. 13:23-25*

So Absalom contented himself that all David's sons would be present. He waits until the right moment and commands his servants to kill Amnon.

Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?" 27 But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with

him. 28 Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant." 2Sam. 13:26-29

News of Absalom's act reached David but with an exaggeration. For a time David believed all his children had been murdered. Since this was within the punishment God had decreed, David believed it and agonized over it.

And it came to pass, while they were on the way, that news came to David, saying, "Absalom has killed all the king's sons, and not one of them is left!" 31 So the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn. 2Sam. 13:30-32

Once again Jonadab was involved and appeared to know all the details of Absalom's plan. He also knew that Absalom had been planning this since the rape of his sister Tamar. After the sons arrived, Jonadab again affirms what he had known to be the plan.

Then Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, "Let not my lord suppose they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. 2Sam. 13:32-33

David is comforted by the return of his other sons, but agonizes over Absalom who has fled to the land of His grandfather (2Sam. 3:3; 13:37). Three years pass with David mourning and longing for Absalom. Absalom will become the greatest heartache for David even after his death many years later. It is not difficult to imagine David blaming his own conduct for the terrible things that were happening in his family.

But Absalom fled and went to Talmi the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day. 38 So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. 39 And King David longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead. 2Sam. 13:37-39

Joab and Absalom(2Sam. 14)

Five years after Tamar's rape and 3 years after Absalom murders Amnon, Joab feels that something needed to be done. Instead of talking to the king, he chooses to have a woman come in and force David to decree his feelings in the similar case of another.

So Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was concerned about Absalom. 2 And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman, and said to her, "Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning apparel; do not anoint yourself with oil, but act like a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead. 2 Sam 14:1-2

He chose a wise woman who could carry out his plans to deceive the king. He then orchestrates a play in which this woman is to be the main actor. She is to present a case very similar to that of Absalom, but different enough to deceive the king.

She throws herself down in front of the king in clothing of mourning, acting distraught. Claiming to be a widow with two sons and agonizing over the loss of one son and the desire of others to put her last son to death. David's judgment is simple. The remaining son shall be spared and allowed to continue as her son.

The "wise" woman then makes the application. Whether this was her own idea or also engineered by Joab is not stated. But the woman shows David the inconsistency between his decree for her and his decree for his own son.

A suspicion has grown in David's mind as to Joab's involvement in these events, and the woman freely confesses that this was all Joab's plan.

Then the king answered and said to the woman, "Please do not hide from me anything that I ask you." And the woman said, "Please, let my lord the king speak." 19 So the king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" 2 Sam 14:18-19

Joab is called and David agrees to allow Absalom to return home. He still has one condition to his return and that is that Absalom would not be allowed into the king's presence.

Another two years pass and Absalom decides to act. He calls for Joab, but Joab is not interested in meeting with him so Absalom sets his field of barley nearing harvest on fire to compel him to come.

And Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, but did not see the king's face. 29 Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. And when he sent again the second time, he would not come. 30 So he said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." And Absalom's servants set the field on fire. 2 Sam 14:28-30

After he comes, Absalom pleads his case and Joab goes to David. David brings Absalom into his presence and forgives him.

So Joab went to the king and told him. And when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king. Then the king kissed Absalom. 2 Sam 14:33

Absalom Stooped to Treason

With these events, it is difficult exactly when Absalom's plans to destroy David began. Maybe it was the injustice that he had observed with Amnon and Tamar. Maybe it was the anger he felt after 5 years of waiting for the king to forgive him for what in Absalom's mind must have been a justified homicide. Maybe it was his sense of justice over what David had done with Uriah and Bathsheba, and perhaps the knowledge that her son Solomon was to be the next king. Whatever the reasons, Absalom embarks on his next plan for vengeance and a quest for power.

Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice." 5 And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. 6 In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. 2 Sam 15:4-6

It was a simple plan. He will did what was necessary and soon "stole the hearts of men of Israel." This plan was allowed to grow and God did nothing to stop it. After Absalom is convinced he has their hearts and their backing, he goes to the king and gives a plausible lie that would keep the king satisfied as the last parts of his plan came into being.

As the conspiracy strengthened even David's most trusted advisory and counselor Ahithophel came to Absalom's side. One has to wonder how Absalom so easily changed the hearts of Israel. First, God had proclaimed that this would happen so He was behind the things that were happening, but more interesting, how did Absalom move the hearts of Israel. Remember it took several years before any tribe but Judah came to David after the death of Saul. So their loyalty to David was not as strong as that of Judah. The events with Bathsheba and Uriah had become known and perhaps many among the other 10 tribes were not truly convinced that David was the right man. At any rate, Absalom found it easy to sway and soon had everything he needed to start his plan.

Then Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!'" ...12 Then Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city — from Giloh — while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom continually increased in number. 2Sam. 15:10, 12

David Escaped Jerusalem

Soon an insurrection gave Absalom control and David immediately saw his peril. **(15:7-14).**

So David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or we shall not escape from Absalom. Make haste to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly and bring disaster upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword." 2 Sam 15:14

David quickly makes plans about who to take with him and who to leave. He left some of his concubines to keep house, and when they brought the ark to go with him he also sent it back with the promise that if the Lord brought him back, he would see it again and if not it was better to remain in Jerusalem.

14 So David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or we shall

not escape from Absalom. Make haste to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly and bring disaster upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword." ... 16 Then the king went out with all his household after him. But the king left ten women, concubines, to keep the house. ...25 Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, He will bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place. 2Sam. 15:14, 16, 25

He also left behind one of his greatest counselors and allies. He hoped to thwart the wise counsel of Ahithophel

David said to him, "If you go on with me, then you will become a burden to me. 34 But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I was your father's servant previously, so I will now also be your servant,' then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me. 35 And do you not have Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? Therefore it will be that whatever you hear from the king's house, you shall tell to Zadok and Abiathar the priests. 2Sam. 15:33-36

Absalom entered Jerusalem

Absalom arrives and using careful words convinces Absalom that he will do all he can to help "the king that God chooses." While it is open to interpretation what Absalom hears is not what Hushai said.

Meanwhile Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem; and Ahithophel was with him. 16 And so it was, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" 17 So Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?" 18 And Hushai said to Absalom, "No, but whom the Lord and this people and all the men of Israel choose, his I will be, and with him I will remain. 19 "Furthermore, whom should I serve? Should I not serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so will I be in your presence." 2 Sam 16:15-19

Ahithophel's counsel fulfills God's threat to David. So Absalom lay with David's wives in the sight of all Israel.

And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong." 22 So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. 23 Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom. 2 Sam 16:21-23

Ahithophel and Hushai Gave Advice

Ahithophel's advice would have been the end of David, but God did not want that to happen. After hearing Ahithophel's advice, they turned to Hushai, and he too gave advice that would bring the down fall of Absalom.

Moreover Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Now let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight. 2 I will come upon him while he is weary and weak, and make him afraid. And all the people who are with him will flee, and I will strike only the king. 2 Sam 17:1-3

So Hushai said to Absalom: "The advice that Ahithophel has given is not good at this time. 8 For," said Hushai, "you know your father and his men, that they are mighty men, and they are enraged in their minds, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field; and your father is a man of war, and will not camp with the people. ... 11 Therefore I advise that all Israel be fully gathered to you, from Dan to Beersheba, like the sand that is by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person. 2Sam. 17:7-8, 11

*So Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Archite is better than the advice of Ahithophel." **For the Lord had purposed to defeat the good advice of Ahithophel, to the intent that the Lord might bring disaster on Absalom. 2Sam 17:14***

Hushai's counsel is followed and the battle between David and Absalom begins. Because of God's providence, David is victorious and Absalom is defeated.

So the people went out into the field of battle against Israel. And the battle was in the woods of Ephraim. 7 The people of Israel were overthrown there before the servants of David, and a great slaughter of twenty thousand took place there that day. 8 For the battle there was scattered over the face of the whole countryside, and the woods devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

2 Sam 18:6-8

The death of Absalom is a sad example of the vicious nature of some people. Even with David's strong warning about Absalom, Joab kills him in cold blood as an act of murder while he is hanging helpless in the tree.

Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth. And the mule which was under him went on. 10 Now a certain man saw it and told Joab, and said, "I just saw Absalom hanging in a terebinth tree!" 2 Sam 18:9-10

Then Joab said, "I cannot linger with you." And he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree. 15 And ten young men who bore Joab's armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him. 2 Sam 18:14-15

David Told of Absalom's Death

The news of Absalom's death brings David to great sorrow and mourning. His own responsibility in these events must have been heavy on his heart. Absalom was an evil man, but he was David's son and was fulfilling the very punishment God had sent on him. He bemoans his death, wishing he had died long before instead.

And the king said to the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" So the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise against you to do harm, be like that young man!" David's Mourning for Absalom 33 Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom — my son, my son Absalom — if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!" 2 Sam 18:32-33

As his mourning over Absalom continued, the victory they had won began to feel like a defeat.

And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." 2 So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, "The king is grieved for his son." 3 And the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle. 4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!" 2 Sam 19:1-4

Though Joab bore great guilt for these circumstances, his advice to David was sound.

Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, "Today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines, 6 in that you love your enemies and hate your friends. For you have declared today that you regard neither princes nor servants; for today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you well. 7 Now therefore, arise, go out and speak comfort to your servants. For I swear by the Lord, if you do not go out, not one will stay with you this night. And that will be worse for you than all the evil that has befallen you from your youth until now." 2 Sam 19:5-8

David Returned to Jerusalem

After David returned to Jerusalem chaos reigned for a time. Those who had sided with Absalom were not yet loyal to David, and there was a quarrel between Judah and the other tribes.

Now the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. And all the people of Judah escorted the king, and also half the people of Israel. 41 Just then all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, "Why have our brethren, the men of Judah, stolen you away and brought the king, his household, and all David's men with him across the Jordan?" 42 So all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king is a close relative of ours. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we ever eaten at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?" 43 And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, "We have ten shares in the king; therefore we also have more right to David than you. Why then do you despise us — were we not the first to advise bringing back our king?" 2 Sam 19:40-43

In this time of confusion and anger between Judah and the ten tribes, another rebel decided to divide Israel and led to the ten tribes leaving David.

And there happened to be there a rebel, whose name was Sheba the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. And he blew a trumpet, and said: "We have no share in David, Nor do we have inheritance in the son of

Jesse; Every man to his tents, O Israel!" 2 So every man of Israel deserted David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king. 2 Sam 20:1-2

David sends Joab to remove this threat and soon Sheba is killed and Israel is reunited, though grudgingly.

David Took a Census

As David's life drew to its close, more sorrows came to David. His foolish desire for a census led to a terrible choice of punishment.

*And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O Lord, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly." 11 Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 12 "Go and tell David, 'Thus says the Lord: "**I offer you three things; choose one** of them for yourself, that I may do it to you.'"* 13 So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "**Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' plague in your land?** Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me." 14 And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please **let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man.**" 2Sam. 24:10-14

After David chose the three days of plague, the angel of the LORD was sent and 70,000 died. As the angel of the LORD stretched out his hand against Jerusalem he was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite and the LORD relented and stopped the slaughter.

So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died. 16 And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. 2Sam 24:15-16

God then sent a prophet to sanctify that threshing floor which later became the site on which the temple would be built.

And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." 19 So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the Lord commanded. 20 Now Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. So Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground. 21 Then Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" And David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people." 25 And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel. 2 Sam 24:18-21, 25

This closes the active part of David's life. As 1 Kings opens, David is old and infirm. We will cover his final years under Solomon's reign.

Now these are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel: 2 "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. 3 The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God. 4 And he shall be like the light of the morning when the sun rises, A morning without clouds, Like the tender grass springing out of the earth, By clear shining after rain.' 5 "Although my house is not so with God, Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, Ordered in all things and secure. For this is all my salvation and all my desire; Will He not make it increase? 6 But the sons of rebellion shall all be as thorns thrust away, Because they cannot be taken with hands. 7 But the man who touches them Must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear, And they shall be utterly burned with fire in their place." 2 Sam 23:1-7

So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. 11 The period that David reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years. 12 Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established. 1Kings 2:10-12