

Be a Man After God's Heart: Life of David, Study Ten
Legacy

"He brought me to a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me." 2 Samuel 22:20

"Some lives are so significant in courageous accomplishment; they form the beginning of an era. Others bring with their death, the end of an era. Their thinking, their creative ideas, their magnificent model leave a veritable chasm across life's landscape...The death of David, the greatest king Israel ever had, marked the end of an era, the closing out of a period of time on earth that could never be duplicated."¹ David established the vast nation of Israel, conquered the Philistines, was a magnificent writer and musician, gathered stone, iron, brass, and cedar for the building of the temple, and in essence, closed the most successful royal career recorded in the annals of history.

The Apostle Paul makes a profound statement about David's life in Acts 13:36, "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay." David found that special, God-ordained reason for serving his generation. He served as king and perpetuated righteousness in Israel. In 1 Chronicles 28 and 29 we encounter a record of the end of his life and his last recorded words. After four decades as king, he reflected on his unfulfilled desire to build the temple, commissioned Solomon to carry the plan forward and serve as the next King, prayed, and rejoiced with the entire assembly of Israel.

¹ Swindoll, Charles. *David A Man of Passion and Destiny*. Thomas Nelson: Nashville, 1997. 284.

David reminds the assembly that although Solomon is young and inexperienced, God had chosen him to be King. The prophet Nathan, the priest Zadok, and the warrior Benaiah were chosen to confirm Solomon as king before the people. What a commanding picture of the very heart and life David lived: prophet, priest, warrior, and king. David commissioned Solomon with these places of authority in mind, having each of these men bless him.

David, in his commission to Solomon, admonished him to acknowledge God and to serve Him with wholehearted devotion and a willing mind. The Hebrew word for wholehearted is *shalem* and is used in other scriptures in reference to, "unhewn, untouched stones." So to serve God with a *shalem* heart, in this context, meant to serve with an undivided or uncut heart. "A divided heart places our entire lives in jeopardy. Only God can be totally trusted with our hearts. He doesn't demand our complete devotion to feed his ego but to provide for our safety. God uses an undivided heart to keep us out of trouble."² David did not want Solomon to make the same mistakes he did. He wanted his heart undivided and wanted Solomon to live with that peace and protection.

The Hebrew term for willing, in the words of David to Solomon, is *chaphets*, which transliterates to take delight in, be pleased with, have affection for, or to choose. David wanted Solomon to serve God and honor him because he desired to. As men, God wants us to love Him because we choose to and because we delight in Him. David said God delivered him because he delighted in him, but it is clear to see, David served God, because he delighted in Him! God does not want forced affection and acts of service that are not rooted and grounded

² Moore, Beth. 228.

in love. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13 that we can do many great things for the Lord and in the name of the Lord but if we do not do them for love, and through love, those works are meaningless. Unending love remains the true hallmark of David's life. David was a man in love with His God. David had everything but was never consumed with greed; he was undone with adoration for God and His heart for the Israel.

"Thank you, David, for being our model, teaching us by your life such significant truths. And thank you, Father, for being our Master; using us though we are weak, forgiving us when we fail, and loving us through all the Sauls and Goliaths and Jonathans and Abigails and Bathshebas and Absaloms and Joabs and Solomons of our lives. Thank you for showing us that we can be people like David...people of passion and destiny."³

So may we, as men, return to our first love and the simplicity of the Gospel. Let us think upon David's early years as a young shepherd boy singing to God in the fields. David was truly a king, a priest, a prophet, and a warrior long before his life ended. He was chosen for his heart, a heart ablaze, a heart that burned, and a heart that never stopped beating for God. As we end our study, may we receive David's commission to Solomon and acknowledge God, serve him wholeheartedly and with a willing mind. May we do this with such a fierce steadfastness that our lives will leave a legacy that inspires others to be people of passion and destiny as well.

Scripture Reading: NIV

1 Chronicles 28:1-21

³ Swindoll, Charles. 295.

David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem: the officers over the tribes, the commanders of the divisions in the service of the king, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the warriors and all the brave fighting men.² King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my fellow Israelites, my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it.³ But God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.'⁴ Yet the LORD, the God of Israel, chose me from my whole family to be king over Israel forever. He chose Judah as leader, and from the tribe of Judah he chose my family, and from my father's sons he was pleased to make me king over all Israel.⁵ Of all my sons – and the LORD has given me many – he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.⁶ He said to me: 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.'⁷ I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.'⁸ So now I charge you in the sight of all Israel and of the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God: Be careful to follow all the commands of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and pass it on as an inheritance to your descendants forever.⁹ And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.¹⁰ Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house as the sanctuary. Be

strong and do the work.” ¹¹ Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement. ¹² He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things. ¹³ He gave him instructions for the divisions of the priests and Levites, and for all the work of serving in the temple of the LORD, as well as for all the articles to be used in its service. ¹⁴ He designated the weight of gold for all the gold articles to be used in various kinds of service, and the weight of silver for all the silver articles to be used in various kinds of service: ¹⁵ the weight of gold for the gold lampstands and their lamps, with the weight for each lampstand and its lamps; and the weight of silver for each silver lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand; ¹⁶ the weight of gold for each table for consecrated bread; the weight of silver for the silver tables; ¹⁷ the weight of pure gold for the forks, sprinkling bowls and pitchers; the weight of gold for each gold dish; the weight of silver for each silver dish; ¹⁸ and the weight of the refined gold for the altar of incense. He also gave him the plan for the chariot, that is, the cherubim of gold that spread their wings and overshadow the ark of the covenant of the LORD. ¹⁹ “All this,” David said, “I have in writing as a result of the LORD’s hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan.” ²⁰ David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished. ²¹ The divisions of the priests and Levites are ready for all the work on the temple of God, and every willing person skilled in any craft will help

you in all the work. The officials and all the people will obey your every command.”

1 Chronicles 29:10-24

¹⁰ David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, “Praise be to you, LORD, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. ¹¹ Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹² Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. ¹⁴ “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. ¹⁵ We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. ¹⁶ LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. ¹⁸ LORD, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. ¹⁹ And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.” ²⁰ Then David said to the whole assembly, “Praise the LORD your God.” So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the LORD and the king ²¹ The next

day they made sacrifices to the LORD and presented burnt offerings to him: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams and a thousand male lambs, together with their drink offerings, and other sacrifices in abundance for all Israel. ²² They ate and drank with great joy in the presence of the LORD that day. Then they acknowledged Solomon son of David as king a second time, anointing him before the LORD to be ruler and Zadok to be priest. ²³ So Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king in place of his father David. He prospered and all Israel obeyed him. ²⁴ All the officers and warriors, as well as all of King David's sons, pledged their submission to King Solomon. ²⁵ The LORD highly exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel and bestowed on him royal splendor such as no king over Israel ever had before. ²⁶ David son of Jesse was king over all Israel. ²⁷ He ruled over Israel forty years—seven in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. ²⁸ He died at a good old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth and honor. His son Solomon succeeded him as king.

1 Kings 2:2-4

When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. ² "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, act like a man, ³ and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go ⁴ and that the LORD may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.

Prayer Partners Assignment:

1. Memory Verse: 1 Chronicles 28:9, *"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever."*
2. This week read 2 Samuel 22-24, 1 Kings 1 and 2, Psalm 71.
3. Please meet with your prayer partner from this week to discuss the following questions on this week's reading.
 - A. In 2 Samuel 22 and 23, David records a psalm of deliverance and sings a song. What verses of the psalm and song stand out to you the most and why?
 - B. What did David do in chapter 24 that was displeasing to God and what was the result of his disobedience?
 - C. What events unfolding in 1 Kings 1 and 2 to bring about the crowning of a new king?
 - D. Most scholars agree Psalm 71 was written by David in his old age, what would David always have that no one could take away from him?

For Leaders Only... Study Ten Questions:

- *Pass out study pages**
- *Read the article out loud together**
- *After reading the article, ask for initial thoughts and/or comments**
- *Begin reading the scripture portion of the study next out loud.**
Ask again for initial thoughts and or comments on the scripture when done reading.
- *Begin study questions.**

Text Questions:

1. Read 1 Chronicles 28:2-3, what was David's unfulfilled desire and why was this desire unfulfilled? What was his reaction to God's "no." as you reflect on the overall chapter?
2. Read 1 Chronicles 28 8-9, 20 and 1 Kings 2:2-3. List all the different commissions and words of encouragement David gave to Solomon.
3. In 1 Chronicles 29:10-16, what did David continue to restate to God in these verses and how do these scriptures show his proper scale of values when it came to all that he had? (*Hint: David acknowledged to God over and over that everything he had came from Him, a powerful statement coming from one of the wealthiest men of his time*).

4. What part of David's prayer for his people in 1 Chronicles 29:17-20 sticks out to you the most and why?

5. What did the people do in response to David's prayer? What do you think David felt in those final moments of his life watching his kingdom rejoicing, bowing to God, and celebrating his years and the coming of a new king?

Application Questions: (*These are important! Please try to get to these; they take more time and bring the study home*).

1. David wanted to build a temple for the Lord but God said no. Have you ever experienced an unfulfilled dream or desire in which God said "no" to you too? What was your reaction to His "no"? In what ways does David's acceptance of God's "no" to his greatest dream and his thankfulness for what he had and did with his life encourage you today?
2. "Spiritual living does not come naturally, sin does. The first step to victory is acknowledging the authority of God in our lives."⁴ In what ways do you acknowledge God's authority in your life? How is He moving in your life?
3. Read Psalm 86:11. Here David asks God to give him an undivided heart that fears God. What do you think it means to "fear the Lord?" Do you have a healthy fear of the Lord and has this made a difference in the choices you make day to day?
4. David was a man who was not tied to material things even though he had so much. Do you struggle with materialism or being greedy? What are some ways you can take steps to overcome this struggle?
5. Read Joshua 1:7-9. How is David's commission to Solomon in 1 Chronicles 28:20 similar to that of Joshua's commission to his people? As men we need strength and courage, how have you grown in these two traits by studying David's life?

⁴Moore, Beth.227.

6. David was a man who fulfilled his God-given destiny for his generation. Has the Holy Spirit given you an idea of what your God-ordained destiny involves here at Virginia Tech and beyond? Are you taking the spiritual and practical steps to achieve that? How can our small group aid you in this?

7. Now that this study is over, please name the greatest thing that God has shown you over these past weeks. How has David's life inspired you to become a man of passion and destiny?