

## CHAPTER 11, FROM SHEPHERD TO KING

### TIMELESS TRUTH: THE LORD ACCEPTS ACCORDING TO THE HEART.

#### CHAPTER SUMMARY

Saul was a man's man. He was tall, handsome, kingly and impressive...a likely choice for a king. He was just what Israel wanted. Trouble was, Saul was not *God's* man. King Saul cut corners on God's commands, so God cut Saul out of the picture and set His sights a king who was, at the moment, singing songs and tending flocks in a nearby pasture.

God's ordination began in the unlikeliest of places: the humble house of Jesse in a less than notable village called Bethlehem. Seven of Jesse's sons were paraded before Samuel, but none were chosen. The youngest brother, David, had not been invited but was easily found with among the sheep. After being summoned from the fields, the choice was immediate: David was anointed by Samuel to replace King Saul. The boy then did what any responsible shepherd would do: he returned to tending his sheep.

Life was quiet for the newly anointed boy king until he was once again called from the fields, this time to supply his brothers on the frontlines of battle against the Philistine army. When he arrived, David saw what everyone else did not: an opportunity for God's power to be displayed. Armed with a slingshot, five pebbles, and an extraordinary faith, he faced down Goliath...and won. The Philistine's superhero lost his head while his army lost their courage and ran!

David's days in the pastures were over. Saul brought him into the king's court and assigned him a high rank over military operations. David was well liked and successful in all his pursuits. He eventually married Saul's daughter, Michal, and became best of friends with Saul's son, Jonathan. But his success planted an irreversible seed of jealousy in Saul, to the point where he tried repeatedly to murder David.

David fled for his life and days in the palace came to a close. Still, his popularity grew. Unfortunately, so did Saul's fear and irrational behavior. His thirst for David's blood quickly turned to obsession. Saul and his army pursued David and killed 85 Levite priests in the process because they had fed and sheltered the fugitive. On one occasion, David had an opportunity to kill Saul, but he refused out of respect for the man whom God had anointed king. He chose, instead, to extend mercy and grace to Saul who tearfully confessed, "*You are more righteous than I...I know that you will surely be king*" (p. 154). Saul's new lease on life was as short as his fuse and the chase quickly resumed.

David found consolation by journaling his fears and his faith in his psalms. Saul's obsessive pursuit of David blinded him to the fact that the Philistine armies were once again on the attack. They prevailed and Saul and his sons were killed. Israel was defeated and David was left to mourn the staggering losses.

It was another seven years before David was recognized as king over all Israel. He became the military, civil, and spiritual leader. He conquered the city of Jerusalem, made it his capital city, and then brought the Ark of the Covenant there with great fanfare. All Israel joined him except his wife Michal, whose empty heart left her with an empty womb.

David was home at last. His first desire was to build a house, a temple, for God. Instead, God told David, "*The LORD will build a house for you*" (p. 159). God made a covenant with David and promised him a house (an eternal dynasty), a throne (royal authority), and a kingdom (rule on earth). David responded as usual with awestruck worship and gratitude, knowing that distant generations of his own family would welcome the King whose reign would never end. Though David may not have fully recognized it at the time, he had indeed built a house for God...the temple of his heart.

**ICEBREAKER QUESTION:** In your childhood, when a team was chosen, were you closer to the first one chosen or the last?

- 1. When Saul disobeyed God at the end of chapter ten (p. 143), Samuel told Saul that the LORD had sought out a man after God's own heart and appointed him as the ruler for His people. What does it mean to be a man or woman after God's own heart based on David's example? (See Acts 13:21-22.)**
- 2. In his battle with Goliath, "*David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him*" (pg. 149). When have you had the courage to face down an impending conflict?**
- 3. Contrast Saul's downward trajectory and David's upward trajectory. Where do you see the inverse of Saul in David?**
- 4. What was the fundamental reason for David's choice to spare Saul's life in their encounter at En-Gedi (p. 153-154)? How does this choice reflect David's view of submission and of God?**
- 5. What do you learn about God's character and His ways from the episode of David and the ark (p.156-158)? (For further insight, see Exodus 25:14 and Numbers 4:15.) Would you characterize your own worship as reserved or unbridled?**
- 6. In humility, David offered to build a house for God, but instead God promised to build a "house" for David. What prompted David's concern for God's dwelling place?**
- 7. Through no merit of his own, David received God's grace through God's covenant with him (p. 159). What specific covenant promises did God make with David? How is this covenant with David later fulfilled in Christ (Luke 1:32-33)?**

God also knows what is in the heart of each of us. But it is not by accident! His metric system is not flawed; it is perfect. And it was the heart of young David that led God to choose him to be Israel's king.

### I. Looking For a King

- A. The idea of a king was not a new one for Israel. Adam and Eve had been made in God's image and as His representatives were to "rule" over the creation (Genesis 1:26-28). Kings had been prophesied and therefore anticipated since God spoke to Abraham approximately 1000 years before David's rule.
  1. Abraham had been promised that from "you will come nations, and kings will come forth from you" (Genesis 17:6).
  2. God said of Sarah, "I will bless her...and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her" (Genesis 17:16).
  3. The promise was passed on to Abraham's grandson Jacob, "Kings shall come forth from you" (Genesis 35:11).
  4. Of Jacob's twelve sons, Judah was given the explicit promise that a ruler would come from his line. "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples" (Genesis 49:10).
- B. Moses anticipated a coming king for Israel who would rule Israel under the authority of God. He even gave specific requirements to Israel's future kings (Deuteronomy 17:14-20). A king was to:
  1. Write for himself a copy of the Law
  2. Read it daily so that he may fear the LORD and live righteously
  3. Avoid accumulating horses, wealth, and wives

### II. King David: King of Israel

- A. King David was the anticipated king. Remember Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz in Chapter 9? They were from Bethlehem, of the tribe of Judah (p. 121). Their baby Obed was the grandfather of David!
- B. He was chosen because of his heart (p. 145). This man after God's own heart would do all of God's will (Acts 13:22).
- C. The Covenant. God made a special and very important promise to King David. Unlike King Saul, King David would have a dynasty (p. 159). It would include:
  1. A "House:" an undying family line
  2. A Throne: royal authority
  3. A Kingdom: a people
- D. This is a good example of an Old Testament passage in which some elements find fulfillment in the immediate future, while other elements will be fulfilled in the more distant future.
  1. Solomon would be the son who would build a house (temple) for God, but his throne would not last forever.
  2. But another Son's throne *will* last forever!
- E. David understood that this covenant looked toward a uniquely divine King. We know this because David wrote about Him in several of his psalms!

- F. Did you notice David's deeply reverent response of humble worship (p. 159-160)? He grasped the graciousness of God's actions toward him and responded appropriately. We should follow David's example of worship when we experience God's grace.

### III. King Jesus: King of Kings

- A. The "Anointed One:" Prophecies of the Messiah King
1. Jesus is referred to as the "son of David" sixteen times in the gospels, nine times in Matthew. Clearly, this title points back to the promise God made to David of a coming "son."
  2. Jesus' birth and life was connected to the promise to David. The Prophets looked for the coming King who would follow David. No prophet wrote more about the coming Messiah than Isaiah.

Prophecies of the Coming King	Fulfilled by Jesus the King of Kings
<p>The LORD will give a sign of the Messiah.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Therefore, the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with the child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).</li> </ul>	<p>Jesus was born of a virgin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34).</li> <li>• An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, <b>son of David</b>, and said, "And she will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21).</li> <li>• And all this took place that what was spoken by the LORD through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which means "God with us" (Matthew 1:24).</li> </ul>
<p>He will come from the line of David.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Then a shoot will spring from the <b>stem of Jesse</b>, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him..." (Isaiah 11:1-5).</li> </ul>	<p>Jesus was descended from David and therefore has a claim as the Anointed One, the Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The genealogy of Jesus Christ, <b>the son of David, the son of Abraham.</b>" (Matthew 1:1).</li> <li>• <b>Joseph, son of David</b> (Matthew 1:20).</li> </ul>
<p>He would be a uniquely godly king but similar to David.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor; Mighty God; eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on <b>the throne of David</b> and over his kingdom, to establish it and uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore (Isaiah 9:6-7).</li> <li>• Five things about this Messiah: He would be a son, he will be given to "us," Israel, he will be a righteous king, He will be</li> </ul>	<p>Jesus was that child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To Mary, the angel said, "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give Him <b>the throne of His father David</b>; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end" (Luke 1:32-33).</li> <li>• And to Mary, "the holy offspring will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).</li> <li>• The angels said to the shepherds, "for today in the <b>city of David</b> there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger" (Luke 1:11-12).</li> </ul>

<p>somehow God, He will be also a man from David</p>	
<p>He would come from the city of David, Bethlehem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity” (Micah 5:2). Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah.</li> </ul>	<p>Jesus fulfilled this prophecy exactly. (Matthew 2:1-6) When the magi were looking for the <b>King of the Jews</b>, the scribes went right to this scripture to tell them where He would be born.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “And they said to him, “In <b>Bethlehem of Judea</b>, for so it has been written by the prophet, ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler, who will shepherd My people Israel” (Matthew 2:6).</li> <li>• Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea (Matthew 2:1).</li> <li>• “Joseph went up to the <b>city of David</b>, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and <b>family of David</b>” (Luke 2:4).</li> </ul>

B. **Jesus’ purpose was connected back to God’s promise to David.** Paul spoke to the men of Israel after the crucifixion and resurrection, “And after He had removed him [Saul], He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.’ From the offspring of this man, *according to promise* God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus” (Acts 13:22-23).

#### IV. Applications and Implications

- I am encouraged and my faith strengthened to know that God provides prophetic fulfillment to assure me that He is true and sovereign.
- God provided a prophetic roadmap leading straight from David to Jesus. Jesus is unmistakably the promised Messiah, my King.
- God fulfills His promises.
- Mary and Joseph are biblical examples of walking by faith and not by sight. We can emulate their faith today.
- Angels serve as God’s messengers and are really cool!
- I can be awed by the sovereign and carefully crafted genealogy of David and Jesus. Wow! What an awesome God! There are no surprises to Him.
- Because Jesus fulfilled so many prophecies, I can rest knowing for certain that He is who He says He is—my Savior and King.
- A King rules His way. He is not an elected president. I should submit to His rule over my life now.
- Israel refused to believe that Jesus was their King. I will learn from their mistake, submit to Jesus’ rule in my life, and trust in His salvation alone.
- I can trust the supernatural inspiration of the Holy Scriptures because only God could fulfill such prophecies so many years later. Therefore, the Scriptures have authority over me.
- Even the grandest of kings like David rightly bows in humble worship when he encounters the extravagant grace of God. Have I really bowed my heart in prayer and worship lately?