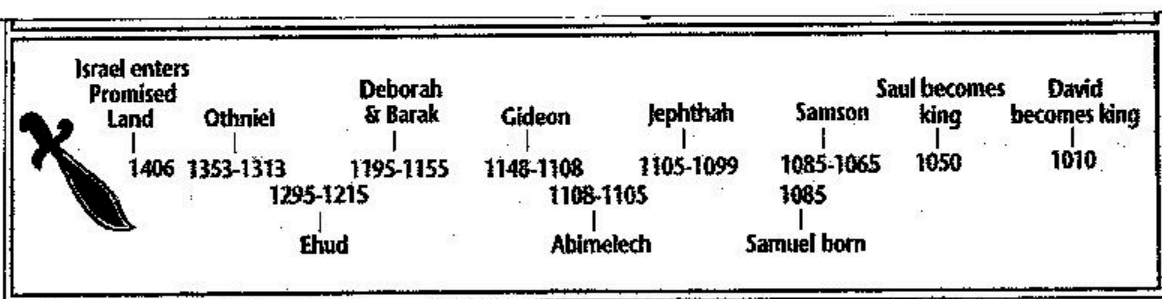
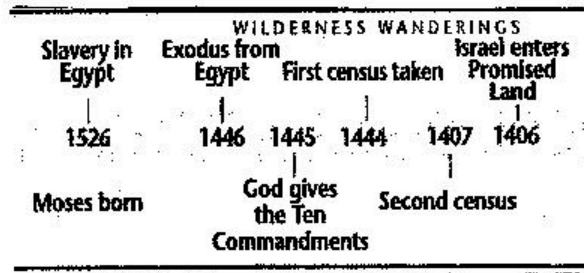
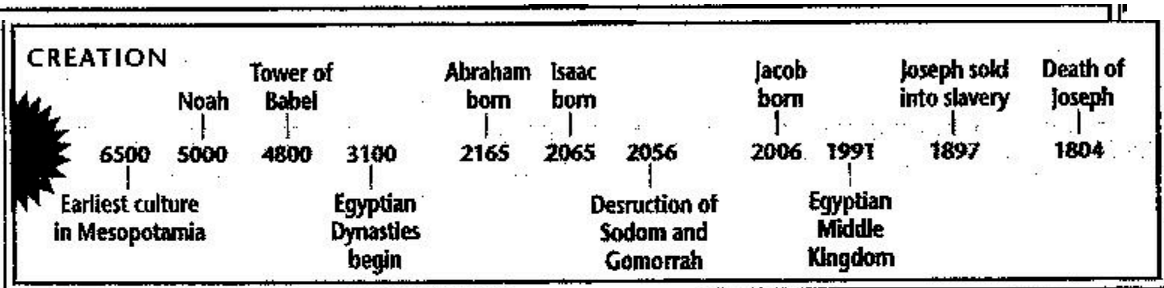


Pastor Paul R. Bawden
 Grace Evangelical Church
 Sunday, November 2, 2008
 Communion Sunday
 Life Changing Lessons From Biblical Personalities – David
 "Am I After God's Heart?"
 I Samuel 16:1-13

As we continue our fall series on "Life-Changing Lessons From Biblical Personalities," I think it is well for us to take a few minutes and see the biblical time line that we are on. The following timelines have been taken from the Ryrie Study Bible, pages 3, 275, & 373. We have considered Adam/Christ – First & Second Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, & Christ, Deborah, Gideon, & Samson. In this history of various personalities, God was keeping going the line of the Savior, promised in Genesis 3:15. Today we will consider the person of David, to whom God makes the promise of his seed to last forever, looking forward to Jesus Christ (cf. Luke 1:30-33).



Why did God use Samuel to select David to be king of Israel over his other 7 brothers?

What does our text say in I Samuel 16:7?

"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

God through Samuel rejected all of the other sons of Jesse, but when David was brought before Samuel, the last judge of Israel, in the darkest period of Israel's history, God told Samuel, "Arise anoint him; for this is he."

Samuel anointed David in the midst of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward (I Samuel 16:14).

Actually this was the first anointing of David, signifying that God had set him apart to be king of Israel.

There was a **second anointing** in **II Samuel 2:4** when David was anointed king over the tribe of Judah.

There was a **third anointing** of David as king over all of the nation of Israel in **II Samuel 5:3**.

God saw in David something that He did not see in his other brothers. God saw something in David's heart.

What did God see in David's heart, in his inner life, his mind, his will, and his emotion. What did God see in David's heart?

The answer is found in I Samuel 13:13-14, when God speaks to King Saul, the first king of Israel. He had disobeyed the LORD in not waiting for Samuel to offer the burnt offering to unite the people and prepare for war.

Hear the LORD's words through Samuel to King Saul.

"You have acted foolishly, you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over (meaning, a preeminent leader, a honorable prince) His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

One writer suggested that ultimately this could refer to Jesus Christ who would come through the seed of David, who was tempted in all points like we are, and yet without sin. Jesus would truly be the man after God's own heart.

But in the historical setting, God tells Samuel that He doesn't look at the outward appearance, and it is said of David that he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and handsome in appearance, rather He (God) looks at the heart. God does not see as man sees, not the outward appearance, but the heart of man.

What did God see when He looked into David's heart?

The text in I Samuel 13:14 told us that God was looking for a man after his own heart and He found that in David, the young man who was a shepherd.

God saw in David a heart that thirsted after Him - a heart of godly integrity, a heart, yes, a life, that desired to fellowship with Him, a life that wanted to do His will and become more like Him – a life that delighted in the LORD and in His Word.

I trust that is what God sees when He looks at our hearts. We must remember that God is the Divine Xray technician who knows what is going to come into our minds before it does. He knows all about us, more than we know about ourselves.

But how did this all play out in David's life, the eventual king of Israel?

I. David before he becomes king of Israel (I Samuel 16-30).

1. David is anointed by Samuel still a shepherd (I Samuel 16:13a).

2. God 's Spirit came upon David – I Samuel 16:13b).

David was empowered by God for serving Him.

3. God began to open doors for David for service – I Samuel 16:14-23.

He was chosen by one of Saul's servants to minister to Saul when an evil spirit came upon him, playing his harp, which refreshed Saul – some music therapy. David was a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech and a handsome man (I Samuel 16:18).

4. God used David to defeat the giant Goliath - I Samuel 17

Why did David defeat Goliath? I Samuel 17:45-46 provides us the answer.

Then David said to the Philistine (to Goliath), "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and 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 taunted.

This day the LORD will deliver you in my hands"

5. God opened up the opportunity for David to develop a lasting friendship with Jonathan, the son of Saul, which resulted in saving David's life (I Samuel 18-20).

6. God protected David from being killed by Saul (I Samuel 18:5-16).

7. God used David to spare Saul's life twice. David honored the king even though Saul was seeking to take David's life (I Samuel 24-26).

8. Not trusting Saul, David sought refuge outside of Israelite territory (I Samuel 27-29), and later destroys the Amalekites (I Samuel 30).

II. David becomes king of Judah and all of Israel (II Samuel 1-10).

1. God had David anointed king over the tribe of Judah, after Saul's death (II Samuel 2:1-7).

2. God had David anointed king over all of Israel at age 30, reigning over Judah, 7 years, and over all of Israel 33 years for a total of 40 years reigning as king (II Samuel 5:1-6).

3. God used David to unite and expand the kingdom defeating the enemies, the Philistines (II Samuel 5:7-25).

4. David's love for the Lord was expressed in bringing the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem (II Samuel 6).

The first attempt to bring the ark into Jerusalem was halted by Uzzah taking hold of the ark, because the ark was not transferred correctly and it nearly fell off the cart. David became very angry, not at the LORD, but because of his own carelessness. The ark was left in the house of Obededom for 3 months. The ark, was then brought into Jerusalem, with David whirling around (dancing) and their was shouting and the sound of the trumpet. The ark was placed in a tent with David had provided for it. David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, blessing the people in the name of the LORD. David distributed to all the people a cake of bread, one of dates, and one of raisins.

In our day, it's hard to understand, perhaps, why David was so excited about bring the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem, the capitol of the nation of Israel. The ark of the covenant represented God's presence to the people of God. The ark of the covenant was carried in front of the people when they journeyed to the land of Promise, and while in the land of promise. When the ark was in the tabernacle, it was placed into the Holy of Holies, and there the priest would go once a year, sprinkle blood on the ark, and God would forgive the sins of the High Priest and the sins of the people. It was where God's justice and mercy came together so the sins of the people could be forgiven.

David's excitement over bringing up the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem showed his heart for the Lord's person and for His mercy and grace.

5. David desired to build the ark of the covenant a permanent house (II Samuel 7:1-3).

David's heart after God caused him to want to have a permanent house for the ark of the covenant which represented God's presence. What a heart David had for the LORD.

6. God tells David through Nathan the prophet that he will not build the LORD a physical house, but God would build David a royal house (II Samuel 7:4-16).

David's seed, his son, who would be Solomon, would build the LORD a physical house. David's descendants would have a kingdom that would endure forever with his throne to be established forever. God's lovingkindness would not be removed from him even though there may be a time to discipline his seed.

This is the great Davidic Covenant, which is an extension of the seed aspect of the Abrahamic covenant made with Abraham some 1000 years before David in Genesis 12:1-3 (Abraham would be made a great nation, and God would bless Abraham, and his name would be great). Through David's seed would come the eternal seed Jesus Christ the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world (cf. Luke 1:30-33).

What an amazing relationship God had with David, and David had with God. God saw in David a person who had a heart after His.

This is portrayed so vividly in David's response of praise to God in II Samuel 7:18-29. Take time to read David's words some time. But let's note here, 7:18-22, 25, 28-29. Also read Psalm 89 this week, if you want more of David's response of praise to God for giving him the privilege and responsibility of being a part of the Davidic Covenant. It certainly is a royal Psalm looking forward to Christ.

7. God continues to use David to defeat the enemies in the land and establish his kingdom (II Samuel 8).

8. God used David to show kindness to Mephibosheth, the crippled son of Jonathan, Saul's grandson (II Samuel 9). David restores his property and invites Mephibosheth to eat at his table regularly. By so doing, David demonstrated his sensitivity to the LORD and to covenant he had made with Jonathan (I Samuel 20:42).

9. God continued to give David victory over the surrounding enemies (II Samuel 10).

III. King David's heart turns from the Lord to satisfy his own selfish lustful desires (II Samuel 11-20).

1. David let his own lust take over his heart which was after God's heart (II Samuel 11).

What happened in David's lust after Bathsheba and the events that followed, having her husband killed, having a baby by Bathsheba which baby died, are hard to put into perspective, when we see how dedicated David had been to the LORD.

Instead of letting God and His word direct his heart, he let his lusts take over, and committed adultery and murder.

It's possible, sad to say, for a very spiritual, mature person, whose heart is after the LORD to fall into sin, if that follower of God doesn't keep the old lusts of the heart under the control of the living God, or under the control of Jesus Christ – in the full revelation today.

David's downfall is vividly clear in II Samuel 11.

**David saw: 11:2 – He should have stopped there, but he continued.

**David inquired about the woman: 11:3. Bathsheba was not an unwilling participant here. She could have said, no.

**David yielded to temptation: 11:4 – he lay with Bathsheba.

**David was carried away with his lusts. He tried to get Uriah to go home to be with his wife, but his dedication to his military duty negated that idea. David, then, tried getting Uriah drunk, but Uriah would not go down to his house. Finally David went to the extent of having Bathsheba's husband Uriah placed in battle so he would be killed. One sin led to another sin.

**David took Bathsheba as his wife (11:26-27).

2. God's description of David's sinning (II Samuel 11:27).

But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD. Lusting and yielding to lust, committing adultery and murder, are evil in the sight of God – His commandments of coveting another man's wife, committing adultery and murder break the ten commandments.

Sin may be concealed from public view but never from God's view. He knows everything actual and possible.

3. **God sends Nathan to bring conviction of sin in David's life (II Samuel 12:1).**
Evidently David let his sin with Bathsheba slide, thinking that no one would know. How long of a time had passed before Nathan was sent by God to David we are not told. Evidently David's sin had produced a lot of guilt in his life – **read Psalm 32.**
4. **David when confronted through a parable is led to see that he is the man who is guilty of sin, and their will be consequences for his sin, the sword will not depart from his house (II Samuel 12:2-12).**
Such happened in the violent deaths of Amnon and Absalom, and in Absalom's trying to take the throne away from his father, David (II Samuel 13-17). Yes, God forgives sin, but consequences can remain.
5. **David, then, repents of his sin of adultery and murder (II Samuel 12:13a).**
Read Psalm 51 in this light, where David confessed His sin, and asked for God's cleansing. By the Mosaic law, adultery (Leviticus 20:10) and murder (Leviticus 24:17) were punished by death. God forgave David as he confessed his sin. That's why Nathan told David that God had taken away his sin, and he would not die (12:13b).
6. **God told David, through Nathan, that the child would die because of David had given occasion for the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme God. God's holy reputation was at stake (II Samuel 12:14).**
7. **David fasted and wept while the child was alive, hoping the child might live. When David found that he had died, he changed his clothes, went into the house of the LORD and worshipped, and ate (II Samuel 12:15-23). David realized that the child was now with the LORD where he would be some time (12:23). This is a great verse to be reminded what happens to a child who dies who has not had an opportunity to respond to Christ in faith.**
8. **David went into his wife Bathsheba and they had a child called Solomon (II Samuel 12:24). The LORD loved Solomon. What grace and forgiveness God displayed here. His grace is always greater than all of our sin.**

IV. The final days of king David's activities set forth (II Samuel 21-24; cf. I Chronicles 22-29).

1. **David praises the LORD for deliverance from Israel's enemies (II Samuel 22 –cf. Psalm 18). While also giving his last words in II Samuel 23:1-7.**
2. **David makes a wrong move by numbering Israel, looking at numbers rather than at God (II Samuel 24). David confesses his sin to the LORD (24:10). God gave David a decision to make regarding the consequences of his sin. David falls into the hand of the LORD, and a pestilence was sent on the people. Finally, an altar was erected on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. David bought this threshing floor area which was on Mt. Moriah where the temple of Solomon would eventually be built (II Chronicles 3:1; cf. Genesis 22:2, where Abraham went to offer Isaac).**
3. **David in I Chronicles 22-29:21, made preparations for the building of the temple, organizing those who would serve the temple and giving an incredible amount of money to build the temple which Solomon would do.**
4. **David gave his final charge to his son, Solomon and to the people (I Kings. 2:1-12; I Chronicles 28:1-21; I Chronicles 29:17-20).**

Note I Kings 2:2-4, but particularly **I Chronicles 28:8-9**

Also Note David's words in I Chronicles 29:17-20. Note the emphasis upon heart – perfect heart. Evidently David had learned at the end of his life, that his heart must be kept after God's heart if he was to experience God's blessing and direction.

27. David died and was buried in the city of David. He reigned over Israel 40 years.

What do we learn from the life of this young shepherd lad who became king of Israel at the age of 30?

David was a man of faith in the Lord (cf. Romans 4:6-8). He is also include in the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11:32. Again God looks at people's faith in Him, and their position in Him, rather than at the sins they committed while serving Him.

David was a gifted musician and psalm writer, giving us 73 Psalms almost half of the Psalter of the Old Testament. David was a skilled warrior, killing the giant Goliath, plus defeating Israel's enemies as God used him to expand the kingdom of Israel. David's heart was so in tune with God that he desired to build God's ark of the covenant a permanent house. God had another idea for David, not to build the ark a permanent house, but that God would make an eternal covenant with David that his seed would have an eternal kingdom, looking forward to the coming of Jesus Christ through him and his descendants, which took place when Christ came.

Yet in the midst of his love for the LORD, being a man after God's own heart, David did not control his fleshly desires and committed adultery, a child was born that died, because of David's sin. Due to David's sin with Bathsheba, the sword did not depart from David's house and his family became a mess, bringing shame on David their father. The consequences of sin were felt deeply by David's family and by David himself even though he enjoyed God's forgiveness (Psalm 32; 51).

So when David acknowledged his sin before God, He forgave him. David went forth in that forgiveness to serve the LORD. Solomon was born by Bathsheba who David took as his wife. Solomon would become the next king of Israel.

Then, God used David to provide directions for those who would serve in the temple that would be built by Solomon. David offered huge amounts of money for the building of the temple, plus providing the building plans for the temple. David's words to his son, Solomon, and to the people of Israel at the end of his life indicated that he had learned that his heart must be after God's heart.

In summary:

- 1. God always sees what's going on in our hearts whether we realize it or not (Psalm 139). We look at appearance. God looks into our hearts.**
- 2. God wants our hearts to be right with Him – for salvation (Romans 10:9-13), and for daily living with and for Him (Matthew 22:37-40).**
- 3. Let your heart be after God's heart – (Psalm 19:11). Treasure God's Word in your heart.**
- 4. Guard your heart – don't let your sinful desires take over your heart that's for God (Proverbs 4:23).**
- 5. God takes sin seriously, so should we. It is evil against the LORD (II Samuel 11:27).**
- 6. God forgives the repentant heart, but consequences of one's sin linger (II Samuel 11:13, 10).**
- 7. Be quick to repent of your sin, confess it to the LORD (I John 1:9), and if against someone, go to the person and make it right with that individual (Matthew 5:23-24). Once forgiven, go forth in the joy of God's forgiveness (Psalm 32:1; 51:12).**
- 8. In obedience to the Holy Spirit in your life, seek to keep your heart after God's heart –God first in your thoughts, attitudes, and actions (Matthew 22:37).**

God saw in David a man after his own heart, for He knew that David would follow Him and repent of his sin when he disobeyed Him.

God's grace is certainly displayed in David's life. . His grace is greater than all of our sin.

We should never get over God's grace in our lives, and never take advantage of God's grace. When we confess our sin to the LORD, He forgives us of our sin, and God's grace frees us from the penalty of sin and of guilt to go forth and do God's will for His glory.

This true story came to me from David Bereit who has been the director and catalyst for the 40 Days for Life which has been going on throughout our nation and here in Madison. In the 40 Days For Life, individuals come and pray outside of planned parenthood for God to intervene and stop the abortion industry as well as stop those who are coming to planned parenthood for an abortion. The 40 Day For Life Campaign ends this evening I understand.

Already, **441 lives saved from abortion**. Several people have **quit their jobs** in the abortion industry, and clinics have advertised immediate openings on their staffs. A number of **abortion centers have been closed** on days when abortions are usually performed. Tens of thousands of people have taken part in 40 Days for Life events, many engaging in pro-life activities **for the first time in their lives**.

Here is a brief story from 40 Days for Life in Southfield, Michigan.

We had invited several post-abortive women and men to stand with the "I Regret my Abortion" and "I Regret Lost Fatherhood" signs from the Silent No More campaign. Several of them shared their testimony of hurt and healing. I am still trying to process the intense emotions I have from this experience.

Here we have women and men deliberately ripping off their band aids and exposing their pain for the sake of those entering the abortion facility and those who work there. I have never seen a greater act of love.

Their self sacrifice is changing hearts and saving their sisters and brothers from making the same mistake they made so many years ago. My heart breaks not only from the sorrow of listening to their pain but from the joy of seeing the healing that they have experienced through God's Mercy.

One of the most remarkable stories we heard this morning was shared by a woman that providence brought to us today.

She is well acquainted with the abortion facility where the 40 Days for Life vigil is taking place. She had an abortion there several months ago.

She told us how she was ambivalent about her abortion decision and had gone back and forth between the abortion facility and the crisis pregnancy center just down the road.

At that time she had been given a diagnosis of HIV and the abortion facility convinced her that her only option was to abort to avoid passing the deadly virus to her baby. Even though her husband objected, she initially consented to the abortion.

She was well into her second trimester and would need the two-day procedure for her abortion. She wanted time to think but the staff insisted she stay for the abortion and tricked her into doing the entire procedure in one day.

Meanwhile her husband was doing every thing he could to talk to her and get her out of the abortion facility but the staff locked him out and forced her to turn off her cell phone so he couldn't communicate with her.

With the abortion completed she left and was later rechecked for HIV. It was found that there had been some mistake at the lab and she had been given a false positive report for HIV.

Today God has given her a healthy pregnancy -- twins! -- a renewed marriage commitment and some good lawyers to bring prosecution against the abortionist and his staff. She freely admits that these are all good things but nothing will bring back the child she has lost to abortion.

We pray in thanksgiving for the courage these women and men have demonstrated in exposing their hurt and

healing and we pray for blessings on all those that hear their courageous words.

Then Carmen Pate, Co-host of the "Point of View" radio talk show gave these remarks from Romans 4:7-8.

"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sin is covered. Blessed is the one to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

In this passage, the Apostle Paul making a point about justification by faith, refers back to David's words in Psalm 32:1-2. In spite of the enormity of David's sin -- adultery with Bathsheba and his murder of her husband -- and the utter absence of any personal merit, David in his brokenness, understood the imputed righteousness of God. David's response was not continued guilt over his sins, but praise for his freedom from guilt, and God's power to live life differently.

Once your relationship with God has been restored, your guilt has served its purpose and should no longer be given place in your life. This is true regardless of the sin, including the sin of abortion. As a post-abortive woman, I too struggled with this issue until I realized that punishing and hating myself after receiving God's forgiveness was an insult to God.

It was as though I were minimizing Christ's work on the cross as insufficient to cover my sin. I was denying Him the opportunity to bring glory to His name for the healing and restoration He wanted to do in my life. I was giving victory to the enemy who having lost the battle for my soul, was bent on destroying my testimony as I accepted the continual guilt he heaped on my mind.

It is my joy to continually sing of God's grace rather than give the devil a foothold in my life. Don't waste God's mercy! Accept His forgiveness and forgive yourself as testimony of His amazing grace.

Our Most Gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for your amazing grace that saved a wretch like me. I come against the enemy of my soul who would have me feel cast down and dejected.

Lord, keep your children from falling prey to the accusations of the father of lies. Turn our mourning into dancing and may we bring praise to you as we give testimony of Your healing and restoration in our lives. For by His grace we are saved, In Jesus' name Amen.

Let's be people after God's heart this week!!!