

## ***Session 1 Overview of David's Life (1 Sam. 13:14)***

### **I. DAVID: A WITNESS AND MODEL FOR GOD'S PEOPLE**

- A. David is a picture of what God wants to release by the Spirit on the end-time church. He is a model for faith and obedience and for a Church that loves, worships, and wars in the Spirit.

<sup>3</sup>***"I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David. Indeed I have given him as a witness [model] to the people, a leader and commander for the people." (Isa. 55:3-4)***

<sup>17</sup>***Show me a sign [model] for good...because You, LORD, have helped me. (Ps. 86:17)***

- B. David's obedience and ministry is a "standard" of what God is seeking to establish in the earth.

<sup>15</sup>***"I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with...understanding." (Jer. 3:15)***

<sup>25</sup>***"You promised...David my father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons...walk before Me as you have walked before Me.'" (1 Kgs. 8:25)***

<sup>8</sup>***"In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David." (Zech. 12:8)***

### **II. HOW WE WILL APPROACH THIS COURSE**

- A. ***The biblical story:*** We will look at David's life in the context of what happened in his generation. The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the life of David to equip you to read it over and over with a spirit of devotion. More is written in the Bible about David than any other except Jesus.
- B. ***David, a type of Christ:*** No one in the Scripture provides a greater picture of the ministry of Jesus.
- C. ***Leadership lessons:*** As we study various episodes of David's life recorded in 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles, we gain insight into how God raises up leaders and how leaders are to respond to Him.
- D. ***David's heart response to God:*** We can learn to respond to God rightly as David did in times of pressure, failure, and success, and in diligently pursuing God in the changing seasons of life.
- E. David was a student of God's beauty—His glory (splendor), heart (emotions), wisdom, power, etc.

<sup>4</sup>***One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. (Ps. 27:4)***

How David saw ***God's heart***: David was a "theologian of God's beauty and emotions."

How David saw ***himself*** in God's grace: He knew that God delighted in him (Ps. 18:19, 35).

How David saw ***others*** in God's grace: He saw excellent ones in whom God delights (Ps. 16:3).

How David saw his ***circumstances***: It shaped his response to pressure, failure, and success.

### III. DAVID: SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- A. The life of David is a dramatic and inspiring story, with heroic virtue, scandal, power, etc. It is a must-read. The Bible tells us more about David's life than any other except Jesus. The story of what happened *in David's circumstances* is found in 1 and 2 Samuel (beginning in 1 Samuel 16), while 1 Chronicles tells the same story in an abbreviated way. The dramatic account of what happened *in David's heart* is found in the book of Psalms (he authored about 80 psalms; some say more).
- B. Three prophets were prominent in David's life: **Samuel** was much older than David; **Gad** was closer to David's age (a peer; with him in the wilderness years); **Nathan** was much younger than David.
- C. David was the first "millennial theologian" in the Scripture, with insight into the Millennium.
- D. The historical context of David's life with approximate dates:
  - 4000 BC Adam and Eve
  - 2000 BC Abraham
  - 1500 BC Moses
  - 1000 BC David**
  - 931 BC Civil war: the northern kingdom of Israel separated from the southern kingdom of Judah
  - 900 BC Elijah and Elisha
  - 721 BC Northern kingdom of Israel destroyed by Assyrians
  - 586 BC Jerusalem destroyed, followed by Israel's 70 years of captivity in Babylon (606-536 BC)
  - 536 BC Jews returned to Jerusalem and started to rebuild the temple

### IV. DAVID: A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART

- A. The first description of David that the Lord gave through Samuel to King Saul (1 Sam. 13:14) called David "a man after God's own heart"—David was still in his teens. God knew the seeds that were in David's heart. Moreover, the Lord knew the best journey for those seeds to mature in him.  
*<sup>14</sup>"The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander [leader] over His people." (1 Sam. 13:14)*  
*David obeyed the **commands** of God's heart:* He set his heart to obey even after his failures.  
*David studied the **emotions** of God's heart:* He focused on understanding God's emotions.  
*David served the **purpose** of God's heart:* We are to seek the fullness of God's purpose for our life and generation. Find out what God is doing in your generation and throw yourself into it. God testified that David did "all" of God's will and served His purpose (Acts 13:22, 36).  
*<sup>22</sup>"I have found David...a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." (Acts 13:22)*  
*<sup>36</sup>"David...served the purpose of God in his own generation." (Acts 13:36, NASB)*
- B. David found his primary identity (his sense of value and success) in who he was in his relationship with God. He measured his success in life by how much he grew in grace, and by the measure to which he was empowered to walk in obedient love for God and meekness toward people.

- C. Scripture highlights David's obedience, values, and skills as follows:

**Seeking God:** He longed to worship God and see His beauty (Ps. 27:4; cf. 18:1; 31:23; 36:8).

**Obedient love:** He had a deep resolve to love and obey God. He is the only man whose declaration of love for God, "I love you" (Ps. 18:1), is specifically recorded in the Scripture.

**Confident in God's mercy:** He returned to God after failure (Ps. 13:5; 18:19; 32; 38; 51; 69).

**Confident in God's sovereignty:** God was his source of protection, promotion, and provision.

**Generous leadership style:** He showed kindness to his friends, co-workers, and enemies. He struggled with discouragement, yet we see no bitterness towards those who wronged him.

**Zealous warrior:** He was a courageous man of war, pursuing and driving out God's enemies.

**Valuing the Spirit's ministry:** He did powerful exploits and functioned as a prophet.

**Fasted lifestyle:** He was committed to prayer, fasting, the Scriptures (Ps. 19:7-11; 35:13; 69:7-12; 109:24; 145:1-21), and to building God's house (2 Chr. 6:8; Ps. 132).

**Meekness and integrity:** He demonstrated a servant spirit and kept his word, even in private.

**Prudent in speech:** He spoke with humility and godly wisdom.

## V. REJECTION OF SAUL: THE CONTEXT FOR DAVID'S TRAINING TO BE KING

- A. Saul was rejected as king because of his sinful disobedience at Gilgal (1 Sam. 13) and with the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15). David and Saul are contrasting prototypes of good and bad leadership. Saul sinned at Gilgal (1 Sam. 13) by functioning as a priest and not obeying a direct command from God.

<sup>8</sup>"Go down before me to Gilgal...Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you." (1 Sam. 10:8)

<sup>4</sup>Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines...the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal. <sup>5</sup>Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel...<sup>6</sup>The men of Israel saw that they were in danger...<sup>8</sup>Then he [Saul] waited seven days...But Samuel did not come to Gilgal...<sup>9</sup>So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering..." And he offered the burnt offering. (1 Sam. 13:4-9)

- B. The enemy gathered, the people scattered, and Saul did not obey the Lord, but yielded to pressure.

<sup>10</sup>As soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering...Samuel came...<sup>11</sup>And Samuel said, "What have you done?" Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,<sup>12</sup>...Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."<sup>13</sup>Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God...the LORD would have established your kingdom...<sup>14</sup>But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and...has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you." (1 Sam. 13:10-14)

- C. Saul was the kind of king who disregarded God's commands when he was under pressure and who sought the people's favor more than obedience to God. His sin included serious violations of God's commands related to the priestly ministry. Only priests were allowed to offer priestly sacrifices, and they were to offer them in ways specifically prescribed by the Lord (Lev. 6:8-13). To violate this was a sin against God's holiness. King Uzziah was struck with leprosy for this (2 Chr. 26:19).
- D. Saul's sin with the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15) was in failing to obey God's command to execute judgment on God's enemies (Amalekites). Saul was not zealous for that which God called sacred.  
*<sup>2</sup>"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. <sup>3</sup>Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"...<sup>7</sup>Saul attacked the Amalekites...<sup>8</sup>He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. <sup>9</sup>But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good...But everything...worthless, that they utterly destroyed. (1 Sam. 15:2-9)*
- E. Saul swooped down on the spoil (v. 19) sparing the best things that were worth a lot of money.  
*<sup>10</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, <sup>11</sup>"I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me..." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD." <sup>14</sup>But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears...?" <sup>15</sup>Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God..." <sup>16</sup>Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on." <sup>17</sup>So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes...did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?" <sup>18</sup>Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites...' <sup>19</sup>Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" <sup>20</sup>And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me..." <sup>21</sup>But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things...to sacrifice to the LORD." (1 Sam. 15:10-21)*
- F. Saul persistently rebelled against God, so God looked for a "better" man to replace him (v. 28). Saul repented only when caught whereas, David repented because he knew he had offended God. The kingdom was torn from Saul "today" (v. 28), but David did not replace him as king until about 15 years later. Saul was about 55 years old at that time (he died at age 70). God knew the whole time that He would remove Saul, but He waited until David was ready to rule.  
*<sup>22</sup>So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in...sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice..." <sup>23</sup>For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft... Because you rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king." <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>...please pardon my sin, and return with me..." <sup>26</sup>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."...Saul seized the edge of his robe and it tore. <sup>28</sup>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." (1 Sam. 15:22-28)*