

David – A Man After God's Own Heart

What does it mean “You’re a person after my own heart?” Most likely it would be a compliment. It would be saying in effect that the two of you were in basic agreement about something.

This statement would also carry the implication that the two of you were similar in ways that made you different from other people.

David, the Old Testament songwriter, war hero, and head of state, is called a “man after God’s own heart” (1 Sam. 13:14, Acts 13:22).

1. He was willing to do what the Lord wanted him to do.
2. As the second king of Israel he was in contrast to Saul, his predecessor.

In many ways he did not seem to be worthy of such honors. He has at least eight wives. Among his children were a murderer, a rapist, a political rebel, and a womanizer.

At times David acted rashly, and he did things that resulted in the loss of human life. He had an affair with a beautiful woman, and then tried to cover up his responsibility for her pregnancy. Finally he had her husband killed.

Let’s discover why God calls him a man after His own heart.

Part 1 David and Goliath

David the Courageous

1 Samuel 17:1-58

WHO WAS DAVID?

David was a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14).

David's name means "beloved" in Hebrew.

He was the second and greatest King of Israel whose reign lasted for thirty-three years, and whose dynasty ruled in Judah for over four hundred years.

David was born in the town of Bethlehem (House of Bread), the youngest son of Jesse, and a shepherd by trade before being anointed king of Israel by the prophet Samuel.

He was an outstanding military commander, a masterful statesman and administrator, a skilled musician witnessed by the fact that he organized the temple music and wrote many of the Psalms.

David received the tremendous promise from God that his throne would be established forever (2 Sam. 7:16).

The Lord Jesus Christ's humanity descended from the line of David. One of the several titles that our Lord possesses is the title, the "Son of David."

DEFINITION OF GENEALOGY

A genealogy is a record or a cataloging of a person's descent from ancestors according to generations.

THE BIBLICAL GENEALOGY

Genealogies in the Bible were based upon symmetry and were kept for several purposes.

- They were used for:
- The right of royal succession
- Military organization
- Taxes
- Offerings
- Exclusion of foreign pagan influences
- Aaronic priesthood
- The temple worship
- To contrast the lines of Seth and Cain

The principle genealogy that the Bible is concerned with is that of Christ's humanity.

Unlike the modern genealogy, the Biblical genealogy was not concerned with the recording of a line from generation to generation, but only concerned itself with outstanding representative individuals who made up the line, as in the case of the promised Messiah.

Therefore, the Biblical genealogies contained gaps in them.

This was not unusual in Near Eastern literature and was a common practice to do so.

Females were only mentioned if they were outstanding in some form or another, such as Ruth in the line of Christ (Matt. 1:5).

Males were excluded if they had no posterity, such as David's brother (2 Chron. 2:13-15).

The genealogy of Christ has two forms, one of which was ascending (Matt. 1:1-17), and the other descending (Luke 3:23-38).

The genealogy of Christ bears witness to the providence of God overseeing man's redemption from Adam to the promised Messiah.

DAVID'S LIFE CAN BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS

- 1) His early years
- 2) His Exile
- 3) King of Israel

DAVID'S EARLY YEARS

DAVID'S GENEALOGY

BORN IN BETHLEHEM

1 Samuel 16:1, "Now the Lord said to Samuel, How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to JESSE (David's father) the BETHLEHEMITE, for I (the Lord) have selected a king for Myself among his sons."

1 Samuel 17:12a, "Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of BETHLEHEM in Judah, whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons."

Luke 2:4, "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the CITY OF DAVID, which is called BETHLEHEM, because he (Joseph) was of the house and family of DAVID."

FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

Ruth 4:18-22, "Now these are the generations of PEREZ: to PEREZ was born Hezron, and to Hezron was born Ram, and to Ram, Amminadab, and to Amminadab was born Nahshon, and to Nahshon, Salmon, and to Salmon was born Boaz, and to Boaz, Obed, and to Obed was born Jesse, and to Jesse, DAVID."

Genesis 46:12, "And the sons of JUDAH: Er and Onan and Shelah and Perez and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). And the sons of PEREZ were Hezron and Hamul."

HIS FATHER WAS JESSE

1 Samuel 17:12a, "Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, whose name was JESSE, and he had eight sons."

1 Samuel 17:57-58, "So when David returned from killing the Philistine (Goliath), Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand. And Saul said to him, 'Whose son are you, young man?' And David answered, 'I am the son of your servant JESSE the Bethlehemite.'"

1 Chronicles 2:13-15, "And JESSE BECAME THE FATHER OF Eliab his first-born, then Abinadab the second, Shimea the third, Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth, Ozem the sixth, DAVID the seventh." (One brother is not mentioned which is probably due to his lack of posterity.)

HE WAS THE YOUNGEST OF SEVEN BROTHERS

1 Samuel 16:10, "Thus Jesse made SEVEN of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are these all the children?' And he (Jesse) said, 'there remains yet the youngest,

and behold, he is tending the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he (David) comes here.'"

HE HAD TWO SISTERS, ZERUIAH AND ABIGAIL (1 CHRON. 2:16)

David's mother name is not certain, it could be Nahash, who is mentioned to have two daughters named Zeruiah and Abigail (2 Sam. 17:25).

ANNOINTED KING OF ISRAEL

1 Samuel 16:10-13, "Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are these all the children?' And he (Jesse) said, 'There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he (David) comes here.' So he (Jesse) sent and brought him (David) in. Now he (David) was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the Lord said, 'Arise, annoint him (David); for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and annointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah."

SHEPHERD

Slaves, females, or the despised of the family were usually allotted the job of shepherding the flocks in the fields. It was a dangerous job because of the constant threat of wild animals.

1 Samuel 16:11a, "And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are these all the children?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest (David), and behold, he (David) is TENDING THE SHEEP.'"

KILLED A LION AND A BEAR IN PROTECTION OF HIS FLOCKS

1 Samuel 17:33-36, "Then Saul said to David, 'You are not able to go against this Philistine (Goliath) to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he (Goliath) has been a warrior from his youth.' But David said to Saul, 'Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, I (David) went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it (the lamb) from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them (the lion and the bear), since he (Goliath) has taunted the armies of the living God.'"

DAVID WAS A GRACE MAN

David had five outstanding characteristics that set him apart from other men. The number five is the number of grace in the Bible. We have the Father, Son, and the Spirit plus the Creation which is in need of Redemption, therefore, five is the number of grace. DAVID WAS A GRACE MAN!

1 Samuel 16:17-18, "So Saul said to his servants, 'provide for me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me.' Then one of the young men answered and said (to Saul), 'Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a SKILLFUL MUSICIAN, A MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR, A WARRIOR, ONE PRUDENT IN SPEECH, AND A HANDSOME MAN; AND THE LORD IS WITH HIM.'"

HE WAS A SKILLFUL MUSICIAN

David's first meeting was as a musician hired to chase away Saul's evil spirit. He became Saul's armor bearer as a result of his success as a musician (1 Sam. 16:21).

1 Samuel 16:14-19, "Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him. Saul's servants then said to him, 'Behold now, an evil spirit from God is terrorizing you. Let our lord now command your servants who are before you. Let them seek a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall come about when the evil spirit from God is on you, that he shall play the harp with his hand, and you will be well.' So Saul said to his servants, 'Provide for me now a

man who can play well, and bring him to me.' Then one of the young men answered and said, 'Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse (David) the Bethlehemite who is a SKILLFUL MUSICIAN, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man; and the Lord is with him.' So Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, 'Send me your son David who is with the flock.'"

Skillful is the Kal active participle of the verb **yada'** which is pronounced **yah-dag** and means "to know, to perceive, to acquire knowledge, to be acquainted."

It can express several different types of knowledge that is gained by the senses.

Yada is used of God's knowledge of man and his ways.

It is also used of man's knowledge and for that of animals.

The word is used of secular knowledge.

Yada can be used to express the knowledge of acquaintance with a person, and an even more intimate one.

It can also mean to "distinguish" between things.

A MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR, A WARRIOR

The phrase **a mighty man of valor, a warrior** translates the Hebrew phrase **gibbor hayil 'ish milhama** which is pronounced **gib-bohr ghah-yil eesh mil-ghah-mah**.

The Hebrew phrase refers to a man who is an elite warrior.

Someone who was great in military combat.

It could be literally be rendered "the mighty man of valor, a champion, the decider of battles."

Even though he had yet to fight on the battle field, David had already distinguished himself as a protector of his flocks from the wild beasts of the field.

PRUDENT IN SPEECH

Prudent is the Niphal participle of the verb **bin** which is pronounced **been** and means "understand, consider, perceive, prudent, regard."

HANDSOME

1 Samuel 16:12a, "So he (Jesse) sent and brought him (David) in. Now he (David) was ruddy (Hebrew word is admoni pronounced ad-moh-nee and means that he had red hair which was a mark of beauty in the Middle East where black hair is prevalent), with beautiful (Hebrew word is yapeh and is pronounced yah-pheh) eyes and a handsome appearance."

Handsome is **to'ar** which is pronounced **toh-ar** which means literally "a man of form." David had a great body, he was a well-built man.

THE LORD WAS WITH DAVID

The Lord is the sacred tetragrammaton **JHWH**.

The Jews would not pronounce the vowels out of reverence for the name.

Jehovah is the personal name or covenant name of God and is the name which most frequently identifies Him in the Old Testament.

The preposition **'im (geem)** expresses the close personal relationship that David had with **Jehovah**.

GOLIATH CHALLENGES THE ARMIES OF ISRAEL

1 Samuel 17:1-10, "Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and

camped in the valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them. Then a champion ('ish ha benayim) came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span (9 1/2 feet tall). And he had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze (125 pounds). He also had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders. And the shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron (15 pounds); his shield-carrier also walked before him. And he (Goliath) stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, and said to them, 'Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us.' Again the Philistine said, 'I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together.'"

Goliath was a nine and a half foot tall Philistine giant from Gath. He had four children as recorded in 2 Samuel 21:22.

He is called a "champion" in the New American Standard.

The Hebrew expression is ***'ish ha benayim***, pronounced ***eesh ha beh-nan-yim***, and literally means a "middle man."

This is one who decided a war between two armies by a single combat.

He was clothed with armor that weighed approximately one hundred and twenty-five pounds.

The shaft of his spear weighed about fifteen pounds.

The word of God states that Goliath defied the ranks of Israel.

This Goliath was doing to the armies of Israel under Saul.

No one from Israel dared go out to engage in a one on one battle with Goliath, not even Saul himself.

1 Samuel 17:11, "When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine (Goliath), they (Saul and his army) were dismayed and greatly afraid."

The Hebrew word for *dismayed* is ***hatat***, pronounced ***ghah-thath***, and is in the Niphal stem which is used here in 1 Sam. 17:11 to express the emotion that was reacting upon the minds of Saul and his men.

Therefore, ***hatat*** means "to be broken, to be in fear, to be in panic, to be demoralized."

The Hebrew word that is translated *afraid* in the New American Standard is the Qal imperfect ***yare'***, pronounced ***yah-reh***, and means "to be in a state of fear."

Saul and his army "reacted" to the taunts of Goliath by succumbing to the emotion of fear, and proceeded to be in a perpetual state of fear because of him.

Saul did not provide the proper leadership for his army.

He was a coward.

Saul relied upon his own power when in reality the "battle is the Lord's."

DAVID IS SENT BY HIS FATHER JESSE TO BRING FOOD TO HIS BROTHERS AT THE BATTLE SITE (1 Sam. 17:17-20).

DAVID HEARS THE CHALLENGE OF GOLIATH (1 Sam. 17:20-23).

DAVID RESPONDS TO THE GIANT'S CHALLENGE

1 Samuel 17:26, "Then David spoke to the men who were standing by him, saying, 'What will 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 taunt the armies of the living God?'"

1) Only David, a shephard boy, was man enough to stand up to the giant among all the men in the army of Israel, including Saul.

2) David does not fear the giant because he knows that the giant in reality is defying God and that God will defeat the giant. David desires to be the instrument used by God to defeat Goliath.

3) David alone is displaying leadership and courage in a pressure situation.

4) David is not afraid of failure.

DAVID ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE OF GOLIATH (1 Sam. 17:31-37).

DAVID GOES WITHOUT ARMOR AND WITH ONLY A SLING AND FIVE SMALL SMOOTH STONES (1 Sam. 17:38-40).

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DAVID KILLS GOLIATH WITH ONE SHOT

1 Samuel 17:41-51, "Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance. And the Philistine said to David, 'Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?' And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine also said to David, 'Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field.' Then David said to the Philistine, '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 up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all the assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands.' Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground. Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and he struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled."

TEN PRINCIPLES FROM THE BATTLE OF DAVID AND GOLIATH

First Principle: The battle is the Lord's.

Second Principle: David's confidence was in the Lord and not in his own ability.

Third Principle: David had confidence under pressure, but Saul and his army did not.

Fourth Principle: David "boldly" ran to meet the giant head on and didn't wait.

Fifth Principle: David didn't fear but was confident because of his relationship with God.

Sixth Principle: One man's courage can turn defeat into victory.

Seventh Principle: One man's positive volition towards doctrine can sustain a nation.

Eighth Principle: David kept his eyes on God, and off people.

Ninth Principle: David ignored the odds against him and fought the giant and won.

Tenth Principle: David became a leader because he didn't follow the crowd.