

## DAVID'S TRIUMPHS AND TRAGEDIES

TRIUMPH	TRAGEDY
God anointed David king of Israel when he was a boy. He defeated Goliath, married King Saul's daughter and became a hero in Saul's army (1 Sam 16:1-13; 17:1-58; 18:20-30).	King Saul became jealous of David's success. David was forced to flee and live the life of an outlaw until Saul's death (1 Sam 19:11; 21:11/19-25:1).
David became King of Judah and then King of the united 12 tribes of Israel (2 Sam 2:4).	David committed adultery with Bathsheba who became pregnant (2 Sam 11:4-11:5).
David conquered Jerusalem (2 Sam 5:3).	David arranged the death of Bathsheba's husband Uriah (2 Sam 11:17).
David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (2 Sam 5:7; 1 Chr 15:25-16:3).	David confessed and repented his sin and God forgave him, but Bathsheba's child died (2 Sam 12:10, 13, 19).
God made a covenant with David promising that his throne will last forever (2 Samuel 7:16; 23:5; 1 Chr 17:16-27; 2 Chr 13:5; Sir 45:25; 47:11).	David failed to discipline his sons. His son Amnon committed the sin of rape and incest; he was murdered by David's son Absalom (2 Sam 13:14-29).
David defeated the Philistines (2 Sam 8:1).	David's son Absalom led a rebellion in an attempt to usurp David's throne. (2 Sam 16-17).
God called David "a man after God's own heart" (1 Sam 13:14). When David sinned, he always repented and returned to God. He completely committed himself to the will of God, and as God's "beloved" (the meaning of David's name) God used him to perform mighty acts for the sake of Israel. Scripture says David could boast that he stood "blameless" before God (2 Sam 22:24-26).	David's "beloved son" Absalom was murdered and David's throne was restored. It was a bitter victory for a heart-broken father (2 Sam 18:14, 15).
David defeated Moab, Ammon and Syria bringing lasting peace to Israel (2 Samuel 8:2-10:19).	David ignored Joab's advice and took a national census (2 Sam 24:2-15; 1 Chr 21:1-4).
To save his people from the judgment of a deadly plague, David offered to sacrifice himself and to relinquish God's covenant promise that his throne would endure forever (2 Sam 24:10-17; 1 Chr 21:1-5).	David's unauthorized census resulted in a deadly plague which infected the people (2 Sam 24:1-9; 15; 1 Chr 21:7-17).
David received a vision on Mt. Moriah and divine instructions to build God's sacrificial altar there (2 Sam 24:18-25; 1 Chr 21:18-28).	David wanted to build Yahweh a "house" in Jerusalem. God told David that he could not build the Temple because he was a "man of blood" (2 Sam 7:1-2; 1 Kgs 5:16).
God gave David plans for the Temple; he added music to the daily liturgy and organized the service schedule for the Levites and priests (1 Chr 16:1-42; chaps. 23-25; 28:11-19).	
David anointed his son, Solomon, King of Israel (1 Kgs 1:28-40). It was the beginning of the Davidic dynasty that reached fulfillment in Christ the King (Mt 1:1; 1 Tim 6:14-15).	
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## Handout: 2 Samuel Lesson 7

*The Lord took away his [David] sins, making his strength even greater; he gave him a royal covenant, and a glorious throne in Israel ... the Lord never goes back on his mercy, never cancels any of his words, will neither deny offspring to his elect nor stamp out the line of the man who loved him. And hence, he was granted a remnant to Jacob and to David a root to spring from him.*

Sirach 47:11/13, 22/24-25

The third part of the Book of 2 Samuel is called the Supplements (Chapters 21-24). This part of the book is divided into six appendices that can be seen as three related pairs:

1. The two narratives of a period of affliction: 21:1-14 (three years of famine) and 24:1-1-25 (three days pestilence).
2. Two series of military exploits: 21:15-22 (the Philistine war) and 23:8-39 (David's warriors).
3. Two poetic passages: 22:1-51 (Canticle of David) and 23:1-7 (David's last prayer).

The "Goliath of Gath" named in 21:19 cannot be the same Goliath killed by David in 1 Samuel 17:40-54:

- This incident occurred not when David was a boy but years later when David is king.
- The Israelite warrior who kills the giant is Elhanan son of Jair and not David son of Jesse.
- The location is different. David killed Goliath on a battlefield located in the Shephelah lowlands in the tribal lands of Judah, fourteen miles west of Bethlehem (1 Sam 17:1-4), but in 2 Samuel 21:19 the battlefield is at Gob (2 Sam 21:19).
- 1 Chronicles 20:5 records that Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath.

The men who killed the 5 giant sons of Rapha the Philistine:

1. David killed Goliath when he was a young man.
2. Abishai of Bethlehem, David's nephew, killed an unnamed son of Rapha.
3. Elhanan son of Jair of Bethlehem killed the Lahmi, brother of Goliath.
4. Jonathan of Bethlehem, David's nephew, killed a son of Rapha with six digits on each hand and toe.
5. Sibbecai of Hushah killed a son of Rapha named Saph

David's Canticle in 2 Samuel 22 is one of Scripture's eight songs (not counting the songs found in the Book of Psalms). Five songs are found in the Old Testament:

1. The Victory Song of Moses and Miriam (Ex 15:1-18).
2. The Song of Moses and Joshua also called the Song of Witness (Dt 32:1-43).
3. The Song of Hannah (1 Sam 2:1-10).
4. The Song of David (2 Samuel 22:2-51).
5. Isaiah's Song of Thanksgiving (Is 26:1-19).

Two in the Gospel of Luke:

6. The Song of the Virgin Mary: the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-55).
7. The Song of Zechariah: the Benedictus (Lk 1:68-78).

And the eighth is in the Book of Revelation:

8. The New Song of the Lamb (Rev 5:9-13; 15:3-4).

David's hymn is full of poetic devices and includes the following themes:

Part I: Praises God for His actions in favor of the king (verses 1-28)

- A. Lists the divine attributes (verses 2-4)
- B. The dangers encountered by the king (verses 5-6)
- C. Calling for God's help and thanking God for His response (verses 7-16)
- D. God rescues the king from all his enemies (verses 17-20)
- E. Divine favor abides with the king because his conduct is upright (verses 21-28)

Part II: Celebrates the Deeds of the King guided by Yahweh (verses 29-51)

- A. He exults God who is the giver of strength equips David for battle (verses 29-37)
- B. God gives David victory over his enemies (verses 38-43)
- C. God gives David rule over Israel and foreign nations (verses 44-46)
- D. David's concluding praise of God (verses 47-51)

David's last words are expressed in poetic form and can be divided into four parts:

Part I: The introduction identifies David as the speaker who is God's anointed (verse 1).

Part II: David states that what is said is a prophetic word spoken under the power of God's Spirit (verse 2) through which God has spoken (verse 3a).

Part III: God gives David the definition of just rule and His gift of the perpetual Davidic covenant (verses 3-5a).

Part IV: The poem concludes by threatening those who might be disloyal to David and his "house" with Divine judgment (verses 5b-7).

The three ways David wants to be remembered in 23:

1. As a man raised to eminence/prominence by God
2. As the anointed of God
3. As the singer of the songs of Israel

The visionary experiences of both the Patriarch Abraham and King David on Mt. Moriah involved a test or "covenant ordeal," resulting in sacrifice, and divine intervention:

1. God formed an unconditional eternal covenant with both Abraham and David prior to each experience (Gen 17:2-14; 2 Sam 7:12-16; 23:5).
2. Both men experienced visions and divine intervention on Mt. Moriah (Gen 22:1-18; 2 Sam 24:16-17; 1 Chr 21:14-30).
3. Both men were tested by God in a covenant ordeal (Gen 22:1; 1 Chr 21:7-13).
4. The tests of both men involved sacrifice (Gen 22:2, 11-13; 1 Chr 21:17).
5. The sons of both men had prominent roles in salvation history because of their fathers' visionary experiences (Gen 22:2, 15-16, 18; 26:1-6; 1 Chr 22:1-11).

St. Matthew puts David at the center of salvation history: *Roll of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham* (Mt 1:1). It is in Abraham and David's descendant, Jesus of Nazareth, that the covenant ordeal of sacrifice on Mt. Moriah will be completed. But this time it is Jesus who is the substitute sacrifice for the sins of mankind and God's intervention will be Jesus' resurrection from the dead and the establishment of a new eternal Covenant.