

Royal Lessons from the Kings

By Doug Hamilton

The Birth of a Kingdom:

Poor Godly Leadership

1 Samuel 8:1-3 And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel. ² Now the name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; *they* were judging in Beersheba. ³ His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.

- Often there is a call for leadership when the moral torch-bearers fail to keep their commitments to God.
- As often can happen to leaders like Samuel, their time is divided disproportionately with the people rather than the family. The people had a right to fear, for his sons were very corrupt. Perhaps it would have been better had Samuel been less concerned about passing the power and more diligent at passing the faith onto his next generation.

The Call for a King

1 Sam 8:4-6 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; ⁵ and they said to him, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.” ⁶ But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD.

- They rejected his sons from being judges, but Samuel took it personally. Understandably it hurt Samuel because he had put many good years in for the people. With that thought he took it to God in prayer, something we all should do when hurt inside.

The true rejection revealed

1 Sam 8:7-9 The LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. ⁸ “Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. ⁹ “Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them.”

- God reminded Samuel that they were not so much personally rejecting him as a judge, but in reality rejecting God Himself from being their Leader. He could see past all the flesh and peer into the heart of the matter. He knew that the people’s heart was far from Him. He could see all the idolatry and perversities of their souls. If anyone had a right to feel rejected it would have to be God.
- If it was a king that they wanted, then a king they would have. It would be necessary to inform them of some of the drawbacks of a man being their king instead of God. They are as follows:
 - Forced Military Service
 - Forced Labor
 - Forced Taxation
- In light of this they still wanted to go down the path of appointed royalty. They actually further exposed their intentions in *1 Samuel 8:19-20 Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, “No, but there shall be a king over us, ²⁰ that*

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we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” They were more interested in being like the other nations around them instead of being unique apart from them. The church family would do well in celebrating the fact that they are not like the denominations of the world. We should want to be like Christ and the patterned church of the first-century, not like other people from other church groups.

With this as the backdrop, let us learn about the first king of Israel, Saul the son of Kish.

- His name means “asked for” and we are introduced to him in *1 Samuel 9:1-2* *Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah, the son of a Benjamite, a mighty man of valor. ² He had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people.*
- The year was around 1047 BC and the location was in the Southern region of the country of Israel. *1 Samuel 13:1* states that “*Saul was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty two years over Israel.*” This would place his year of death to be 1007 BC at age seventy.
- He was a tall, handsome young man of Benjamite ancestry which meant he came from a long line of a battle-tested military. *1 Samuel 14:47-48* *Now when Saul had taken the kingdom over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, the sons of Ammon, Edom, the kings of Zobah, and the Philistines; and wherever he turned, he inflicted punishment. ⁴⁸ He acted valiantly and defeated the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them.* In fact his first act as the king was to unite the troops and destroy the threatening Ammonites of *1 Samuel* chapter 11.

Chapters 9-11 of *1 Samuel* describe his unusual ascent to the throne.

- 9:3-4 Saul and his servant sent out to find his father’s donkeys.
- 9:5-14 When their search fails, they seek out the wise man Samuel for guidance.
- 9:15-27 Samuel reveals to Saul that he will be king while at a meal. *1 Sam 10:1* *Then Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it on his head, kissed him and said, “Has not the LORD anointed you a ruler over His inheritance?”*
- 10:2-16 It was confirmed to Saul through various signs.
- 10:17-24 Saul was publicly declared to the people as king.

Saul suffered from low self-esteem.

It is in this passage that we have revealed to us the nature of our discussion on Saul. He suffered from a low self-esteem, for when it was time to reveal him to the nation, he was hiding in the luggage.

1 Sam 10:21-24 “...And Saul the son of Kish was taken; but when they looked for him, he could not be found. ²² Therefore they inquired further of the LORD, “Has the man come here yet?” So the LORD said, “Behold, he is hiding himself by the baggage.” ²³ So they ran and took him from there, and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his

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shoulders upward. ²⁴ Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? Surely there is no one like him among all the people.” So all the people shouted and said, “*Long live the king!*”

- They were looking for their king, but he was trying to avoid being seen. Their desire was to cry out “Long live the king”, but his view of it was rather passive. He just simply struggled in this area.
- When Samuel first revealed to Saul about being king, the lack of self-esteem was revealed. *1 Samuel 9:21 Saul replied, “Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak to me in this way?”* The Benjamite tribe was so small that it was eventually absorbed into Judah; therefore to expect great people to come for it would be a bit odd.
- This low self-esteem led God to intervene in 10:9 concerning Saul’s acceptance of the kingship. “...*God changed his heart; and all those signs came about on that day.*”

He was a head taller than everyone else, but yet he was lacking esteem in a big way. We don’t know why he had an esteem problem. Perhaps it was because he came from the least of all the tribes? Perhaps it was because everyone thrust him toward leadership because he was a big man? Perhaps he was a victim of school bullies? We don’t know for sure, but he did have a low self-esteem and it manifested itself in ugly ways throughout Saul’s life.

- It was low self-esteem that led him to become jealous of David. *1 Samuel 18:7-9 The women sang as they played, and said, “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.”* ⁸ *Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?”* ⁹ *Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on.*
- Most of the second half of 1 Samuel is dedicated to an insanely jealous Saul trying to hunt down and kill David. His envy was huge and it had a huge base of insecurity to go with it.

His Low Self-Esteem was quite Evident.

- I am persuaded it was a lack of self esteem that led Saul to a lack of confidence in his leadership on the battlefield in 1 Sam 15. It was in that chapter that Saul was commanded to destroy the Amalekites and all that was contained therein. Saul decided he was going to offer the Lord some of the sacrifices of spoil that was supposed to be destroyed, thus disobeying the direct command of God.
- When pressed for the reason, it is revealed to us in *1 Samuel 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice.*
- He was afraid that he would lose the respect of the people and henceforth caved into the changing the rules to fit the situation. When a man cannot hold to his principles, he is lacking self-esteem and will stop at nothing to stay in control.

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Causes of Low Self Esteem

When someone is suffering from a low self esteem it can be for a number of reasons. According to the experts, it can be the result of many events in a person's life. Causes of low self-esteem can include but are not limited to the following:

- The death of a loved one
- Overbearing parents who go to extreme lengths to 'protect' a child
- Loss of personal property or an object of sentimental value
- Underlying psychological conditions such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder
- Being bullied at school or at work
- Long periods of unemployment
- An ugly divorce
- Health problems

Some things are out of our control and simply call for us to submit it unto God. To the person who is sinning against God, they should not have a great self-esteem in their standing with God, *"...but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES."* (Hebrews 10:27)

- It was this reason that Saul's low self-esteem problem grew worse. For example would be when he had the priests of the Lord executed. David was fleeing for his life from Saul and the priests gave him some help. *1 Samuel 22:13 Saul then said to him, "Why have you and the son of Jesse conspired against me, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he would rise up against me by lying in ambush as it is this day?"*
- He was so perturbed that the priests took sides. Paranoia seems to feed off of low self-esteem. I am sure following such a heinous act he felt more like the loser he had become.

It was this low self-esteem that would finally do him in. He had been rejected from being a king in chapter 15. Towards the end of his life in chapter 28 he was ultimately rejected as a person by God for going the way of witchcraft and psychics.

- *1 Samuel 28:6-8 When Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by prophets. ⁷ Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at En-dor." ⁸ Then Saul disguised himself by putting on other clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, "Conjure up for me, please, and bring up for me whom I shall name to you."*
- God had rejected him because he chose a path of sin. The result was panic that set in because he was about to go into battle with the Philistines and God had shut the door of communication. He actually sought out a medium of spirits, something that was against the Law of God as reinforced by Saul's own words.
- God sent a message back from the grave of Samuel confirming that he and his sons would be killed by the Philistines the next day (1 Sam 28:19). His standing with God was pitiful and his self-esteem hit an all-time low.

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The End of King Saul

- 1 Samuel 31:1-4 Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. ² The Philistines overtook Saul and his sons; and the Philistines killed Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua the sons of Saul. ³ The battle went heavily against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was badly wounded by the archers. ⁴ Then Saul said to his armor bearer, “Draw your sword and pierce me through with it, otherwise these uncircumcised will come and pierce me through and make sport of me.” But his armor bearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. So Saul took his sword and fell on it.
- 1 Samuel 31:8-10 informs us that when the Philistines found his body the next day, they cut off his head and displayed his armor of the pagan temple of Ashtaroth and fastened his body on a public wall for all to see. It was a fitting end for a man whom was big on stature, but low in esteem.

Lesson Learned: Make sure that your self-esteem is healthy and anchored in God. Three points to carry this out.

1) Obey the Gospel.

- 1 Peter 3:21-22 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.
- 1 Peter 4:17 For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

2) Live the Gospel.

- Romans 1:28 (KJV) And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;
- Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.
- Philippians 1:27-28 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; ²⁸ in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.

3) Share the Gospel.

- 1 Cor 2:2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
- 1 Corinthians 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.
- 1 Cor 9:23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...”

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David: The Slayer of Giants

In 1 Samuel 15, God rejected Saul from being king over the nation of Israel because of his practice of disobeying the LORD. Samuel personally proclaimed to Saul in *1 Samuel 15:23* “...*Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king.*” It was time to move onto another person more suited for leadership of God’s people. In chapter 16 we are introduced to the historical account of David becoming king to the nation.

- 16:1-5 God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse in search of the next king. He told the elders of the city that he had come for the purpose of consecration.
- 16:7-11 Samuel was told by God to choose from the sons of Jesse one to be king. The eldest to the youngest of the sons came before Samuel and they were all rejected by God from being the candidate. God told Samuel 16:7 “...for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” With the seven sons rejected, Samuel asked if there was anymore. Jesse said there was still the youngest named David, for he was out tending the sheep. Samuel knew that he must be the one and refused to proceed until young David came.
- 16:12-13 David came before Samuel and was found to be ruddy with beautiful eyes with a handsome appearance. The LORD told Samuel to arise and anoint him for he was the one. While being anointed king the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily.
- The chapter ends with David being hired as a royal harp player for King Saul. When he was chosen for this, it was said in *1 Samuel 16:18* “...*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.*” Focusing on the quality “Mighty Man of Valor”, we turn to chapter 17 of 1Samuel.

The Philistinian Standoff

1 Samuel 17:1-7 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.² 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.³ The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them.⁴ Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.⁵ *He had* a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze.⁶ *He also had* bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin *slung* between his shoulders.⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver’s beam, and the head of his spear *weighed* six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him.

- There was war again with the Philistines and the armies were gathered for battle. At the base of each mountain at the side of the valley were the opposing troops of Philistine and Israel. In the spirit of ancient warfare there was a period of taunting before battle. Select troops would come out and issue warnings and threats of intimidation. When it was the

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Philistines turn, a massive Giant of a man named Goliath came out from the Philistine camp. He stood nine foot tall and was armored to the hilt. As his shield-carrier stood with him, Goliath verbally challenged the Israelis.

1 Sam 17:8-11 He 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.”⁹ “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.”¹⁰ Again the Philistine said, “I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together.”¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

- The Israelites had never seen anything like this on the battlefield. This “human-tank” of a man was daring them to send someone out to fight him. There was not a single person that was willing to take on this giant in battle...that was until young David came out for a visit.

1 Sam 17:12-16 Now David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, whose name was Jesse, and he had eight sons. And Jesse was old in the days of Saul, advanced *in years* among men.¹³ The three older sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and the second to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.¹⁴ David was the youngest. Now the three oldest followed Saul,¹⁵ but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father’s flock at Bethlehem.¹⁶ The Philistine came forward morning and evening for forty days and took his stand.¹⁷ Then Jesse said to David his son, “Take now for your brothers an ephah of this roasted grain and these ten loaves and run to the camp to your brothers.”¹⁸ “Bring also these ten cuts of cheese to the commander of *their* thousand, and look into the welfare of your brothers, and bring back news of them.”¹⁹ “For Saul and they and all the men of Israel are in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.”

- David, being the youngest of the eight sons of Jesse, was probably under the age of twenty, the age of service for war. He did have three other older brothers that were in the army with Saul the king that day.
- It was not uncommon in that day for a family to send food supplies of encouragement to relatives on the battlefield. This was a way to also keep informed of the happenings of the battlefield. It was during one of these deliveries of victuals to his brothers that David happened to see Goliath coming out for one of his taunting sessions.

1 Sam 17:20-23 So David arose early in the morning and left the flock with a keeper and took *the supplies* and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the circle of the camp while the army was going out in battle array shouting the war cry.²¹ Israel and the Philistines drew up in battle array, army against army.²² Then David left his baggage in the care of the baggage keeper, and ran to the battle line and entered in order to greet his brothers.²³ As he was talking with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine from Gath named Goliath, was coming up from the army of the Philistines, and he spoke these same words; and David heard *them*.

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- David arrived at the location and left the baggage with the handler to go down to the battle line. He greeted his three brothers when the champion Goliath came out for another taunting. It is now that we will examine David the Mighty Man of Valor.

A Mighty Man of Valor is not Intimidated by the Enemy.

1 Sam 17:24-27 When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid. ²⁵ The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who is coming up? Surely he is coming up to defy Israel. And it will be that the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel." 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?" ²⁷ The people answered him in accord with this word, saying, "Thus it will be done for the man who kills him."

- Naturally the military men were "*greatly afraid*" because Goliath was a force to be reckoned with. He was truly a real enemy and bringing him down would be a task.
- David questions what is the prize for taking this chump down, for he is bringing reproach upon the nation of Israel? There would be three rewards for the man that took care of this:
 - Great Riches
 - A Royal Bride
 - Tax Free Living for the Family
- This would have been an added incentive for David to include with his anger over the Goliath's taunting defilements against the Israelites. Even more obvious is that David was a Mighty Man of Valor that was not going to be intimidated by the enemy. He was not shaking in his boots like the others that had for weeks been weakened and desensitized to the taunting.

Application:

We as the children of God must be a people of valor by not being intimidated by the world.

- When the world taunts us with evolution in the classroom, be the people of valor and confront it.
- When the world taunts us with peer pressure to cave into the drugs and drunkenness and immoralities, be the people of valor and stand up against it.
- When the world taunts us with the threat of sickness or financial crisis or stress, don't run from it, but take it on directly like a people of valor through faith, hope and charity.
- We are supposed to be a mighty people of valor and we should not be intimidated by those that are of the world.

A Mighty Man of Valor is not Discouraged by the Fellow Soldiers.

1 Sam 17:28-30 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle." ²⁹ But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?" ³⁰ Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people answered the same thing as before.

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- It is rather interesting to find that even among the friendly troops, his elder brother, there was criticism and discouragement offered to David. Often your best friend can be your worst enemy because you are left in a vulnerable position with your guard down. Eliab looked more like a Philistine instead of a supportive brother.
- David did not let that bring him down, for he simply questions Eliab and then deflected it. He simply turned his inquiry to another. This is because a Mighty Man of Valor is not discouraged by his fellow soldiers.
- We as the church are called to be the Mighty People of Valor. As you might have noticed we are simply a group of humans that have been saved by the divine blood of Christ. With that fact is the reality that we sometimes fall victim to discouragement within the congregation. Some of the greatest discouragement comes from those that should be on our side.

Application:

- Mighty People of Valor should not allow themselves to be discouraged by their fellow soldiers in the kingdom of God. We must keep in mind the need to overcome and press on in our efforts, even when it hurts. That is what a Mighty People of Valor should do!

A Mighty Man of Valor has a Track Record of Success.

1 Sam 17:31-37 When the words which David spoke were heard, they told *them* to Saul, and he sent for him. ³² David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” ³³ Then Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are *but* a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth.” ³⁴ 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, ³⁵ I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued *it* from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized *him* by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ “Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God.” ³⁷ And David said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you.”

- David told Saul that he would go and fight the Philistine and to not be worried about it. Saul reminded David that he was but a youth while Goliath had been a great warrior from his youth.
- David presents his case as only a Mighty Man of Valor can do, for he had a Track record of Success. He reminds Saul that he had taken on a lion and a bear in the past while guarding the sheep. He credited the Lord for delivering him from out of their mouths and into his hand.

Application:

- We are also a People of Valor and also have a Track record of Success.
 - He blessed us with a family, a home, food and a congregation called home.
 - He delivered us multiple times through sufferings and struggles beyond belief.

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- He has helped us overcome habits that we thought we could never give up. Through Him you've kicked the habit, beat the anger problem, become self-controlled and become a better person willing and able to minister to others.
- He has made us more than conquerors through His Son Christ Jesus.
- We are a Mighty People of Valor like David that have a Track Record of Success.

A Mighty Man of Valor Trusts in God.

1 Sam 17:38-40 Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor.³⁹ David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested *them*." And David took them off.⁴⁰ He took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in *his* pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

- Saul loaned this shepherd boy his personal royal armor and it was found to be a few sizes too large. David told the king that he could not wear it in battle for it was not tested, therefore he removed it. He was a Mighty Man of Valor that was going to put his trust in God.
- What happens next is of quite curious, for the text says that David "...chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook..." Why would a Mighty Man of Valor who trusts in God grab five stones to take out one giant? Surely David believes in God enough that he would only need one stone, right? Do we really have a 1 for 5 God or a God that we can trust 100% of the time?
- It is of interest to note that 2 Samuel 21:15-22 states that the Goliath had four descendents named Ishni-Benob, Saph, Goliath Jr. and a fourth described as having "many toes and fingers". The foremost actually had plotted to assassinate David for some unknown reason. 2 Sam 21:22 states *These four were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants*. It is likely they had a vendetta against David out of revenge for what he did to their dad. This passage is only about ten to fifteen years from the date of the incident. Just like David's three brothers went to war as a family, it was not uncommon for Philistines to fight as a family unit as well. I am persuaded those "publicly known" giant thugs would have been in the Philistine brigade that day and likely trying to add to the intimidation factor. If that was the case, then David was planning to go five for five with his sling and not one for five.

Application:

- Brothers and Sisters, we are a Mighty People of Valor that must put their Trust in God! We do not have a 1 for 5 or a 2 for 5 Father, but a Father that has not nor will not let us down! Make sure that we are keeping that in mind when facing the giants of life.

A Mighty Man of Valor Confronts the Giants of the World.

1 Sam 17:41-49 Then the Philistine came on and approached David, with the shield-bearer in front of him.⁴² When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, with a handsome appearance.⁴³ The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.⁴⁴ 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

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the field.”⁴⁵ 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.”⁴⁶ “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,⁴⁷ and that all this 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.”⁴⁸ 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.⁴⁹ 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.

- David did not run from the path before him, but went toward Goliath. The giant continued his taunts, directing them more toward David personally. I like what the KJV states as David’s response to the giant. *1 Samuel 17:45 “...Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.”*
- David was a Mighty Man of Valor that Confronted the Giant before him with great courage and confidence. With that fervor David flung a stone with his sling and it struck Goliath in the forehead. Like a tree falling in the forest at the hand of a lumberjack, Goliath fell flat on his face in the dirt.

Application:

- Church, we are the People of Valor and must confront the giants that are before us! Who are your giants to be confronted?
 - If you were diagnosed with cancer, you are facing a giant!
 - If you were laid off your job and are going without a paycheck, you are facing a giant!
 - If your marriage is falling apart, you have met a giant!
 - If you are struggling with the giants of stress, duress, addiction, rejection, deception, depression, oppression and recession, you need some confession to deal with that giant. The first step in process is not to run from Goliath, but run toward him with your sling of faith and take him out in the name of the LORD of hosts of the God of the living Christians.
- You are the Mighty People of Valor and can take out any giants that come before you by the Mighty Power of the Blood of Jesus! If we will simply have this attitude in the name of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ, we will have the victory that God wants us to have against the giants that are before us.
- The Philistines saw their champion fall and they fled with fear. If we will just fling that stone of faith at the giants of the world, watch them run and be prepared to celebrate the victory.

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David: The Repentant Sinner

2 Samuel 11:1-5 Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. ² Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. ³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house. ⁵ The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, "I am pregnant."

- 1Kings 2:11 exposes that David became king when he was thirty and reigned for forty years in total. The first seven years of the kingship was in Hebron and the remaining thirty-three years being carried out in Jerusalem, the sight of this event. If Solomon was around twenty when he became king, this would place the account to be around David's twentieth year of rule. It was the spring of the year and David stayed behind in Jerusalem perhaps because he was about fifty.
- One evening he walked out onto the palace roof and noticed a woman bathing. She was pleasant to the eyes, but married. That did not stop him, for he called for her to come up to the room. The result was an affair and ensuing pregnancy.
- 2Samuel 11:6-13 David had to move quickly to cover it up. His brilliant plan was to have General Joab send back Uriah the Hittite, the husband of Bathsheba, for a little rest and relaxation with his wife; The plan was to trick Uriah into thinking the child was his and arrived a couple of months early. The problem was that Uriah did not think it honorable to indulge in the matrimonial bond while the other troops were out in the field fighting for their lives.
- David invited him to a party and tried to inebriate him with wine, hoping that he would cave into lust and go to be with his wife, but Uriah did not. It looked like in a few months when the pregnancy would become obvious that Uriah would find out that his wife was an adulterer and possibly implicate King David. It was time for plan B.

2 Samuel 11:14-15 Now in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ He had written in the letter, saying, "Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die." ¹⁶ So it was as Joab kept watch on the city, that he put Uriah at the place where he knew there *were* valiant men. ¹⁷ The men of the city went out and fought against Joab, and some of the people among David's servants fell; and Uriah the Hittite also died.

- The plan was for Joab to place Uriah at the frontline in the heat of battle and then pull back quickly, leaving Uriah exposed to attack. The saddest part of all was that Uriah actually unknowingly delivered his execution orders to Joab. With Uriah out of the way, David was hopeful that he was in the clear.

2 Samuel 11:26 Now when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. ²⁷ When the *time of* mourning was over, David sent and brought her to

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his house and she became his wife; then she bore him a son. But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the LORD.

- Bathsheba mourned the loss of her husband for a set period of time. No sooner was it over that David decided that he wanted to have her for his own wife. After the marriage, she gave birth to their son and they lived happily ever after. WRONG, for the Lord found the whole scenario to be evil in His sight. There would be something done to rectify the situation.
- Note: It is important to bring into remembrance that David had been trying to hide his sins for more than a year. While doing so, he even suffered with deep depression of a guilty conscience.

Psalm 32:3-4

³ When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away
Through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
My vitality was drained away *as* with the fever heat of summer. Selah.

- We can even see one of his coping mechanisms more clearly being revealed in the 1Chronicles account. The NIV does a good job “sanitizing” the text and making it “politically correct” for children under ten, but the NASB holds nothing back.
- 1 Chronicles 20:1-3 Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out *to battle*, that Joab led out the army and ravaged the land of the sons of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. And Joab struck Rabbah and overthrew it. ² David took the crown of their king from his head, and he found it to weigh a talent of gold, and there was a precious stone in it; and it was placed on David’s head. And he brought out the spoil of the city, a very great amount. ³ He brought out the people who *were* in it, and cut *them* with saws and with sharp instruments and with axes. And thus David did to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned *to* Jerusalem. (NASB 95)
- 2 Samuel 12:31 goes as far as to say “*He also brought out the people who were in it, and set them under saws, sharp iron instruments, and iron axes, and made them pass through the brickkiln. And thus he did to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.*” (NASB 95)
- The people of Ammon were about as pagan as a nation could be, even readily adopting the practice of offering their children to pass through the fire of Molech. 1 Kings 11:7 identifies Molech as “...*the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon.*” The Israelites were warned often about this practice (Lev 18:21; 20:2-5; 2King 23:10 and Jer 32:35) and it was running rampant in the days of David.
- The parallel of 2Samuel 11:1, 2Samuel 12:26 and the account of 1Chr. 20 clearly places this event as occurring during the time of David’s practiced sin. If that is so and the NASB and other reliable versions hold true to the text, and I believe they do, then David was more than likely taking out his spiritual sickness on the evil Ammonites to whom was the lowest of the low. It would have been a sort of “wag the dog” effect. “You rotten Ammonites that cause your children to pass through the fire of Molech; I’ll cut you up and make you pass through the fire and see how you like that.”

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- God had to confront David about this matter of sin and sent Nathan the prophet to do so.

2 Sam 12:1-6 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said, “There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor.”² “The rich man had a great many flocks and herds.”³ “But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb which he bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, and was like a daughter to him.”⁴ “Now a traveler came to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; rather he took the poor man’s ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.”⁵ Then David’s anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die.”⁶ He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion.”

- The purpose of Nathan using a story was because it would allow David the opportunity to analyze the situation from a 3rd party perspective and make an accurate assessment of his standing with God.
- Nathan told of an account of a poor man that had a lamb that he loved very much. David, a poor shepherd boy growing up on the pastureland of Judah, would have been listening intently. Nathan told David that a rich man came along one day and stole this poor man’s lamb in order to serve it as a meal to his traveling friend. It didn’t matter to the rich man that he already had a large number of sheep of his own.
- Naturally David’s wrath was kindled against the “hypothetical rich man”. Little did he know that the pronouncement judgment he made was upon himself. “*As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die. He must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion.*” David was well aware of the “law of the stolen sheep” of Exodus 22:1 “*If a man steals...a sheep*” he shall “*...pay...four sheep for the sheep.*” (Remember this for later.) With that fact established, Nathan exposed that it was David that was really the bad guy of the story.

2 Sam 12:7-12 Nathan then said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul.’⁸ ‘I also gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would have added to you many more things like these!’⁹ ‘Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.’¹⁰ ‘Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’¹¹ “Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes and give *them* to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.’¹² ‘Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.’ ”

- “You are the man!” These are the four most convicting words of the Old Testament, for they cut to the heart of David’s problem. God wanted David to come clean concerning his state of sin. David had been hiding in his sin for at least a year and now was the time to

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face up to it. He had ignored his conscience for far too long and now was the time to face reality with God.

- David, YOU ARE THE MAN that took away Bathsheba from Uriah the Hittite! YOU ARE THE MAN that caused the death of Uriah by the hands of the Ammonites! YOU ARE THE MAN that has been hiding in your sin from the LORD!
- David, YOU ARE THE MAN that did it in secret, but YOU will be punished openly! YOU ARE THE MAN that will not have peace in your house! YOU ARE THE MAN that will lose your wives to another! David, YOU ARE THE MAN that must come clean in the eyes of the LORD! Don't you hide from the LORD anymore, come clean, for YOU ARE THE MAN!
- Note: The sword did not depart from the House of David and his own son Absalom would engage in a coup d'état, resulting in publically defiling David's own wives (2Sam 16:21). This happened because HE WAS THE MAN. What would he do in light of this confrontation?

2 Samuel 12:13-14 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. ¹⁴ "However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die."

- How penitent was David toward God? *Psalm 51:1-13 Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶ Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.*
- Did he receive forgiveness from God?
 - Psalm 32:1-2 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! ² How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!
 - Psalm 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

Application: When it comes to Sin, take it personally.

1) Personal Accountability to God.

It is easy to project our judgment on David because we are able to see the whole picture, for the entire account unfolded before us. He was so wrong and there should be complete

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agreement concerning this. On the other hand do we see our own downfalls and shortcomings? Are we accepting personal accountability to God for the secret lives that we are living? Are we looking at the mirror with four words in mind? YOU ARE THE MAN or YOU ARE THE WOMAN that needs to work on this or that problem. We must take personal accountability toward God.

2) Personal Sincerity to God.

Many have said, "I have sinned", but are we willing to actually mean it?

- Pharaoh said it in Exodus 10:16, but lacked true sincerity. He ended his miserable life at the bottom of the Red Sea.
- Balaam said it in Numbers 22:34, but lacked true sincerity. His life ended while fighting on the wrong side of the people of God.
- King Saul said it in 1 Samuel 15:24, but he lacked true sincerity. He died being personally rejected by God.
- Judas said it in Matthew 27:4, but without a true sincerity, resulting in condemnation and a hopeless death.

Just because you say it does not mean that you MEANT it. You must have sincerity followed up by true change in order to know that it was for REAL.

- The Prodigal Son said "I have sinned..." and had sincerity according to Luke 15:18; it led to a changed life in reconciliation with the father.
- We must have personal sincerity to God. Don't say it and not back it up with action.

3) Personal consequences from God.

- Just because we accept personal accountability to God for our sins and expressed personal sincerity toward God, it does not mean that there will not be personal consequences from God. David said that the man who hath done that should repay fourfold. Did you know that David lost four sons, the unnamed, Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah? All of them were a result of the sin in David's life. David did pay for the life of Uriah the Hittite four-fold in the end.
- Just because we take personal accountability and sincerity toward God, does not mean that we do not have consequences associated with the sin. **THERE ARE ALWAYS CONSEQUENCES THAT FOLLOW THE SIN!**

Most of the time these come in the form of natural consequences.

- If a person lived as a drunk for decades, then repents and changes the behavior, it does not necessarily mean that he won't have damaged his body and his family in the process.
- Just because a fornicator turns from their sin in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ does not make the AIDS virus go away.
- Just because a violent man repents from beating his wife does not guarantee that his children won't have some insecurity issues.
- Most of the time there are natural consequences to our bad behavior. To assume that there is not flies in the face of God.

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Sometimes these come in the form of imposed consequences.

- Just because a murderer converts to Christianity does not mean that he will avoid the imposed consequence of a prison sentence.
- Just because a thief repents of the stealing does not mean that they do not have to repay what they have stolen.
- Just because someone converts to Christianity does not mean that they are free to remarry whom they want, when they want. God imposes many consequences for the sake of the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:12).

Take it from David the repentant sinner; we must have personal accountability toward God, personal sincerity to God and expect personal consequences from God.

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David the Psalmist

The largest book in the Bible with 150 chapters is Psalms. Though there were many authors to whom this book is attributed, David is by far the largest contributor in at least 78 of them. In Acts 13:22, God refers to David as “A MAN AFTER MY HEART...” This is one of the most beautiful descriptions bestowed on a mortal man concerning their relationship toward God. I am convinced that the writings in the Psalms illustrate this quality of David. We would not do justice to the series on the Kings if David the Psalmist was not discussed.

David the Psalmist Helps Us to Understand Christ

A) His Leadership (Ps 23)

There is no other passage that communicates the leadership that God provides for His people than Psalm 23. Though it ascribes Jehovah as the Shepherd, the writers of the NT confirm that Jesus is that Shepherd through the qualities exhibited therein.

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

- From the beginning of time and even before, He was ordained to be a Shepherd and we the sheep.
- Matthew 2:6 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.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

- It is Jesus that is looking out for us. Our Shepherd is speaks fluent sheep and knows what we have need of. He knows where the water and pasturelands are that will nourish us.
- Jesus reminded Peter as only a true Shepherd would concerning the church in John 21:15-17 “Tend My lambs.”, “Shepherd My sheep.” and “Tend My sheep.”
- In Revelation 7:16-17 we are told that the people of God are taken care of. “They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”

3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.

- He is the One that is in the lead, not us. We are to seek His ways and His righteousness. We are to yield to Him because He knows the way.
- 1 Peter 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

- There are times that can be frightening when being a Christian. The world can make it hard and try to throw us off track, but keep following the Shepherd.
- John 10:11-15 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. ¹² “He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and

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scatters *them*.¹³ “*He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.”¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,¹⁵ even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

- Jesus is looking out for us. We are anointed for victory through Him, for He was willing to lay it all down for the sake of our spiritual prosperity.
- Matthew 9:36 Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.
- John 10:10-11 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly. 11 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

- Jesus is our Shepherd and is consistent leading us heavenward bound. We need not be worried about our destination if we are following our Shepherd. If we stick with Him we will be overjoyed in the end.
- 1 Peter 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
- Hebrews 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord,²¹ equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

B) His Prophecies

Jesus said prior to sending out the apostles on the Great Commission in *Luke 24:44* “*These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.*” He was making reference to the prophetic elements of the three accepted sources of the Hebrew Bible, with the last mentioned the Book of Psalms.

- His Humanity -Psalm 8:5 Yet You have made him a little lower than God, And You crown him with glory and majesty!
- His Obedience -Psalm 40:7-8 Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me.”⁸ I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.”
- His Lordship -Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”
- His Purity -Psalm 45:7 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of joy above Your fellows.
- His Zeal -Psalm 69:9 For zeal for Your house has consumed me, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.
- His Triumphal Entry -Psalm 118:26 “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

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- His Rejection -Psalm 118:22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner *stone*.
- His Betrayal -Psalm 41:9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.
- His Trial -Psalm 35:11 Malicious witnesses rise up; They ask me of things that I do not know.
- His Death -Psalm 34:20 He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken.
- His Resurrection. -Psalm 16:10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.
- His Ascension –Psalm 68:18 “You have ascended on high, You have led captive *Your* captives...”
- His Rulership -Psalm 2:7-9 “I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession. ⁹ ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’ ”
- His Eternity -Psalm 102:25-27 “Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶ “Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. ²⁷ “But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.

B) His Sacrifice (Psalm 22:1-22)

Matthew records in 27:46 of his Gospel account just moments before the death of Jesus that He cried out with a loud voice, saying, “ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” that is, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” This is the opening line of Psalm 22 and was a commonly known text of the Jews during this era. In the first two-thirds of it, we find one of the greatest descriptions of the crucifixion of Jesus.

1 My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.

Note: God was turning His back on Jesus while the sins of the world were being placed on Him. The cross was the loneliest place in existence for it was the first and only time that the Son was not with the Father.

- 1 Peter 2:23-24 “...and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross...”
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf...”

2-3 O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; And by night, but I have no rest. ³ Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

Note: In the moments leading to the crucifixion, we find Jesus in a great struggle of earthly flesh, fluctuating emotions and eternal destiny. He knew what lay ahead and dealt with it through prayer.

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- Hebrews 5:7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.
- Matthew 26:38-39 Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me.”³⁹ And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

He submitted to God’s will to be separated from the Father to pay for the price of our sins. In this way God did not answer for the sake of the answer we have in Christ.

4-5 In You our fathers trusted; They trusted and You delivered them.⁵ To You they cried out and were delivered; In You they trusted and were not disappointed.

Note: Israel had a history of being unfaithful to the Father, yet He consistently delivered them in their cries for help.

6-8 But I am a worm and not a man, A reproach of men and despised by the people.⁷ All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying,⁸ “Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.”

Note: Death on the cross was the most humiliating of executions of the ancient world. A person was literally hung naked on display for all to come by mock. There would be no deliverance for Jesus on His day of death. *Luke 23:35-37 And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.”³⁶ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine,³⁷ and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!”*

9-10 Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust when upon my mother’s breasts.¹⁰ Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother’s womb.

Note: From His very presence in the womb, to His birth and throughout His life, Jesus was clearly God’s beloved Son.

- He was announced in the most unusual circumstances in *Luke 1:30-33 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.³¹ “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.³² “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”*
- In *Luke 1:39-42*, when a pregnant Mary went to see her cousin Elisabeth, it said “*When Elisabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled*

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with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

- Luke records in 2:8-11 the night of His birth, *“In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*
- When Jesus was eight days old, Simeon said He was special (Luke 2:25), Mary recognized that He was special (Luke 2:33), Anna knew He was special (Luke 2:36).
- In Luke 2:42 He was only twelve and already impressing the teachers of the temple.
- Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

11-13 Be not far from me, for trouble is near; For there is none to help. ¹² Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. ¹³ They open wide their mouth at me, As a ravening and a roaring lion.

Note: The many people that gathered around the execution of Jesus would have been terrifying.

- All this was done in the presence of Roman soldiers, Jewish civil leaders, priests and others hostile to Jesus.

14-18 I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me. ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; ¹⁸ They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

Note: As mentioned prior, crucifixion was one of the cruelest of execution methods carried out by men.

- It is only in this passage that we know Jesus was nailed in both His hands and feet. This was usually done to inflict extra pain upon the victim.
- The clothing would be divided up by the executioners. *Luke 23:34 And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.*
- Usually the shoulders of the crucified would come out of the socket as the victim would weaken while hanging by their hands. Many times their wrists and elbows would also stretch out of joint depending on how they were fastened.
- At this stage the heart of the victim would begin to asphyxiate as they would fight for air. Their lungs would fill up with water until the heart would finally burst. We know this

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happened to Jesus for it said *John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*

- The thirst generated from crucifixion would be great because of the heavy breathing. *John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty."* Because of dehydration, it was common to be able to see the victim's ribs and other skeletal features.

19-22 But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance.²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, My only life from the power of the dog.²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth; From the horns of the wild oxen You answer me.²² I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

Note: Jesus would be delivered by God, but it would not be from the cross. His victory would be from death itself, for in this way His soul would be delivered from the sword. It says in *Hebrews 2:11-12 For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,¹² saying, "I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE."* It is because of this deliverance from death and through the One that died and was resurrected that we receive our hope. *Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.* This is how we know He is in the midst of the congregation.

Do you know David the Psalmist? David was a man after the heart of God and this can be seen through this vantage point. Christ's leadership, His prophecies and His sacrifice is evident.

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Solomon: The “Take Heed Lest Ye Fall” King

- Matthew 6:28-29 “And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,²⁹ yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

His Beginnings

- He was the second son of David and Bathsheba from as revealed in *2 Sam 12:24-25*. *Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the LORD loved him²⁵ and sent word through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the LORD’S sake.*
- His name means “peaceable” and his nickname Jedidiah means “beloved of the LORD” and that he was, for he was the “Golden Child” of David his father. He was promised the throne years prior as indicated in *1 Kings 1:17* “*My lord, you swore to your maidservant by the LORD your God, saying, ‘Surely your son Solomon shall be king after me and he shall sit on my throne.’*”

His Wisdom

- In *1 Kings 3:5-9* when God granted Solomon one wish, Solomon said, “...*So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?*” He could have asked for money, power, a long life or a 60” flat screen with a BlueRay player, but he chose the best request of all, wisdom. Because of that God gave him not only the wisdom, but also the entire package.
- *1 Kings 3:16-28* Then two women who were harlots came to the king and stood before him.¹⁷ The one woman said, “Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she *was* in the house.”¹⁸ “It happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house.”¹⁹ “This woman’s son died in the night, because she lay on it.”²⁰ “So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom.”²¹ “When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead; but when I looked at him carefully in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne.”²² Then the other woman said, “No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son.” But the first woman said, “No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son.” Thus they spoke before the king.²³ Then the king said, “The one says, ‘This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one’; and the other says, ‘No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.’”²⁴ The king said, “Get me a sword.” So they brought a sword before the king.²⁵ The king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.”²⁶ Then the woman whose child *was* the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son and said, “Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him.” But the other said, “He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide *him!*”²⁷ Then the king said, “Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother.”²⁸ When all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed

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down, they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

- 1 Kings 4:30-34 Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ For he was wiser than all men, than Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was *known* in all the surrounding nations. ³² He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. ³³ He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon even to the hyssop that grows on the wall; he spoke also of animals and birds and creeping things and fish. ³⁴ Men came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.
- Anyone having read the Proverbs could clearly see that Solomon was a wise man. It is in the Proverbs that he addressed wisdom concerning topics such as parenting, leadership, money, marriage, sex, morals, anger, happiness, stress, contentment, resentment, life, death and dozens of other pertinent topics.
- 1 Kings 10:1-8 states that the "...*queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with difficult questions.*" She had heard about his wisdom, but she did not believe it. He answered all her questions in such a way that there remained no "spirit" of unbelief in her. Jesus actually used this as an example for the condemnation of the unbelieving Jews in *Matthew 12:42* "*The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.*"
- His wisdom was second only to Christ as those that walked upon the earth and the historical record indicates this fact.

His Buildings

- It was predicted that he would be the builder of the temple of God many years prior to his reign. 2 Samuel 7:12-13 "*When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.*" ¹³ "*He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*"

The Temple

- 1 Chronicles 28:11 states that Solomon received the building plans from David his father. 1 Kings 6:1 says "...*in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.*"
- It was a seven year project that became one of the most ornate locations on earth. Hundreds of hand carvings, ornate wood and hangings, hundreds of pounds of gold, hand cut stones and craftsmanship that was the very best in the world.
- When he dedicated the temple he spoke to the nation, saying 1 Kings 8:12-13 "*The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud.*" ¹³ "*I have surely built You a lofty house, A place for Your dwelling forever.*" 1 Kings 8:63 states that Solomon *offered for the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the LORD, 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the sons of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.* Everyone was impressed!

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- This would be the permanent location of the Ark of the Covenant and the other holy furniture of the Lord. It was the place of sacrifice of the entire nation of Israel. It would remain in place for the next four-hundred years until Babylon destroyed it in 586 BC.

The Palace

- Solomon spent thirteen years building a palace for himself which was quite impressive in its own right.
- It was 150' long, 75' wide, having more than 11,000 square feet of living space. There were 45 nearly fifty foot pillars supporting the primary palace.
- The front porch of the palace was another 3,300 square feet.
- He also built a wing for Pharaoh's daughter and several other rooms along the side.
- The palace was filled with many costly carvings, stones, gold, linens and whatever else was extravagant. He was a billionaire and the house communicated this point.
- The bill alone for the contractor was twenty cities in Galilee and 400 pounds of gold.

His Wealth

1 Kings 4:21-28 states concerning the wealth of Solomon...

- That all of the surrounding nations brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.
- That the daily provision for his palace was 300 bushels of fine flour, 600 bushels of meal, 30 oxen, 100 sheep and much additional wild game.
- That he had 40,000 stalls of horses, 12,000 riders and unlimited feed for both.
- He made money on every transaction and on every trade route. *2 Chronicles 9:27* states that he "...made silver as common as stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars as plentiful as sycamore trees that are in the lowland." 1 Kings 10:14 states that he received more than 50,000 pounds of gold per year.
- There have been some economists that have estimated his earnings to nearly a billion dollars per year.

His Fall

God warned Solomon to stay faithful.

- 1 Kings 9:4-7 "As for you, if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you *and* will keep My statutes and My ordinances, ⁵ then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to your father David, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.' ⁶ "But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, ⁷ then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight. So Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

He fell into "Love" with a lot of women.

- 1 Kings 11:1-3 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ² from the

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nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, “You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, *for* they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.” Solomon held fast to these in love.³ He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away.

- He wrote the Song of Solomon to illustrate the love of one of the women. One can see his deep passion for the opposite sex within the pages of that writing. HE LOVED HIS WOMEN!

He fell out of love with the Father.

- 1 Kings 11:4-9 For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father *had been*.⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites.⁶ Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father *had done*.⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon.⁸ Thus also he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.⁹ Now the LORD was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the LORD

It is said that Solomon wrote Proverbs at the height of his relationship with God and that Ecclesiastes was at the lowest depths of the same. In the latter he exposes futility in light of all that he attained in life. He discusses the futility of wisdom, pleasure, possessions, labor and of life in general. “*Vanity, vanity, all is vanity.*” It is rather a depressing book that must be read in the context of a man that lost his passion for the Lord. It is not until the end that he comes to the most brilliant thought of the twelve chapters. It is very likely that these are the last recorded words of Solomon that we have, therefore listen closely.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person.¹⁴ For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

Church, take heed lest ye fall. (1 Cor 10:12)

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The Divided Kingdom

Rehoboam: “The Divisive King”

We are first introduced to Rehoboam following the death of his father Solomon. *1 Kings 11:43 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.* He was born in 975 BC and took over the kingship at age forty-one.

1 Kings 12:1-2 Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. ² Now when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it, he was living in Egypt (for he was yet in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon).

- Rehoboam the son of Solomon took over as King of the nation. He chose the location of Shechem to address the people because it was much more central for the nation to attend.
- There was a man named Jeroboam the son of Nebat. He was a former servant of Solomon that headed up a partial group of the forced labor program. Jeroboam the son of Nebat could see the unfairness of the forced labor and protested it. *2 Chronicles 13:6 “Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, rose up and rebelled against his master...”*
- He even had the support of God in this rebellion against Rehoboam because of all the immorality of the house of Solomon. It was during this period of reflection that Jeroboam was approached by a prophet of God and told that ten tribes would be torn away from Solomon and given to him as a result of the idolatry that occurred.
- Apparently Solomon heard of this incident and sought to have Jeroboam killed for treason. This is why Jeroboam fled the country and into Egypt until after the death of Solomon.

1 Kg 12:3-5 Then they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, ⁴ “Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.” ⁵ Then he said to them, “Depart for three days, then return to me.” So the people departed.

- We are told in *1 Kings 4:7* that *Solomon had twelve deputies over all Israel, who provided for the king and his household; each man had to provide for a month in the year.* He was forcing the people into compulsive labor for his extensive projects. It was hard and dangerous work.
- Most of the people who were forced to work came from a class that did not experience the wealth of Solomon. It appears that working on his projects for a few decades and the high taxes had taken its toll.
- The people chose Jeroboam to speak on their behalf since he had a proven record of standing up against the forced labor. This probably intimidated Rehoboam since he was in hostile territory and in front of a former enemy of his father. He needed a few days to talk to his advisors.

1 Kg 12:6-7 King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon while he was still alive, saying, “How do you counsel *me* to answer this people?” ⁷ Then they spoke to

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him, saying, “If you will be a servant to this people today, and will serve them and grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.”

- He spoke to the aged members of his father’s administration as what to do. We must understand that these seasoned leaders were quite experienced. According to 1 Kings 4:1-6, Solomon has quite a cabinet of experts to manage a country.
 - Azariah, the son of Zadok: He was the son of a priest named Zadok. He would have been well educated and connected in the cabinet of Solomon.
 - Zadok: He was the primary High Priest of Solomon and a staunch supporter of Solomon from early on. With him was decades of experience.
 - Elihoreph and Ahijah: They were brothers and personal secretaries to the king. Their father was a loyal follower of David.
 - Jehoshaphat: He was a royal chronicler that kept the detailed records of events. He would have known the history of the life of Solomon with some of the greatest detail.
 - Benaiah: He was a son of a priest and a great warrior. He worked for both David and Solomon.
 - Zabud: He was a close personal friend of the King Solomon. He had a perspective that only a friend could know.
 - Azariah, the son of Nathan: He was a royal governor and army officer that brought great experience to the table.
 - Ahishar: He had great administrative experience in running the household of Solomon. We must remember that this was a huge task that required a great deal of planning.
 - Adoniram: He headed up the forced labor project that was at the forefront of the problem. He could give a firsthand account of how rough it was for the people and could see the writing on the wall.
- Together these experienced individuals could easily confirm the state of the nation religiously, laboriously, economically, militarily and historically. If they were advising, it carried with it centuries of experience.

1 Kg 12:8-11 But he forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him. ⁹ So he said to them, “What counsel do you give that we may answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke which your father put on us?’” ¹⁰ The young men who grew up with him spoke to him, saying, “Thus you shall say to this people who spoke to you, saying, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, now you make it lighter for us!’ But you shall speak to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s loins! ¹¹ ‘Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’ ”

- Reheboam’s pride was hurt because the people put him on the spot about the forced-labor. He wanted to be the tough guy; therefore he called for a meeting with the elders to see what should be done. He was hoping they would support an aggressive response, but they did not.

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- Instead he went to his old school buddies and friends. They were young, inexperienced and full of testosterone. They offered the aggressive advice that Rehoboam was looking for; therefore he went with them.

1 Kg 12:12-15 Then Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day as the king had directed, saying, “Return to me on the third day.”¹³ The king answered the people harshly, for he forsook the advice of the elders which they had given him,¹⁴ and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people; for it was a turn *of events* from the LORD, that He might establish His word, which the LORD spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

- As mentioned in the prior chapter, God had already knew how Rehoboam would behave concerning the issue, for He sent Ahijah the prophet to Jeroboam. The people might have been surprised by Rehoboam’s foolish decision, but God most certainly was not.

1 Kings 12:16-19 When all Israel *saw* that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying, “What portion do we have in David? *We have* no inheritance in the son of Jesse; To your tents, O Israel! Now look after your own house, David!” So Israel departed to their tents.¹⁷ But as for the sons of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death. And King Rehoboam made haste to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

- Because this was a large meeting at Shechem, people were forced to camp out in tents while they waited for three days. Naturally when they did not react well as a result of Rehoboam’s divisiveness. Fed up with it, they protested by walking out on Rehoboam and headed back to their tents.
- Rehoboam did not like this and decided to send his “Secretary of Forced-labor and Revenue” to collect some taxes. This was pretty bad timing resulting in the stoning of the tax man. Rehoboam fled back to Jerusalem for his life in the chariot. the Divider began to reap what he was sowing, for the kingdom was divided.

1 Kings 12:20-24 It came about when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, that they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. None but the tribe of Judah followed the house of David.²¹ Now when Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.²² But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,²³ “Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin and to the rest of the people, saying,²⁴ ‘Thus says the LORD, “You must not go up and fight against your relatives the sons of Israel; return every man to his house, for this thing has come from Me.” ’ ” So they listened to the word of the LORD, and returned and went *their way* according to the word of the LORD.

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- When Rehoboam made it back to Jerusalem, he assembled the troops in order to wipe out the rebels. Right before heading out, God sent Shemaiah the prophet to inform Rehoboam that it was from the LORD.
- It was from that moment in time that the nation of Israel was divided and in civil war. 2 *Chronicles 12:15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, from first to last, are they not written in the records of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer, according to genealogical enrollment? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.* They were ten northern tribes against the two southern tribes, Judah and Benjamin. It was the biggest “church split” in history and worthy to examine for application.

1. He showed contempt toward the experienced.

- One of the primary indicators of a degenerating society is how they treat the more experienced members of the culture (ie elderly and the wise).
- Job 12:12 “Wisdom is with aged men, *With* long life is understanding.
- Leviticus 19:32 ‘You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.
- Proverbs 23:22 Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.
- Isaiah 47:6 “I was angry with My people, I profaned My heritage And gave them into your hand. You did not show mercy to them, On the aged you made your yoke very heavy.
- When we fail to yield to those that have greater experience among us, it not only eliminates a potential point of wisdom, but also dishonors God, the Chooser of birthdates.
- Contempt toward the Experienced = Division

2. He showed favoritism toward his friends.

- Rehoboam showed preference to a group of people not based on what was right, but that they were friends. This is called favoritism and can be a great divider of the people of God.
- One of the early problems that faced the church in Jerusalem was over partiality. *Acts 6:1 Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.* If not dealt with it would have destroyed the congregation.
- Peter showed partiality toward the Jews in the presence of the (Acts 11:19; Gal 2:11) and had to be rebuked by Paul. If this had not been done, then it could have resulted in a split of the church.
- It is of interest that in the previous chapter that Peter confirmed that God is not respecter of persons. *Acts 10:34-35 Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,³⁵ but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.*
- James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.

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- Colossians 3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.
- If you want to be a great divider in the church, start showing favoritism to some and watch where it takes you. Start putting together the click-groups and watch what occurs.
- Favoritism toward Friends = Division

3. He showed harshness toward the hurting.

- The people were hurting from the imposed labor and heavy taxes. They had experienced forty years of this and something had to give. If only Rehoboam had some compassion, he would have kept the nation together, but he did not.
- When we as a church show harshness to the hurting among us, watch out for the division.
- Matthew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- Proverbs 11:17 The merciful man does himself good, But the cruel man does himself harm.
- Matthew 25:34-40 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’³⁵ ‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;³⁶ naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink?’³⁸ ‘And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?’³⁹ ‘When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’⁴⁰ “The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even* the least of *them*, you did it to Me.’
- If you cannot unite on reaching out to a brother or sister in need, there is no way that we can be united as a family in Christ.
- 1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- James 2:15-16 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?
- If you want to be a divider in the church family, simply show a lack of compassion for the hurting and it will be true.
- Harshness toward the Hurting = Division

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Jeroboam: “The King of the Dirty Politicians”

In the last lesson we covered Rehoboam the divisive king that actually split the nation. In this lesson we will cover the first king of the Northern Kingdom following that split, King Jeroboam. He will affectionately be referred to as the “King of the Dirty Politicians” for the remainder of the lesson.

He stirred up trouble among the populace like a Dirty Politician.

- 1 Kings 11:26 Then Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, Solomon’s servant, whose mother’s name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king.
- He was actually a hired servant of Solomon, but decided that he would rebel just like any dirty politician would do.

He capitalized on a crisis like a Dirty Politician.

- 1 Kings 12:2-5 Now when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard *of it*, he was living in Egypt (for he was yet in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon).³ Then they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,⁴ “Your father made our yoke hard; now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.”⁵ Then he said to them, “Depart for three days, then return to me.” So the people departed.
- They say that a dirty politician never wants to waste a good crisis, for it is an opportunity to score political points. Jeroboam was no different, for he knew the mood of the people and happily came back from Egypt.

He was worried about his standings in the polls like a Dirty Politician.

- 1 Kings 12:25-27 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel.²⁶ Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. 27 “If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will return to their lord, *even* to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah.”
- It seems that your dirtiest politicians won’t stand on principles, but pools. In the last couple decades we are bombarded with every poll under the sun and the results are unflattering.

He sought to control the religion of the people like a Dirty Politician.

- 1 King 12:28-33 So the king consulted, and made two golden calves, and he said to them, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt.”²⁹ He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.³⁰ Now this thing became a sin, for the people went *to worship* before the one as far as Dan.³¹ And he made houses on high places, and made priests from among all the people who were not of the sons of Levi.³² Jeroboam instituted a feast in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the feast which is in Judah, and he went up to the altar; thus he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves which he had made. And he stationed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made.³³ Then he went up to the altar

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which he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised in his own heart; and he instituted a feast for the sons of Israel and went up to the altar to burn incense.

- It seems like the dirty politicians always want to slap a Jesus bumper sticker on a corrupt life in their attempt to control the masses. There was recently a major pro-abortion, pro-gay marriage politician that was trying to force a church to support an immigration bill. Why are they doing this when they do not hold to certain values of the religion? 2
Timothy 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

He was resistant to voices of opposition like a Dirty Politician.

- 1 Kings 13:1-6 Now behold, there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to burn incense. ² He cried against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, “O altar, altar, thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.’ ” ³ Then he gave a sign the same day, saying, “This is the sign which the LORD has spoken, ‘Behold, the altar shall be split apart and the ashes which are on it shall be poured out.’ ” ⁴ Now when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar in Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, “Seize him.” But his hand which he stretched out against him dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself. ⁵ The altar also was split apart and the ashes were poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. ⁶ The king said to the man of God, “Please entreat the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me.” So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king’s hand was restored to him, and it became as it was before.
- A dirty politician will stop at nothing to silence those that might not agree with their position or behavior.

He tried to buy off people of influence like a Dirty Politician.

- 1 Kings 13:7-10 Then the king said to the man of God, “Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.” ⁸ But the man of God said to the king, “If you were to give me half your house I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water in this place. ⁹ “For so it was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, ‘You shall eat no bread, nor drink water, nor return by the way which you came.’ ” ¹⁰ So he went another way and did not return by the way which he came to Bethel.
- If you can’t beat them, buy them off. Jeroboam offered food and shelter to the prophet, but there was no sale.

He engaged in deceitful practices like a Dirty Politician.

- 1 Kings 14:1-4 At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick. ² Jeroboam said to his wife, “Arise now, and disguise yourself so that they will not know that you are the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh; behold, Ahijah the prophet is there, who spoke concerning me *that I would be* king over this people. ³ “Take ten loaves with you, *some* cakes and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy.” ⁴

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Jeroboam's wife did so, and arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. Now Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were dim because of his age.

- The dirty politician loves to make the deals behind the scene. They love to work in the dark.

He was remembered in a negative light like a Dirty Politician.

- 1 Kings 14:19-20 Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he made war and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.²⁰ The time that Jeroboam reigned *was* twenty-two years; and he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his place.
- 1 Kings 15:25-28 Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years.²⁶ He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in his sin which he made Israel sin.²⁷ Then Baasha...killed him..."
- His memory would be forever associated with idolatry and wickedness. Many times Jeroboam the son of Nebat was referred to a negative precedent concerning the destruction of the nation. He should be remembered as the dirty politician king.

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Asa: “The Bad Healthcare” King

- He was the third king of Judah following the division of the nation of Israel, reigning from 964-923 BC.
- Asa was the first of the five righteous kings of Judah (the other four being Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah and Josiah). He was a gleam of hope in a dark world.
- God spoke to Asa through a prophet in *2 Chronicles 15:2-7* “Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the LORD is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.”³ “For many days Israel was without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law.”⁴ “But in their distress they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him.”⁵ “In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for many disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands.”⁶ “Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every kind of distress.”⁷ “But you, be strong and do not lose courage, for there is reward for your work.”
- With that charge, Asa went to work on the reforms. It says in *1 Kings 15:11* Asa did what was right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father. There was much that he did right in the sight of the LORD.

His life story can basically be summed up by answering that question. What did he do that was so right in the sight of the LORD?

1) He cleaned his own house.

- His grandmother, Maacah, whom is sometimes referred as his “mother” since she was the living matriarch of the family, was a wicked and idolatrous influence. She was a carryover from Rehoboam and Abijah, the respective grandfather and father of Asa. She could not be tolerated in the house of Asa if he was going to be pleasing to the LORD.
- *1 Kings 15:13* He also removed Maacah his mother from *being* queen mother, because she had made a horrid image as an Asherah; and Asa cut down her horrid image and burned *it* at the brook Kidron.
- All the plans that a man has for the LORD are of no use if he refuses to clean out his own house and tend to the matters close to home.
 - *1 Peter 4:17* For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
 - *1 Timothy 5:8* But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
 - *Joshua 24:15* “...choose for yourselves today whom you will serve”... “but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

2) He destroyed the pagan’s house.

- *2 Chronicles 14:2-5* Asa did good and right in the sight of the LORD his God,³ for he removed the foreign altars and high places, tore down the sacred pillars, cut down the Asherim,⁴ and commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers and to observe the law and the commandment.⁵ He also removed the high places and the

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incense altars from all the cities of Judah. And the kingdom was undisturbed under him.

- 1 Kings 15:12 He also put away the male cult prostitutes from the land and removed all the idols which his fathers had made.
- Asa clearly fought against idolatry which was the established religion of his day. He could not eliminate it all, but his actions made a huge difference.

3) He fortified the national house.

- 2 Chronicles 14:6-8 He built fortified cities in Judah, since the land was undisturbed, and there was no one at war with him during those years, because the LORD had given him rest. ⁷ For he said to Judah, “Let us build these cities and surround *them* with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side.” So they built and prospered. ⁸ Now Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, bearing large shields and spears, and 280,000 from Benjamin, bearing shields and wielding bows; all of them were valiant warriors.
- Though it was the LORD that gave him his strength, it was through the military that God did it. His trust was with God and in return God entrusted him with a strong military.
- When one million Ethiopians showed up for battle with Judah, it was the Lord that Asa trusted. 2 Chronicles 14:11-12 Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, “LORD, there is no one besides You to help *in the battle* between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; let not man prevail against You.” ¹² So he LORD routed the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.
- Later on Asa would have a lapse in this trust concerning the defense, for he tried to strike an alliance with an enemy power. Overall though he was a military leader that built up the national house.

4) He focused on God’s House.

- 1 Kings 15:15 He brought into the house of the LORD the dedicated things of his father and his own dedicated things: silver and gold and utensils. \
- 2 Chronicles 15:11 They sacrificed to the LORD that day 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep from the spoil they had brought.
- Over the years since the dedication of the Temple, things had fallen into disarray. Asa aimed at dealing with this by restoring the dedicated items of the temple and carrying out a great number of sacrifices. He focused on God’s house and God’s rule in that house.

With that out of the way, it is in the end of King Asa’s life that we will make the greatest application.

- 2 Chronicles 16:11-14 Now, the acts of Asa from first to last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. ¹² In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa became diseased in his feet. His disease was severe, yet even in his disease he did not

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seek the LORD, but the physicians. ¹³ So Asa slept with his fathers, having died in the forty-first year of his reign. ¹⁴ They buried him in his own tomb which he had cut out for himself in the city of David, and they laid him in the resting place which he had filled with spices of various kinds blended by the perfumers' art; and they made a very great fire for him.

- Asa was stricken with a disease of the feet. Perhaps he had diabetes and the circulation of his feet was bad. Perhaps it was some other condition that was from an infection. Whatever disease, we know it was severe and it lasted for two years.
- The interesting part of the account is in whom he put his trust. He put his faith in the physicians and the healthcare they were providing instead of the Lord. This is what made Asa the “Healthcare King”, for he trusted in a healthcare system that was void of God.

We must make sure that we put God as Head of our healthcare.

- James 5:14-15 Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.
- What is this anointing? There are those that propose it is for a spiritual reason, but that is not clearly born out in the text since the “sin” is possible, not absolute. Others say it is for comfort which is a possibility since sometimes oil was used to sooth, but it appears to be something accompanying prayer; this seems far more important than lotion.
- I am persuaded that this is of a medicinal nature. In the first century, olive oil was often mixed with medicinal treatments, forming a balm. These balms were applied to the skin and the medicine would slowly work its way in.
 - It was the medicine of choice as far back as Gen 37:35 and 43:11.
 - It was the choice of cleansing agent for the leper in Leviticus 14:15-18.
 - Jer 8:22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has not the health of the daughter of my people been restored?
 - Isa 1:6 From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness--only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil. (NIV)
 - It was the anointing of oil that was associated with healing in Mark 6:13 “...anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.”
 - Luke 10:34 and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on {them;} and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.
 - The Laodiceans that made salve for the eye by mixing the minerals from the local hot springs in it (Rev 3:18). This is why they housed the world renowned eye clinic.
- Since medicines have many side-effects and possible benefits, it is ultimately God that allows the medicines to work. This is where the power of prayer goes to work. We pray the medicine will work. We pray the chemotherapy will work. We pray that the treatment will work, hence turning the success of it over to God.

Story of Craig Buck from 6-3-10

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Don't follow the path of Asa, the "poor healthcare" king, by not putting God as the head over your medical team.

- Exodus 15:26 And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer."
- Malachi 4:2 "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.
- Psalm 103:2-3 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; ³ Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;
- Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.
- Jeremiah 33:6 'Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth.

God as your Great Physician is a healthcare plan that needs no reform.

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Asa

The Kings (years served)

Saul (40)
David (40)
Solomon (40)

Divided Kingdom

Rehoboam (17)
Abijah (3)
Asa (41)

Jehoshaphat (25)
Jehoram (8)
Ahaziah (1)
Joash (40)

Amaziah (29)

Jeroboam I (22)

Nadab (2)
Baasha (24)
Elah (2)
Zimri (1 week)
Omri (12)
Ahab (22)
Ahaziah (2)
Jehoram (12)
Jehu (28)
Jehoahaz (17)
Jehoash (16)

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Uzziah (52)

Jeroboam II (41)

Zechariah (6 months)

Shallum (1 month)

Menahem (10)

Pekahiah (2)

Jotham (16)

Pekah (20)

Ahaz (16)

Hosea (9)

*Assyrian Captivity (722 BC)

Hezekiah (29)

Manasseh (55)

Amon (2)

Josiah (31)

Jehoahaz (3 months)

Jehoiakim (11)

Jehoiachin (3 months)

Zedekiah (11)

*Babylonian Captivity (586 BC)

Chart of the Kings of Judah and Israel

Judah	Good or Bad	Years of Reign	I Kings	II Chron	Israel	Good or Bad	Years of Reign	I Kings	II Chron
Rehoboam	Bad	17	12:1	10:1	Jeroboam 1	Bad	22	12:19	10:2
Abijah 1[1]	Bad	3	15:1	13:1	Nadab	Bad	2	15:25	
Asa		41	15:9	14:1	Baasha	Bad	24	15:27	
Jehoshaphat		25	22:41	17:1	Elah	Bad	2	16:8	
Jehoram	Bad	8	22:50	21:1	Zimri	Bad	7 days	16:9	
Ahaziah2[2]	Bad	1	2 Kings 8:24 11:1	22:1 22:10	Omri	Bad	12	16:17	
Joash3[3]		40	11:4	23:1	Ahab	Bad	22	16:29	18:1

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Amaziah		29	14:1	25:1	Ahaziah	Bad	2	22:40	
Uzziah4[4]		52	15:1	26:1	Jehoram5[5]	Bad	12	2 Kings 3:1	22:7
Jotham		16	15:32	27:1	Jehu	Bad	28	9:2	22:7
Ahaz	Bad	16	15:38	28:1	Jehoahaz	Bad	17	13:1	
Hezekiah		29	18:1	29:1	Jehoash6[6]	Bad	16	13:10	25:17
Manasseh	Bad	55	21:1	33:1	Jeroboam II	Bad	41	14:16	
Amon	Bad	2	21:19	33:21	Zacharia	Bad	6 mos	14:29	
Josiah		31	22:1	34:1	Shallum	Bad	1 mo	15:20	
Jehoahaz7[7]	Bad	3 mos	23:31	36:1	Menahem	Bad	10	25:14	
Jehoiakim	Bad	11	23:36	36:4	Pekahia	Bad	2	15:22	
Jehoiachin8[8]	Bad	3 mos	24:6	36:9	Pekah	Bad	20	15:25	
Zedekiah9[9]	Bad	11	24:17	36:11	Hosea	Bad	9	15:30	
Babylonian Captivity			25:1	36:13	Assyrian Captivity			17:1	

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