

Royal Lessons from the Kings

By Doug Hamilton

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.