

King David

...murderer, manipulator, liar, cheat, adulterer, thief, cover-up, killer, ...

2 Samuel 11-12,18; 1 Chronicles 22, 29;
Psalms 23, 32, 51

David was voted least likely among his brothers to be anointed king. He was the last person on the battlefield you'd pick to play the hero's part. But David was the underdog who overcame. David confronted lions, giants and kings with bare hands and bold faith. The LORD had blessed David greatly and at last, the man after God's own heart became the man on Israel's throne.

But kings who stay home from battle are not following God's directives. One time the King did this and his eyes wandered, as did his heart.

The King summoned a very lovely and very married Bathsheba to his palace and then into his bed. When Bathsheba sent word she was pregnant, David turned his strategy tactics toward her husband, Uriah.

The King called Uriah home from the battlefield to visit his wife, expecting a night together would place Uriah as the father-to-be. The plan failed.

The King called Uriah to the palace and got him drunk. He hoped Uriah would stumble back to his home

and wife. The plan failed. Uriah was a good man and a good soldier. He stayed overnight in the barracks of the soldiers of the palace.

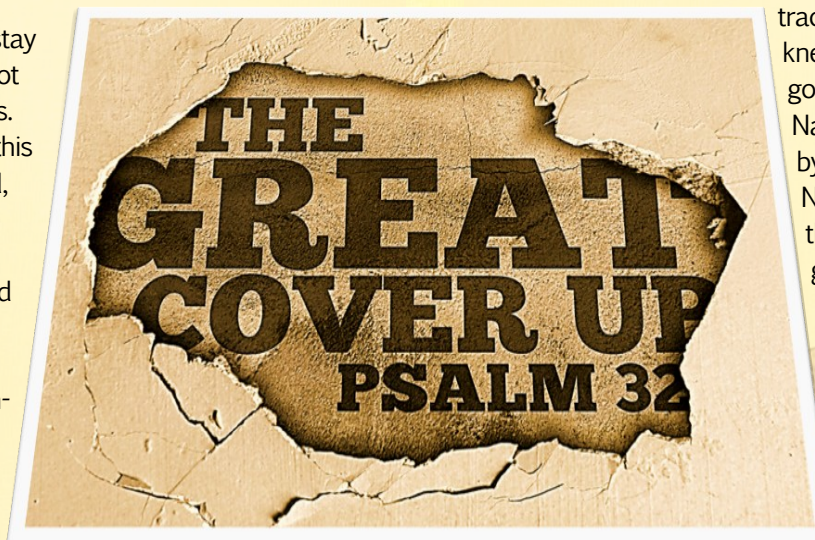
So the King concocted a deadly, Two Part cover-up plan. Part One: The King sent Uriah back to the front-lines carrying his own death warrant: an order for General Joab to engineer a battlefield "accident" and guarantee Uriah's death. This plan worked.

Part Two: After a period of mourning, King David married Bathsheba and went back to the business of the kingdom. They're married, she soon gives birth, all his

tracks are covered. But people knew.. Everybody knew: David got Bathsheba pregnant. Nathan the prophet was sent by the LORD to the palace. Nathan told a parable. When the king identified the guilty guy in the story, Nathan publicly pointed the finger of blame squarely in David's face. "You are the man!" The LORD's judgment of lasting violence and death for the king and his family came next.

Now according to the protocol of the day, Nathan would be killed by David's bodyguards for his "disrespectful accusations".

But the LORD's word had worked repentance. David was sorry He rebelled against God; he was glad God sought him out and... **God forgave David!**



Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church and School,

Wisconsin Rapids, WI, USA 54494-9574

Pastors Paul A.Tullberg, Robert Hartman Educator: Donna Tullberg

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Restore to me
the joy of my
salvation

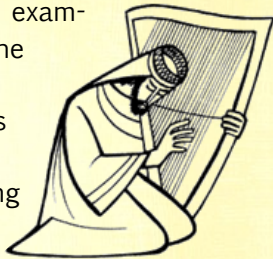
and renew a
right spirit
within me

One consequence for David was that the child of David and Bathsheba was taken to heaven after a brief illness. But the LORD was kind and Bathsheba gave birth to another son. David and Bathsheba named him Solomon, meaning *peace*. The LORD told David that He wrote down a different name for him in heaven, Jedidiah, meaning “*loved by the LORD*”.

David’s finish turned from battles to building. God said Solomon would build the LORD’s temple. So King David prepared. From the overflow of David’s heart came the emptying of his bank account. Others followed the king’s example. All gave offerings freely to the LORD.

King David’s history draws to a close with psalms of faith and praise, his sights set on living “in the house of the LORD forever.”

No one is righteous on his own. God’s promise to David pointed across a millennium to a sinless King of Kings. The LORD’s Messiah would rule His people with righteousness and peace, redemption.



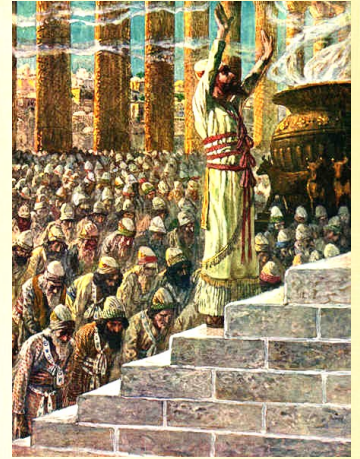
King Solomon

Official, certified wise guy

King Solomon’s rule began with a series of defining events. He married the daughter of the Egyptian Pharaoh. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and offered to grant his heart’s desire. Solomon asked for wisdom (a heart with ears) to lead, and God was pleased to grant this request. So pleased was the LORD with his attitude that the LORD promised him wealth, honor, victories and long life as well. Solomon’s wisdom was quickly tested when two prostitute moms fought over a son. Solomon correctly judged in favor of the true mother.

The LORD inspired him to pen proverbs that gained him an international reputation. (In addition, Solomon had thousands of other “truisms” recorded as well as many other “songs” that were not God’s word.) The nation of Israel blessed all nations. King Solomon demonstrated that the cornerstone of all wisdom is a holy fear of God.

The time had come to build a temple for God. Solomon had God-given blueprints similar to the tabernacle back in Moses’ day. The end result was as majestic as one could imagine. With great reverence, Solomon had the ark placed in the Most Holy Place. The temple was filled with the cloud of God’s glory.



The LORD said, “If My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land.”

King Solomon was given unparalleled success, wealth and wisdom, peace and prosperity. But all of that could not make amends for his naughty choice to collect wives like loose change.

Solomon married hundreds of women (600), many of them foreign-faithed; he collected concubines as well (400). Solomon’s false-faithed wives “turned his heart after other gods.” This single decision distorted the future of his nation to the present day!

Solomon began well. But the Bible is strangely silent on his end. Instead, God records his kingdom is torn in two and his legacy is tarnished by disobedience and idolatry. His life-lesson is recorded so all may learn: what really matters for the Christian is this: **Finish faithful!**



King Solomon’s people held him in awe. As promised, the LORD gave Solomon insight into human nature. Keen wisdom, peace and super-wealth became distinctive marks of his reign.



King David & King Solomon

READ: 2 Samuel 11-18; 1 Chronicles 22-29, Psalm 23, Psalm 32, Psalm 51; also 1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chronicles 5-7, Proverbs 1-2, Proverbs 6, Proverbs 20-21

Discussion

1. What is one of the most important principles you've learned about relationships?
2. What led to David's sin and cover up? Read James 1:13-15. How does David's spiral down in sin compare to Adam and Eve's in Eden?
3. What are ways people deceive themselves into thinking they've gotten away with sin?
4. "Confession of sin and thanksgiving seems to be absent in our day." Your thoughts:
5. David worshiped after his baby died but grieved after his treacherous son died. What accounts for the difference in his response?
6. Psalm 23 is meaningful to so many people. "The comparison between sheep and shepherd is appropriate for the relationship between the LORD and His believers, but all comparisons lack." comment.

7. What does Solomon's prayer teach us? See Supplement: 1 Kings 3:5ff



8. Why was the Temple such a big deal to God? For Israel?

9. What's up with the cloud in 1 Kg 8:11? Where else have we seen this cloud?

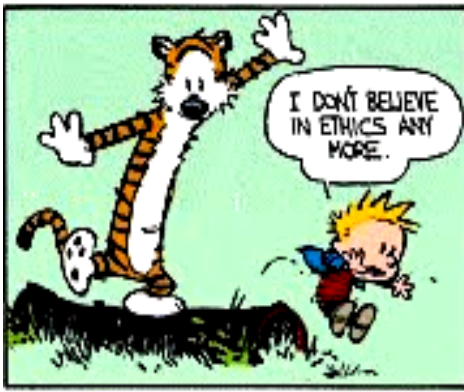
10. What does the Temple dedication say about *how* to approach God? First Kings 8:1-11

11. In what way does 1 Kings 8 give direction on why Jesus cleared the Temple?

12. Solomon had it all, yet wanted more and did not finish well. What does that teach us?

Proverbs 23:17

Do not let your heart envy sinners,
but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD.



GET WHAT YOU CAN WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD—THAT'S WHAT I SAY! MIGHT MAKES RIGHT! THE WINNERS WRITE THE HISTORY BOOKS!



A wise man fears the LORD and shuns evil,
but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

Proverbs 14:16

1 Kings 4:25ff

During Solomon's lifetime Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree. Solomon had four thousand stalls for chariot horses, and twelve thousand horses.

The district officers, each in his month, supplied provisions for King Solomon and all who came to the king's table. They saw to it that nothing was lacking.

They also brought to the proper place their quotas of barley and straw for the chariot horses and the other horses.

God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.

Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.

He was wiser than any other man, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Calcol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations.

He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five.

He described plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls.

He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish.

Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.

#12 STUDY – SUPPLEMENT

1 Kings 3:5-14 (*The Message*)

⁴⁻⁵ King Solomon went to Gibeon to worship. He sacrificed a thousand Whole-Burnt-Offerings on that altar. That night, there in Gibeon, the LORD GOD appeared to Solomon in a dream: God said, *"What can I give you? Ask."*

⁶ Solomon said, "You were extravagantly generous in love with David my father, and he lived faithfully in your presence, his relationships were just and his heart right. And You have persisted in this great and generous love by giving him—and this very day!—a son to sit on his throne.

⁷⁻⁸ "And now here I am: LORD GOD, my God, You have made me, Your servant, ruler of the kingdom in place of David my father. I'm too young for this, a mere child! I don't know the ropes, I hardly know the 'ins' and 'outs' of this job. And here I am, set down in the middle of the people You have chosen, a great people—far too many to ever count.

⁹ "So here's what I want: Give me a LORD-listening heart so I can lead Your people well, discerning the difference between good and evil. For who on their own is capable of leading Your glorious people?"

¹⁰⁻¹⁴ God, the LORD-Master, was delighted with Solomon's response. The Almighty Savior said to Solomon, *"Because you have asked for this and haven't grasped after a long life, or riches, or the doom of your enemies, but you have asked for the ability to lead and govern well, I will give you what you've asked for—I AM giving you a wise and mature heart.*

There's never been one like you before; and there will be no one after. As a bonus, I will be giving you both the wealth and the glory you did not ask for—there's not a king anywhere who will come up to your mark.

And if you stay on course, keeping your eye on the life-map I have laid out and looking forward to My Messiah-Promises as your father David did, I will also give you a long life."