

Lesson 22: King David

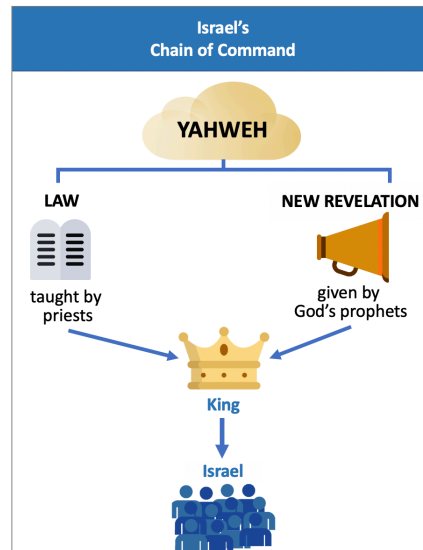
Previously...

After Israel's Conquest period, the final judge to lead Israel was the prophet Samuel. At that time, the people demanded to have a human king, just like the nations around them. They no longer wanted God as their divine King.

Yahweh agreed to this evil request, but under His terms. The human king must be chosen by Him and come under His authority. The king was not to be the ultimate authority.

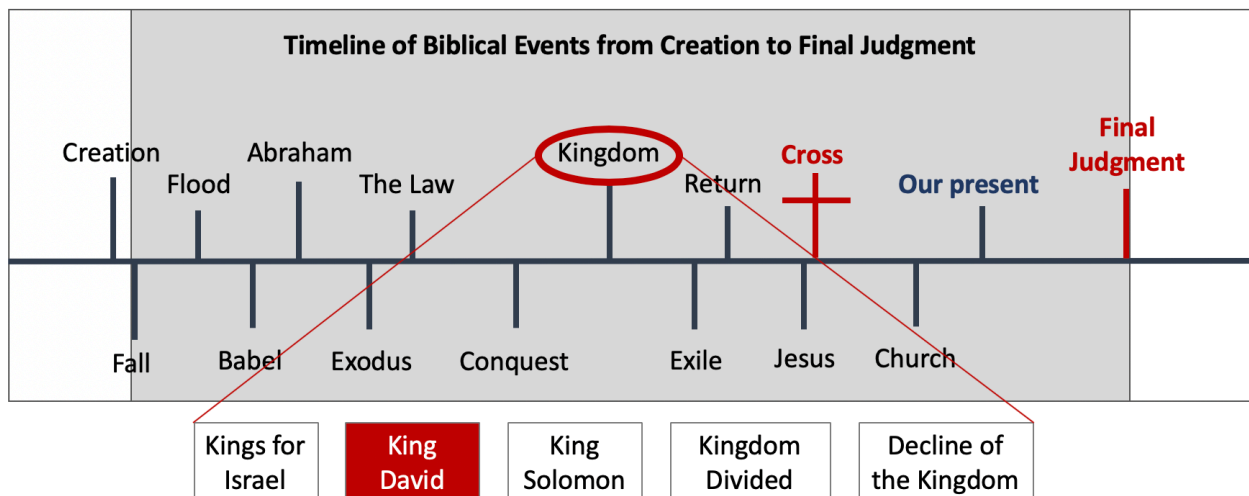


Grey shows paganism



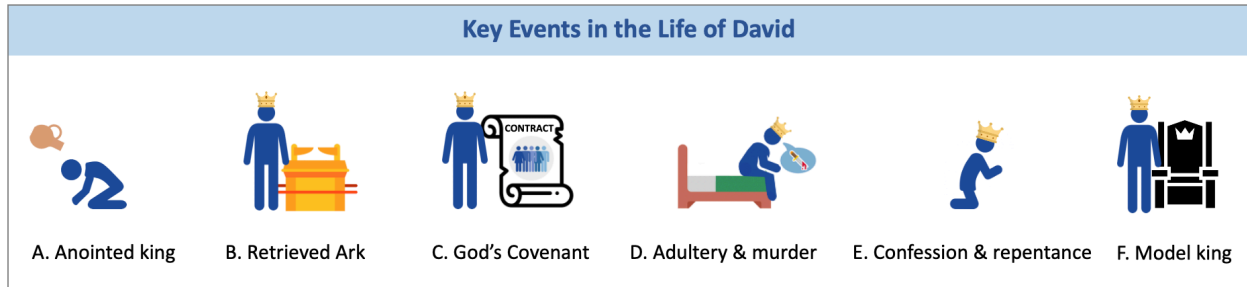
God chose Saul as the first king but his heart was disobedient. He treated himself as the ultimate authority, the very thing God warned kings against. His reign ended in disaster. God rejected him as king and he died a tragic death.

God then gave the kingdom to David. He was totally different from Saul.



The Second King: David

1 Samuel 16 to 2 Samuel 4 cover the rise and reign of David. Through his key life events, we will learn more about God's plan for Israel and His expectations for His people.



A. Anointed king (1 Samuel 16:1–13)

Samuel anointed a teenaged David as the second king of Israel. This pouring of oil on David showed that God had chosen him. But David didn't actually become king till he was 30 years old. The waiting time for David was long and tough. Why?

- King Saul, who was still currently ruling, was so jealous that God anointed David king that he tried to kill David seven times.
(1 Samuel 18:10–11, 25–27; 19:1–7, 9–10, 11–17, 18–24)
- King Saul sent three professional search and destroy army missions after David.
(1 Samuel 23:13–29; 24:1–22; 26:1–15)
- David had to fight and defeat the Philistine army, a very strong enemy of Israel, twice.
(1 Samuel 17:20–54; 23:1–5)
- David had to kill off the last of the Amalekites that Saul had disobediently not destroyed.
(1 Samuel 27:7–12; 30:8–20)
- David had to win over the loyalty of all the other Israelite tribes who did not want him to be king over them.
(2 Sam 2:12–4:12)
- David had to escape from two bad decisions of aligning himself with the Philistines, otherwise it would have meant he would have to fight his own people, the Israelites.
(1 Samuel 21:10–15; 27:1–29:11)



David's road to becoming king was not at all like Saul's. Saul was handed the kingship. David had to earn the right to rule the people. He had to prove himself to the nation through his lifestyle and his skills. But through his struggles, we see the kind of man David was. Three characteristics stand out.

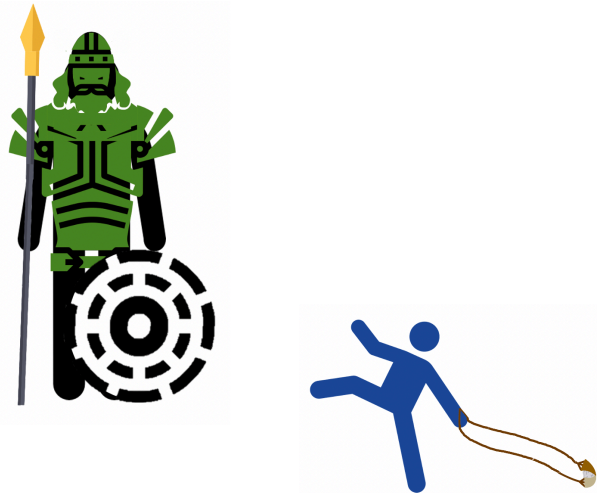
1. David was an excellent warrior and leader (1 Samuel 17, 22–23:14)

In one of the confrontations between the Philistine and Israelite armies, the Philistines sent their champion warrior, Goliath, to battle whomever Israel would send as a representative. No Israelite soldier dared battle the nine-foot (2.7 metre) tall Goliath. But the teenaged David did.

Even as a youth, David's loyalty to God was so strong that he understood the battle was not just between two human armies. It was between God and an evil enemy. Goliath and the Philistine army were a picture of God's evil enemies. This was God's battle. With God's help, David bravely responded to Goliath's challenge.

1 Samuel 17:45–47

⁴⁵ David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! ⁴⁷ And everyone assembled here will know that the LORD rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the LORD's battle, and he will give you to us!"



As a warrior, David was fighting for God, not for himself. He had the right motivation. And God gave David victory over Goliath.

David was not just a brave God-led warrior, he was an excellent warrior-leader. While hiding from Saul at the cave of Adullam, a mishmash of people joined him. They were not trained soldiers, but David built this collection of "losers" up into an effective army.

1 Samuel 22:1–2

¹ So David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there. ² Then others began coming—men who were in trouble or in debt or who were just discontented—until David was the captain of about 400 men.

With God's help, David's small army was more successful than Saul's. He even won victories over the well-equipped and experienced Philistine army!

2. David had great faith and confidence in God (1 Samuel 24, 26)

David had such great faith that he submitted completely to God's plans. He fully believed Yahweh would deliver on what He had promised. Once, while Saul and his army were hunting for him, David and Abishai, one of the leaders of his army, had a chance to kill Saul. However, David spared Saul's life. He respected God's original anointing of Saul and trusted that God Himself would handle Saul. He refused to take matters into his own hands.

1 Samuel 26:7–11

⁷ So David and Abishai went right into Saul's camp and found him asleep, with his spear stuck in the ground beside his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying asleep around him. ⁸ "God has surely handed your enemy over to you this time!" Abishai whispered to David. "Let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't need to strike twice!" ⁹ "No!" David said. "Don't kill him. For who can remain innocent after attacking the LORD's anointed one?" ¹⁰ Surely the LORD will strike Saul down someday, or he will die of old age or in battle. ¹¹ The LORD forbid that I should kill the one he has anointed! But take his spear and that jug of water beside his head, and then let's get out of here!"



David knew God would keep His promise of giving him the kingdom in His timing. David was totally secure in God and so he could show grace toward Saul.

In comparison, Saul didn't honour Yahweh as the Sovereign God. He was so insecure that his first concern was always for himself, his wants and his own security. A person with no security can never truly love and care for anyone else because he would always be fighting to protect himself.

David was also totally different from the typical pagan ruler. Pagan kings would often try to secure their power by killing off all potential rivals to the throne. They would even kill their rivals' sons to eliminate all possible opponents.



In contrast, David was best friends with Saul's son, Jonathan, who from a human viewpoint was heir to the throne. Though Jonathan was more than 10 years older than David, their friendship was sincere. After David became king, he searched to see if there were any of Saul and Jonathan's family members left. He didn't want to kill them, but wanted to show grace and kindness to them instead.

2 Samuel 9:1

One day David asked, "Is anyone in Saul's family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

Why was David willing to extend kindness to the family who had tried to kill him so many times? This type of behaviour was totally unheard of in a monarchy! How was David able to be so forgiving and kind to Saul's family? It was because of his deep faith and confidence in God. He was completely secure in Yahweh and so could extend love and grace to others.

3. David was well known for his musical ability

David composed music, sang and played musical instruments to God. More than 70 of the songs in the book of Psalms, from praise to laments, were written by David. In these songs, we see his passion, loyalty and sincerity towards God. We hear his deep desire to worship and honour Yahweh and follow His ways. His psalms also show his deep struggles, pain and cries to God. In joyous or trouble-filled seasons, David constantly sought Yahweh.



B. King David Brought the Ark of God to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6)

After David became king, he wanted to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem, the new capital city. Years earlier, when the prophet Samuel was a child, the Philistines had captured the ark from Israel in a battle. The Philistines had kept it as a trophy of war, but wherever they stored it, the people fell sick and died. So no Philistine city wanted it. The Philistines returned it to Israel but it was not returned to the Tabernacle (1 Samuel 4–6).

Throughout Samuel's and Saul's leadership, they didn't have the ark with them. In fact, when Saul was king, national worship of God had been totally neglected.



David longed for the Israelites to worship God nationally again. He wanted to bring the ark into Jerusalem (also known as the City of David) as a sign that God, the true king over Israel, was once again in the midst of His people. David fetched it from the house of Obed-edom, an Israelite.

2 Samuel 6:12–15, 17–19

¹² Then King David was told, “The LORD has blessed Obed-edom’s household and everything he has because of the Ark of God.” So David went there and brought the Ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the City of David with a great celebration.

¹³ After the men who were carrying the Ark of the LORD had gone six steps, David sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. ¹⁴ And David danced before the LORD with all his might, wearing a priestly garment.

¹⁵ So David and all the people of Israel brought up the Ark of the LORD with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns. ¹⁷ They brought the Ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the special tent David had prepared for it. And David sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings to the LORD.

¹⁸ When he had finished his sacrifices, David blessed the people in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies. ¹⁹ Then he gave to every Israelite man and woman in the crowd a loaf of bread, a cake of dates, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people returned to their homes.

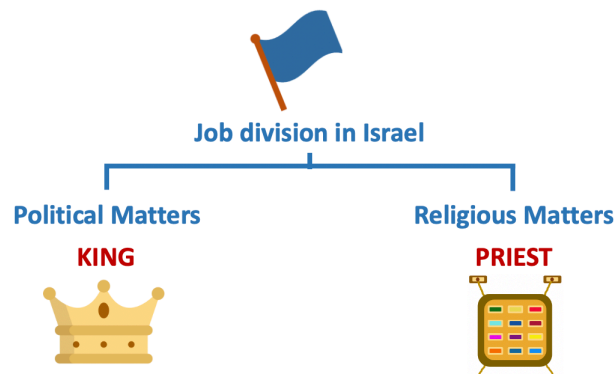


David was doing something very strange! Notice he wore the priestly garment (also called the “linen ephod”) and he was bringing the ark to Jerusalem, offering sacrifices and blessing the people, something that only priests from the tribe of Levi were allowed to do.

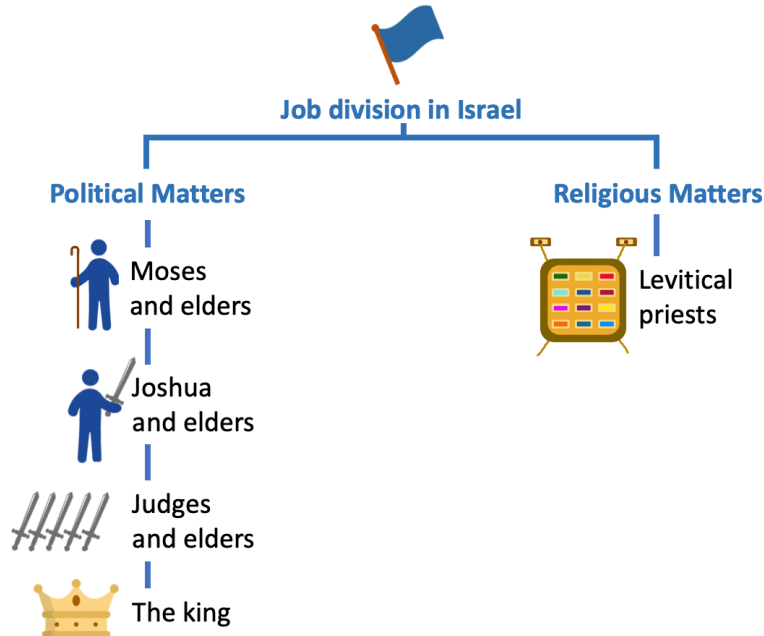


When God gave the Law at Mount Sinai, He told the Israelites that when they had kings, there was to be a split in the traditional king-priest role.

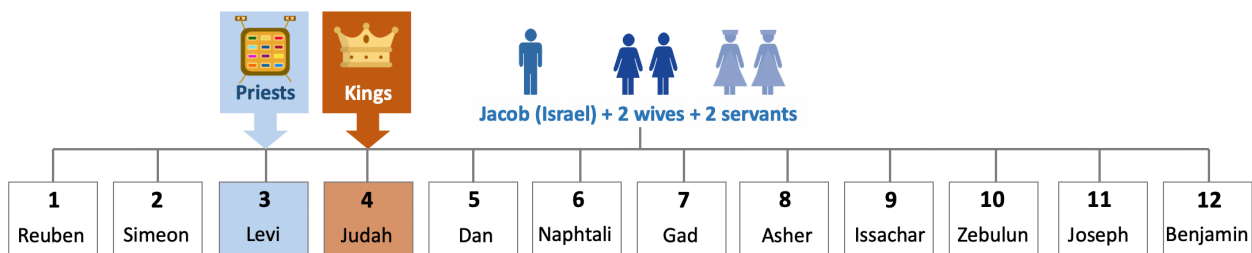
Israel's kings should not be like the Gentile King Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18) who was both king and priest. Instead, the role of the king and the priest were to be two separate offices.



- Political affairs: at first, handled by Moses and elders, then Joshua and elders, then Judges and elders, and then finally the king.
- Religious affairs: handled by Levitical priests.



Both the political leader and the priests were also to come from different tribes. Political leaders would come from Judah (Genesis 49:10) and priests from the tribe of Levi (Exodus 28:1–3).

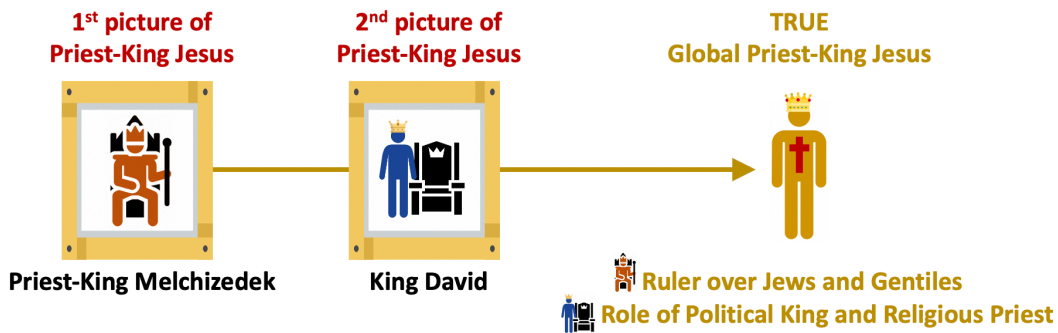


God gave this command to split the authority to prevent one person from getting all the power and then becoming arrogant and corrupted by sin. This was why God was furious when King Saul performed the job of the priest and unlawfully offered the burnt sacrifice when he became impatient while waiting for Samuel to do it (1 Samuel 13:8–14).

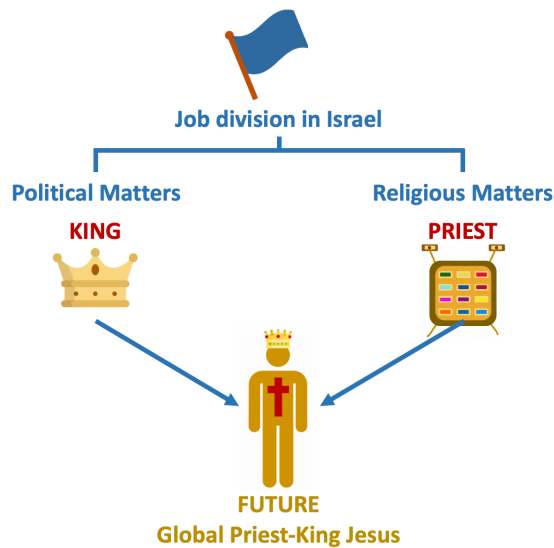
Interestingly, God wasn't angry with King David for taking on the Levites' job of moving the ark, preparing a place for it, wearing the priestly garments, sacrificing to Him and blessing the people. In fact, God wasn't even angry with David for bringing the ark to Jerusalem (which had not been a Jewish city nor Israel's capital until David made it so). Why?

King David: A Picture of Jesus the Anointed King

Earlier, God had used the ruler of Salem (Jerusalem), Melchizedek, a Gentile priest-king of God Most High (Yahweh) as the first picture of what Jesus would be like. God was saying that the old Gentile model of Melchizedek as priest-king over all people (Jews and Gentiles) was going to come back when Jesus comes to rule on earth. Jesus would be the universal priest-king, meant for both Israelites and Gentiles (Genesis 14:17–20; Hebrews 5–7).



God planned for King David to be the second picture of Jesus. When David played the roles of both ruler-king and priest in bringing the ark to Jerusalem, God was saying that there would come a time when He would no longer separate the political and religious leadership. Jesus would lead the people politically and in worship of Yahweh.



This is what Jesus said of Himself.

Revelation 22:16

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star.”

God used David as a foreshadow or picture of the godly messianic ruler that Jesus would be.



C. Yahweh Made an Unconditional Covenant with David

After David brought the ark to Jerusalem, he wanted to do more for God by building a temple for the ark of God. But God told Nathan the prophet to tell David “no”.

Yahweh said there would be someone else (Solomon) who would build Him a physical temple, but it would not be David (2 Samuel 7:12–13). Instead, Yahweh told David that in the past, He was the One who had been giving to David (2 Samuel 7:8–9), and now He was going to give him even more! God then made an unconditional covenant with David.

Interestingly, the Davidic Covenant was not an entirely “new” covenant. Rather, it was directly related to God’s covenant with Abraham.

Abrahamic Covenant

Earlier, God had made an unconditional covenant with Abraham, promising him land, descendants and that he would be a worldwide blessing. But that was all Abraham knew. Abraham didn’t have any details.

COVENANTS

1 Noahic	2 Abrahamic	3 Mosaic
Unconditional No global flood <i>Genesis 8:20-9:17</i>	Unconditional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land • Descendants • Worldwide blessing <i>Genesis 12:1-3</i>	Conditional Blessings for obedience Cursings for rebellion <i>Deuteronomy 28:1-68</i> <i>Leviticus 26:1-46</i>

However, as history moved forward, God made three more “sub-covenants” that provided more details.



First, God made a sub-covenant confirming His land promise.



Land Sub-Covenant

This was made just before the Israelites entered the Promised Land during the Conquest period.

Deuteronomy 29:1

These are the terms of the covenant the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites while they were in the land of Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Mount Sinai.

God told the people that they would be punished and scattered for breaking the Mosaic Covenant with their sin. However, He would eventually bring them back to the Promised Land and they would live there and enjoy it forever.

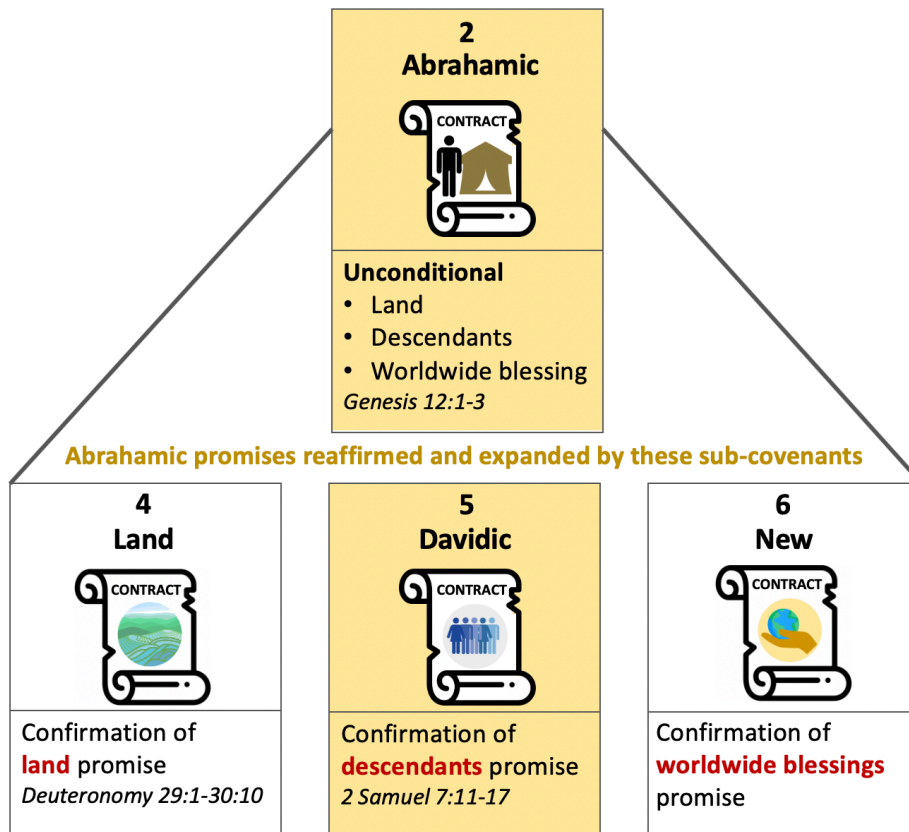
Deuteronomy 30:3

then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes. He will have mercy on you and gather you back from all the nations where he has scattered you.

In making this sub-covenant, God was reaffirming His faithfulness in keeping His unconditional land promise to Abraham. This would give them hope while they remain scattered. Deuteronomy 30 has all the details of this sub-covenant, but in summary:

- (i) God was giving the land to the Israelites (Abraham’s descendants) and
- (ii) they would possess the physical land forever.

The next sub-covenant that God made, confirmed His unconditional promise of descendants.





Davidic Covenant

This is a very important covenant. God made an unconditional covenant with David, promising that He would build a living temple made up of David's own descendants! This is what the prophet Nathan said to David.

2 Samuel 7:11b–16

¹¹ “Furthermore, the LORD declares that he will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings!

¹² For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will secure his royal throne forever.

¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will correct and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do. ¹⁵ But my favor will not be taken from him as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from your sight. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.”

What exactly did God promise David?

PROMISES	
<p>1 The king will have a Father-Son relationship with Yahweh.</p> <p>2 Samuel 7:14a I will be his <u>father</u>, and he will be my <u>son</u>.</p>	<p>David's descendants will enjoy a “Father-son” relationship with God.</p>
<p>2 If David's descendants sin, they will be disciplined but never rejected: David's dynasty will be eternal.</p> <p>2 Samuel 7:14b-15 ¹⁴ If he sins, I will correct and <u>discipline him</u> with the rod, like any father would do... ¹⁵ But <u>my favor will not be taken from him</u>...</p>	<p>If the kings sin, they will be disciplined, but David's dynasty will survive.</p>
<p>3 David's dynasty will always be in Jerusalem.</p> <p>2 Samuel 7:16 Your <u>house</u> and your <u>kingdom</u> will continue before me for all time, and your <u>throne</u> will be <u>secure forever</u>.”</p>	<p>David's house, kingdom and throne will be in Jerusalem forever.</p>

Interestingly, this covenant would be completely fulfilled at two levels: immediate (near) and in the future (far).

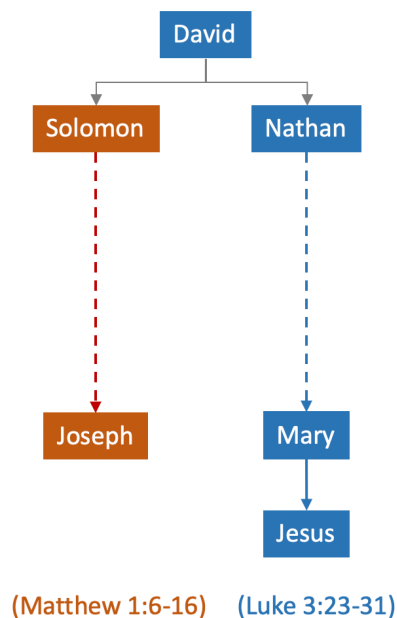
Immediate

David's son, Solomon, would rule after him and build God's temple. Just like David and his other sons, Solomon was not perfect and would sin. God would discipline him. However, God would never take His favour away from him. This word "favour" is translated as "steadfast love" (ESV), "loyal love" (NET), or "lovingkindness" (NASB) in other Bible translations. It is a covenantal love that carries the idea similar to a marriage contract. It is a very powerful, deep, loyal, contractual promise.

God was promising David that His love would never depart from him or his family. This was an unconditional promise.

In the future

Some time in the future, God intends for another Son of David to take the throne and rule David's kingdom forever. This is Messiah Jesus.



Jesus is God but He took on human flesh when He was born on earth as a baby. As a human, He was born into a family where both the human mother and father were David's descendants. Because of this, Jesus can rightly be called a Son of David. Like David, Jesus was anointed (or chosen) for a special purpose. In the future, He will rule David's kingdom forever from Jerusalem, where David's throne is located.

How do we know that David's throne is ultimately King Jesus' throne? Because the throne is called "the throne of the LORD"!

1 Chronicles 29:23

So Solomon took the throne of the LORD in place of his father, David, and he succeeded in everything, and all Israel obeyed him.

God chose to confirm that He has not forgotten His promises to Abraham through the sub-covenants of land and descendants. God wants us to know He is a promise-making and promise-keeping God!



	Noahic Covenant	Abrahamic Covenant	Mosaic Covenant	Land Covenant	Davidic Covenant
Parties involved	God, mankind and nature	God, Abraham and descendants	God and the 12 tribes of Israel (sons of Jacob)	God and Israel	God, David and some of David's descendants
Promises	No future global floods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land • Descendants • Worldwide blessing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blessings for obeying all the laws • Cursings for disobeying the laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Promised Land belongs to Israel • Israel will possess the land forever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The king will have a Father-Son relationship with Yahweh • David's dynasty will be eternal • David's dynasty will be in Jerusalem
Signatories	God alone (with the rainbow)	God alone (by passing between the animal halves)	God (with the sign of the Sabbath)	None mentioned	None mentioned
Type	Unconditional	Unconditional	Conditional	Unconditional	Unconditional

In a later lesson, we will see how God confirmed His promise of making Abraham's family a worldwide blessing through the New Covenant.



D. Adultery and Murder

Even though David was a God-fearing king, he was also just as fallen as any other human. The Bible records one of David's most infamous sins: adultery that led to murder.

From his palace one evening, David spotted Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, one of his army officers, washing herself. Seeing that she was beautiful, he summoned her and had sexual relations with her. When she informed David that she was pregnant because of the affair, David plotted to kill her husband. He succeeded by making it look like Uriah died in battle.

But Yahweh was angry with David and intervened. 2 Samuel 11–12 gives the details of what happened and 2 Samuel 13–20 shows the consequences of the sin.

The Bible hints that something was already not right with David during this period.

He wasn't fulfilling his responsibility of leading the army during war. He sent his commander instead while he stayed home.



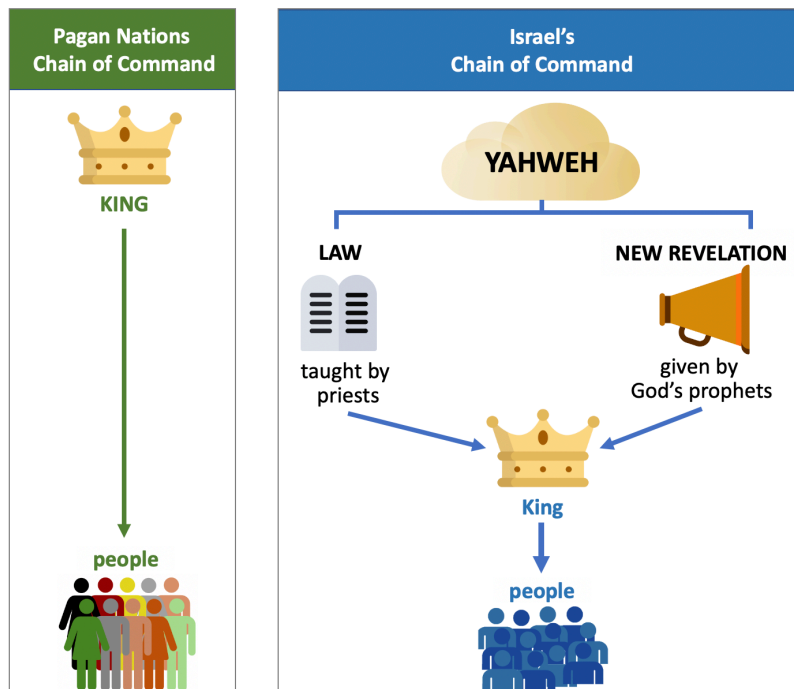
His "big sin" started with a "small sin" of disobedience!

2 Samuel 11:1-2

¹ In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.

² Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath.

When David sinned, God sent Nathan to confront him. Only in Israel could a prophet scold a king. Nowhere else in the ancient or even modern world would we see this!



As king, David was not above the law. If there was a disagreement between the king and the law, the law would always win, because the law is the Word of God.

2 Samuel 12:1–7a

¹ So the LORD sent Nathan the prophet to tell David this story: “There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor.

² The rich man owned a great many sheep and cattle. ³ The poor man owned nothing but one little lamb he had bought. He raised that little lamb, and it grew up with his children. It ate from the man’s own plate and drank from his cup. He cuddled it in his arms like a baby daughter.



⁴ One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing an animal from his own flock or herd, he took the poor man’s lamb and killed it and prepared it for his guest.”

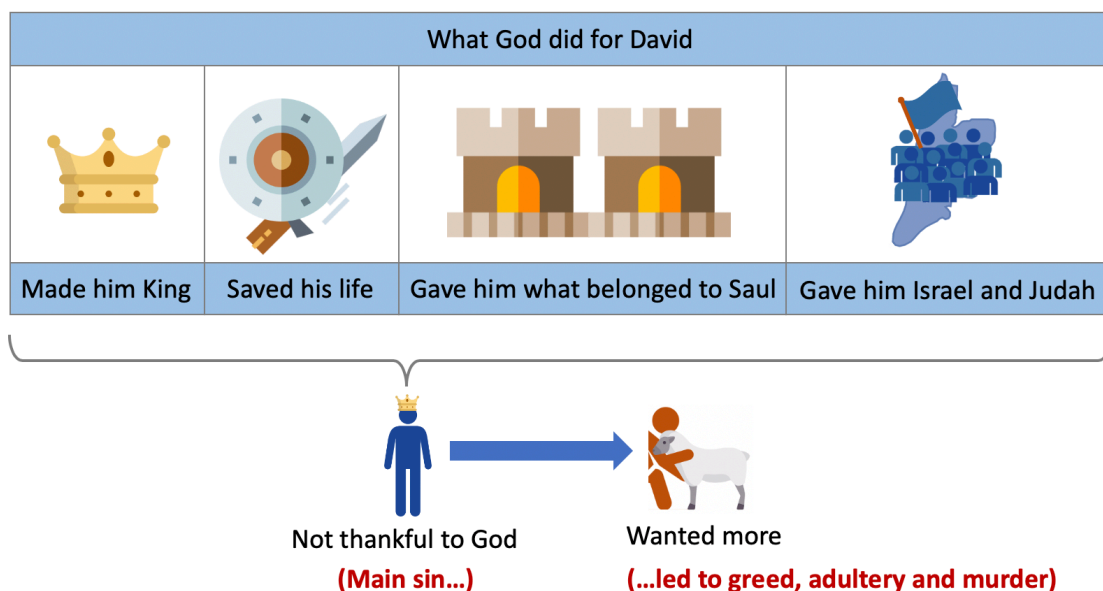
⁵ David was furious. “As surely as the LORD lives,” he vowed, “any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! ⁶ He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity.” ⁷ Then Nathan said to David, “You are that man!”

In Yahweh’s eyes, David’s main sin was not adultery or murder. Rather, it was a lack of thankfulness to God for all He had done for him! That was at the heart of his sin. That was what led to the adultery and murder!

2 Samuel 12:7b–9

⁷ The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. ⁸ I gave you your master’s house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more.

⁹ Why, then, have you despised the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife.



David told Nathan that the punishment for the man who stole the poor man's lamb would be to repay him four times. What David didn't realise was that he was pronouncing his own judgment. Because of what he did, four of his sons died. First, the baby who was the child of adultery died (2 Samuel 12:14–23). Then over the years three more were killed (Amnon in 2 Samuel 13:23–29; Absalom in 2 Samuel 18:1–18; and Adonijah in 1 Kings 2:13–25).



In addition, God said that because of his sin, sins of sex and violence would continue to plague David's family.

2 Samuel 12:10–12

¹⁰ From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own. ¹¹ "This is what the LORD says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. ¹² You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel."

This is exactly what happened. Some of the tragedy that happened to David's family included:

- one son killed another son;
- two of David's sons tried to kill him so that they could become king;
- one son raped his half-sister;
- another son slept with David's concubines out in the open where everyone could see.

Sex and murder continued in David's family.

Also, instead of peace and prosperity in Israel, there was political instability and rebellion throughout the rest of David's reign.



E. Confession and Repentance

What did David do after being confronted by the prophet Nathan? He responded immediately to Nathan's rebuke.

2 Samuel 12:13–14

¹³ Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "Yes, but the LORD has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, because you have shown utter contempt for the word of the LORD by doing this, your child will die."

Psalm 32, 38 and 51 were written by David and they show us the state of his heart regarding this sin.

Psalm 51:1–10

For the choir director: A psalm of David, regarding the time Nathan the prophet came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion,
blot out the stain of my sins.
- ² Wash me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.
- ³ For I recognize my rebellion;
it haunts me day and night.
- ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.
You will be proved right in what you say,
and your judgment against me is just.
- ⁵ For I was born a sinner—
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ But you desire honesty from the womb,
teaching me wisdom even there.
- ⁷ Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Oh, give me back my joy again;
you have broken me—
now let me rejoice.
- ⁹ Don't keep looking at my sins.
Remove the stain of my guilt.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Comments

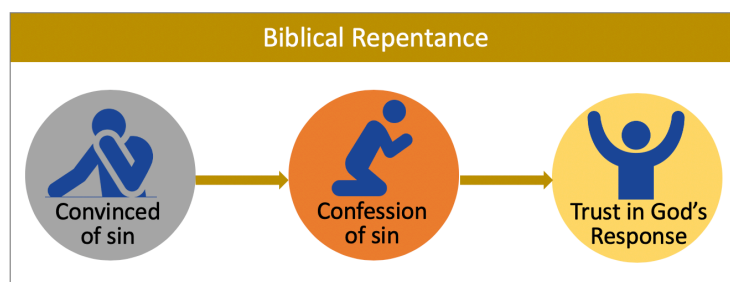
v3-6: **Took responsibility**
for his own sin

v4: **Convinced of his sin**

v7: **Trusted** in God's
forgiveness

v10: **Asked** God to rebuild
his loyalty to Him

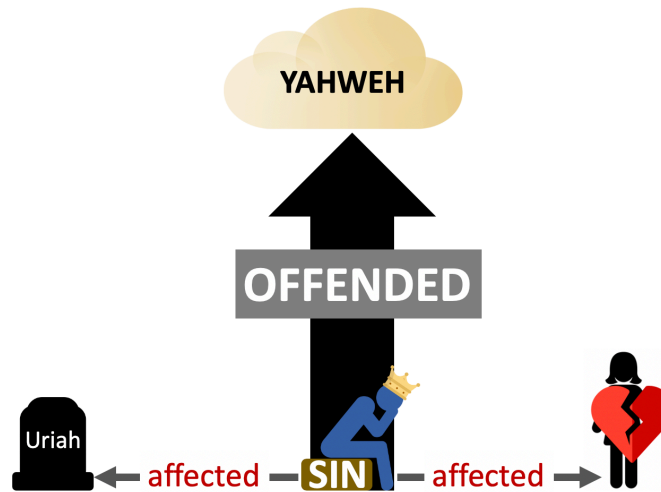
In the Bible, David is the best picture of how confession of sin is done. He showed how he returned to a state of obedience to God. These are the three stages in his restoration.





1. First, David was convicted or convinced of his own sin.

David had to first be convinced that he had done what was evil in God's sight. God was the One who gave the laws of right and wrong. And he had offended God by despising His laws and going against them.



It was true that David had harmed Uriah and Bathsheba. But ultimately, he had gone against God's authority in his life.

Before Nathan confronted him, it seems that David did not even know that he had sinned! We might find that hard to believe, but it was likely that King David had psychologically suppressed his own guilt or rationalised it away. This is possibly why Nathan didn't come right out to tell David that he sinned. He used a story to help David come to his own conclusion. However, once Nathan rebuked him, he was immediately convinced.

In Psalm 51:4, we see that David recognised his failure and more importantly, that he had sinned against the righteous and holy God. His focus was not on himself or on others. Rather, he rightly focused his concern on how he had offended God and His character.



2. David confessed his sin without any excuses.

In his confession, David immediately took full personal responsibility for his sin (Psalm 51:3–6).

- He didn't offer excuses.
- He didn't blame:
 - Bathsheba,
 - his sin nature,
 - Satan or
 - even his circumstances. (God is sovereign over everything. If David were to blame his circumstances, he would actually be blaming God!)

Instead, he said God was right and he had absolutely no excuse. He showed a repentant spirit.

David acknowledged that sin was so rooted in his innermost being and he could not do anything about it. He had offended a holy, righteous Creator-God. David asked God to clean and renew him (Psalm 51:7–10) and to take away his brokenness, pain and misery.



3. David trusted in God's response.

Immediately after David confessed, Nathan announced that God forgave him. This is exactly in line with what the Bible tells us about God.

1 John 1:9

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

David had faith that Yahweh had indeed forgiven him. We know this because after his sin, he continued to love, worship and pursue God.

He asked God to rebuild his loyalty to Him. David said, “Create in me a clean heart.” The verb “create” is the same word used in Genesis 1:1—“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” David was asking Yahweh to rebuild from nothing the loyalty and obedience that he had lost in his sin.



It is important for us to understand however, that while God forgave David, He didn't remove the consequences of sin. Yahweh let David's baby die.

Nevertheless, David submitted to God and humbly accepted all the consequences. He was even willing to step down as king. This is what he said to Zadok the priest while fleeing from his son Absalom who was trying to kill him to take his throne:

Humbly accept
CONSEQUENCES



2 Samuel 15:25b–26

²⁵ “If the LORD sees fit,” David said, “he will bring me back to see the Ark and the Tabernacle again. ²⁶ But if he is through with me, then let him do what seems best to him.”

David lived through all the consequences in faith, not doubting God's forgiveness, but relying on Him for strength to endure them. He continued to have a strong and deep relationship with God.



F. David, a Model King

Despite David's horrendous sin that led to all the consequences and chaos that came upon his dynasty, God gave David a glowing evaluation! This is what God said about him.

Acts 13:22b

He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’

The Bible refers to David as a model king! In fact, the Bible often compared the subsequent kings against David, who is the model of leadership! For example, God compares David's son Solomon against him.

1 Kings 11:6

In this way, Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight; he refused to follow the LORD completely, as his father, David, had done.

Most people would not consider David a model king because of what he did, yet Yahweh does. Why? What did God see in David that we can't? The answer is this: his heart was truly after God and he didn't stay in failure mode.

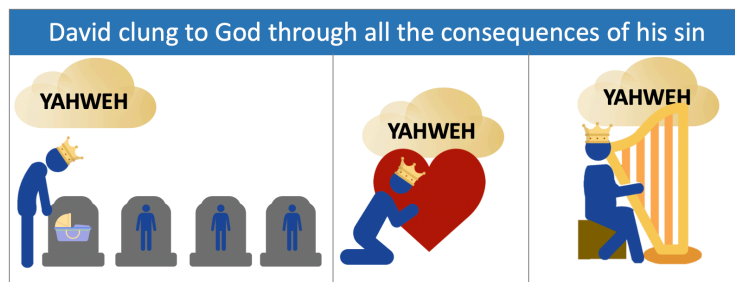
David got right with God and continued to follow Him.

Did David fail? Yes.

Did he have to live through severe consequences? Yes.

But after he confessed his sin, he moved forward with Yahweh.

- He walked with God through the pain and chaos of his sons' deaths.
- He leaned on God through all his ups and downs.
- He kept relying on His grace. He kept worshipping God, writing songs and psalms.

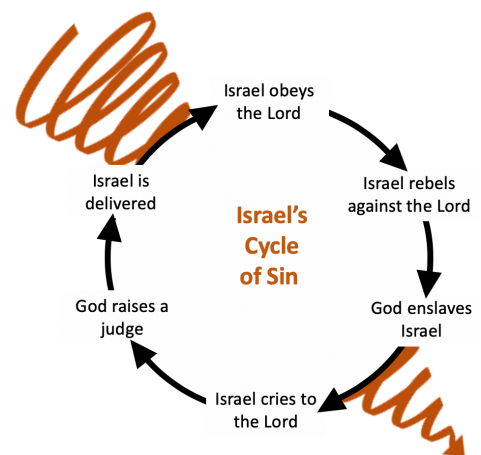


Each time some tragedy fell upon him or his family, he must have remembered the words that Nathan said to him, about how his life would be very difficult. Yet, he never gave up. He continued following God with his whole heart. That's what God means when He says that David was a man after His own heart.

During the period of the Judges, the Israelites had a downward spiral. They refused to turn away from their sin. After falling, they stayed down and became even worse.

But David's heart and mind were focused on Yahweh. Though he sinned, he knew how to seek God's forgiveness and resume following Him. David got up again after falling.

Because his heart was faithful to Yahweh, God didn't disqualify David from being king. God didn't cast him aside, in the same way that He had cast Saul aside. What was the difference? It was David's humility and love for Yahweh. He was willing to repent, change and move forward with God. King Saul didn't commit adultery and murder, yet God's evaluation of him was severe because Saul's heart was not with Him (1 Samuel 15:10–11).



In fact, neither Saul before him nor Israel's kings after him ruled with such a sincere heart of submission to Yahweh. In the culture of David's time, it was common of kings of pagan nations to secure their position by assassinating all their political rivals. Their trust was in themselves to hold onto leadership through their own actions. Saul followed this thinking and behaviour. Instead of submitting to Yahweh when He chose David to be king, Saul became obsessed with murdering David. He defied God. He chose to live independent of God. He behaved no differently from the pagan kings.

David however, broke away from this way of thinking and living. He chose to live in an absolutely counterculture way by depending entirely on God. He trusted Yahweh to deliver on His promise of giving him the kingship. He never took things into his own hands even when he had the opportunity.

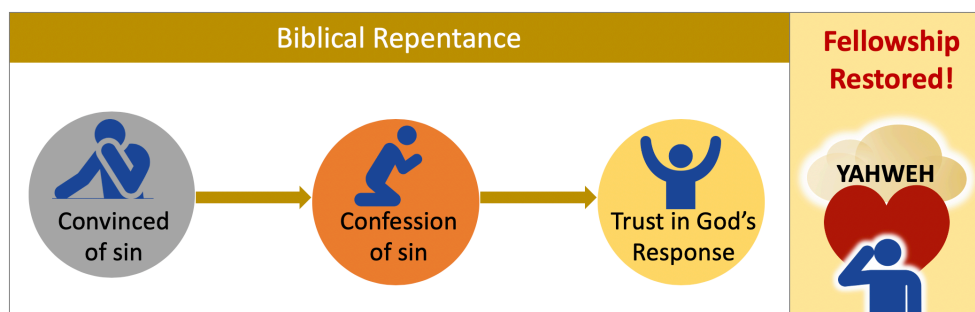
Was this an easy thing for David to do? No. David struggled to live this way. After surviving many harrowing events, David wrote many of the psalms in Scripture. His writings showed his inner struggles, cries and fears. Yet, he recognised Yahweh's sovereignty and affirmed his decision to trust in God. Through the way he lived, including how he survived and recovered after his sin of adultery and murder, David gained and kept the approval and support of the Israelites. (This is one reason why many believers struggling with trials are drawn to the Psalms. David expresses many similar thoughts and feelings that we go through. Importantly, he does not focus on the problems themselves but on who Yahweh is, His character, and on how He is sovereign over all things and why we have good reason to trust and hope in God.)

In later lessons, we will see how these aspects of King David's life present a picture of Jesus' life. David was anointed king but had to be vetted or tested by God before he could finally rule with the support of the Israelites. Likewise, Jesus had been anointed Messiah and had already won victory over Satan at the cross, but He too has to trust that at the correct time, God the Father will give Him the throne of David with the support of men and women from all over the world (Matthew 23:39; Luke 1:32–33; Hebrews 10:12–13).

Three Sanctification Lessons from the Life of David

I. How to be restored after we have sinned

The Bible points to David as an example of how to be restored to God again after we sin, fall and fail.



1. Convinced of our sin

Are we convinced in our hearts that we have sinned against God who is our ultimate authority on right and wrong?

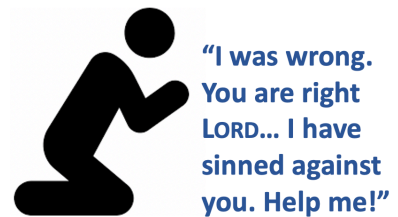
It doesn't matter if we are emotional or stoic: we must not mistake personal expression with what is truly in our hearts. And we cannot solve the mess we've made against people by focusing on the people. The first step to resolving it is to look to God.



2. Confession

Acknowledging or confessing our sin to God without assigning blame is the next step. This is where many fail. We make excuses and assign blame. Instead, we should openly and honestly accept responsibility.

True repentance is changing our mind from our sinful thoughts to agreeing with how God sees our sin. And then turn to God for restoration. We need to be careful not to mistake the emotion of feeling sorry for repentance. Feeling sorry for ourselves or for the consequences is not repentance.

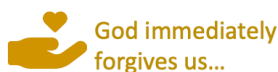


3. Trust in God's response

Faith is necessary when we repent from our sins!

When we are convicted of our sins and confess them, God truly forgives us (1 John 1:9).

However, He may not remove the consequences.



And when we suffer the consequences, Satan and our own guilt might tempt us to think that God has not forgiven us.



We need to remember NOT to fall for that lie because it is a complete lie.

Satan never acknowledged nor confessed his sin of rebellion against God. Satan never experienced God’s grace and forgiveness. Satan wants us to be trapped by keeping our eyes on the consequences. He wants us to believe:

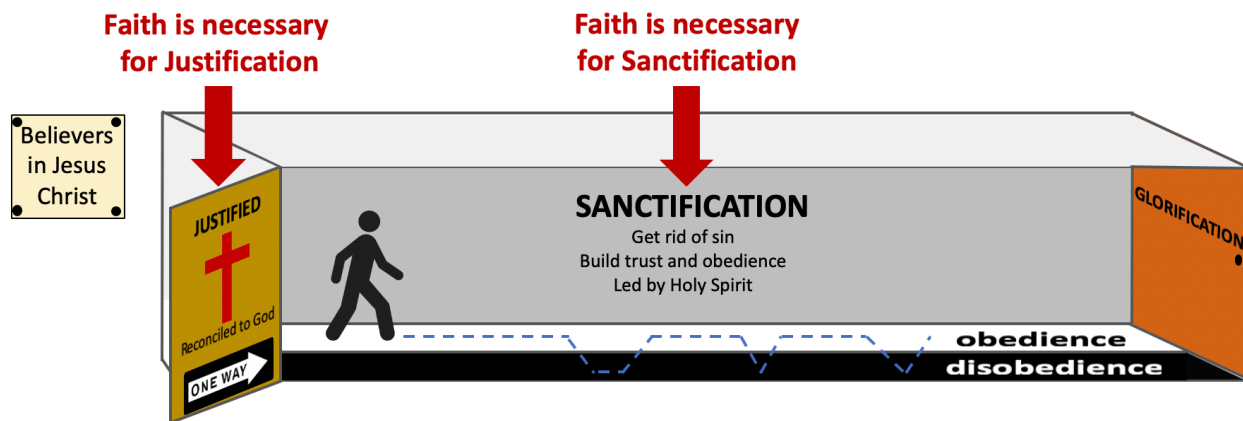
- we have lost our salvation and
- lost God’s grace in our lives.

Both are not true!

We need to genuinely trust in God’s forgiveness!

This is what we need to remember:

- When we put our faith in God for salvation, we trust that He forgives us and will save us from eternal death. **Faith is necessary for justification.**
- After salvation, when we make mistakes and confess our sins with a repentant spirit, we must also have faith that God forgives us, brings us back to obedience to Him and helps us walk through the consequences. **Faith is also necessary for sanctification.**



Let's determine to trust in God's forgiveness so we can be fully restored!

Can I solve my own problems if I just focus on my past?

In some counselling sessions, the focus is on digging into the past. It is said that this is to help in understanding why we did what we did.



While aspects of this may be helpful, it often ends up being just an exercise in assigning blame. Who or what can we blame for what we did?

Maybe we had an abusive past, or our mother dropped us on the head when we were babies, or our fathers never showed us affection, or our teacher discriminated against us, or our friends were mean to us. This is why we made the bad choices that we did.

In many ways, this becomes a blame-shifting or excuse-making exercise. We need to be careful of this.

We need to ask God to help us take responsibility without excuses when it is due to our own sin. And if we had been abused or mistreated, we need to ask God to help us overcome bitterness, anger and blame.

The key is looking to God. He is the One who can restore us just as He restored David from his own sin (adultery and murder) and sin against him (Saul continually tried to murder him). David did not show an attitude of blame in either circumstance.

So we need to be careful about “digging into our past”. We need to examine our motives for doing that. God wants us to walk each new day with Him, trusting Him. Because He can overcome all that happened in our past.

II. How to have faith and confidence in God

David trusted fully in God. Even though he had a long wait to become king after he was anointed, he knew God to be a promise keeper and so he was able to rest on His promises.



Justification

The big picture of David's life was controlled by the promises God made in the covenants to him and to Abraham. This meant his life had meaning, purpose and direction because he was in God's master plan. Though David didn't know all the details of his life, he lived with the confident trust that he was in the hands of his sovereign God.

Like David, believers in Christ also have promises from God. God has saved us by declaring us righteous; He reconciled us to Him, and granted us eternal life. Our justification is secure. Even if we don't know the fine details of our everyday life, we can rest secure that our lives also have meaning, purpose and direction because we live under God's sovereign control.

Sanctification

Because he was under the Sinaitic Covenant, David knew he would be blessed if he were obedient to God and disciplined if he were disobedient. David also had additional information: God spoke to him through the prophets Samuel and Nathan. God dealt with him both in his obedience and disobedience.

As with David, God is sanctifying all believers in Christ. He wants us to grow in trust, obedience and loyalty to Him. While we are not under Sinaitic law, we live under the New Testament "Law of Christ". God will train, discipline and correct us so we will grow spiritually. However, when we fail in our day-to-day growth, we should never be tempted to think that we can never recover or that God has given up on us. Our eternal life is secure. We also take encouragement that though David committed terrible sin, God didn't judge him based on that. Rather, because David sought forgiveness and continued to cling in faith to God, God gave him a good overall evaluation.

III. How to guard against big sins in our life

Yahweh had strict instructions for Israel's kings on how to learn obedience and loyalty to Him.

Deuteronomy 17:18–20

¹⁸ "When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the LORD his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees. ²⁰ This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. And it will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel.



Reading God's Word daily was very important for Israel's kings. It is also very important for us. Learning from God's Word each day is how the Holy Spirit builds our faith and makes us more like Christ. We should take His Word seriously. David's "big sin" started with his "small sin" of disobedience to God. Let us not do the same! Let's determine to trust and obey the Lord! Let us read His Word diligently and let Him guide us in all that we do.

Discussion Questions

Discuss the following questions as a group or use them for personal reflection.

1. King David faced many challenges in his life, some as the result of his own sin. Yet God holds him up as a model of the faithful believer. Why? What can we learn from the way David led his life?
2. Being a believer doesn't mean we will escape the consequences of sin. How then should we handle them?
3. God made unconditional promises to David. How do you think that affected the way he lived? God has also made us unconditional promises. How should these promises affect the way we live our daily lives?



Pre-reading for next lesson: Deuteronomy 32:1–47; 1 Kings 3–11