

## **Introduction to the Study of DAVID: 1 Samuel 16** ***The LIFE of DAVID***

David comes on the scene and into the life of Israel like "a root out of dry ground": his hometown is Bethlehem and he is the youngest of 7 (a very unlikely resume' for greatness). Then, as God's chosen king he rises step by step to the pinnacle of power, prestige, influence, and *importance!*

It is clear the Bible attaches great significance to the life and the writings of David. The accounts of David's life cover 61 chapters of Scripture, more than any other person in the Bible except for his Son, Messiah Jesus. David is mentioned in nearly 20 books of the OT, and in 9 books of the NT. His name even appears in Rev. 22, the last chapter of the Bible.

Of utmost importance in the life of David is his *heart*. The divine author makes this clear from the outset of David appearance in Scripture. God Himself reveals to Samuel His priority for service: "*Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.*" David was God's choice to shepherd His people Israel because He saw the *heart* of David, and it was a heart "after God's own heart." With such high commendation from God, David provides a most valuable and leading role model at nearly every turn in life. Indeed, his life and inner thoughts are used by the Spirit of God as a prophetic type of our Lord Jesus Christ in many of the Messianic Psalms.

The acts of David are exemplary, and a few are lamentable. They are recorded in the historical books of the Bible (1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 1 Chronicles). All of them provide rich veins of valuable spiritual lessons for every generation of God's people. Additionally, David's life fills the Psalms. For it is in the Psalms where David, by the Spirit of God, exposes the hidden thoughts of his own heart: the same heart that received, most often, high praise from God. For instance, in the historical book of 2 Samuel we see David gravely stumble in life; but in Psalm 51 and Psalm 32 we witness his deep brokenness over the vile sins of his soul. Many were the giants David faced in his own life. Some are recounted in the historical narratives (Goliath, King Saul, Ziklag, etc), while others appear in David's Psalms, foes that are all unnamed but no less real. Consistently we see during the extreme trials in his life, David's hope and trust firmly planted in the LORD his God (cf. for example, Psalms 4, 10, 11, many more). David's sincere and unshakable trust in the LORD his God becomes a recurring pattern that cannot be missed but rather to be modeled by all who desire to please the LORD. Likely, David's trust in the LORD supplies the context for Solomon's greatest statement on life: "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding ....*" (Prov. 3:5,6).

Determine to make this study life changing. Wherever we are in our spiritual journey, God wants us to go further; and lessons from David's life will provide such a path.