



David and his Psalms

A Bible Study by Ron Turnbow



David and his Psalms

Syllabus and Introduction

David was “a man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22). What an awesome compliment! How is it possible for this to be said of any human being? You might think someone described that way must have lived a flawless life. Yet, we know that David’s life was not one of spiritual perfection. He faced many challenges during his life, some common and some extraordinary. Some of these challenges were met with rock-solid resolve. He experienced profound failure on others. Our study will explore these highs and lows of David’s life. We will walk with him as he evolved from being an ordinary person to an extraordinary ruler of God’s people. Along the way, he battled a giant-sized Goliath, a king that despised his success, his own personal failures, and colossal family problems. Sometimes we find David squarely in the pit of despair. We will see how his courage and faith played a vital role in his life. Unfortunately, David did not always keep his heart close to God. He allowed temptation to blossom into sin. He learned that his choices carried dreadful consequences. When faced with the overwhelming guilt of his sin, the goodness of David’s heart emerged to help him accept his conviction and confess his sins before God. As a consequence of sin, David’s family life was anything but peaceful. In fact, death, adversity, treachery and treason are just a few of the consequences he suffered. Through all of these events, the drama and emotion was captured in a number of his Psalms. It is through the prism of David’s Psalms that we will have a look at our own lives. Can it be said that you are “a man after God’s own heart”?

And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also 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.'

Acts 13:22 NKJV

Purpose: This Bible study will explore the life and events associated with King David as evidenced in his Psalms. The study is structured around the chronology of David as presented in 1 Samuel 16 through 1 Kings 2. Various Psalms will be incorporated into our study. The ultimate purpose of the study is to help us have the kind of courage, faith, and rightful disposition to draw us closer to our God – to help us be men and women “after the heart of God”.

Objectives: Our study will seek to accomplish the following objectives:

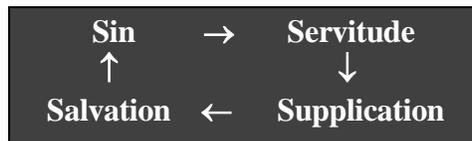
1. Study and explore the life of David and his relationship with God.
2. Based on the account of David, help us understand how our actions and decisions either draw us unto God, or, take us away from Him.
3. Incorporate various Psalms of David to help us understand the thoughts and motivation of David at various points in his life.

Format: Each lesson will summarize a few chapters of the chronology of King David. Each lesson will incorporate links to various Psalms written by David. Our class sessions will focus primarily on the Psalms and the questions contained in this outline. We will do some reading of the related scriptures during class time as well. Obviously, our time will be best utilized if you read the cited passages, reflect on the questions asked, and come to class prepared to discuss.

Course Outline/Schedule: The following table represents our plan for the quarter:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Chronology</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Date</i>
Introduction			July 6
From Shepherd to King	1 Sam 16-17	23, 19, and 8	July 13
In Saul’s Court	1 Sam 18-22	11, 34, 56, and 59	July 20
David On The Run	1 Sam 23-26	12, 13, 54, 63, and 142	July 27
The Demise of Saul	1 Sam 27-31	70, 16, 34, and 86	August 3
Transition of Power	2 Sam 1-5	18, 21, 24, 101, and 133	August 10
Israel’s New King	2 Sam 6-10	2, 101, 105, 110, and 122	August 17
Sin and Remorse	2 Sam 11-12	20, 32, and 51	August 24
Trouble on the Home Front	2 Sam 13-18	3, 4, 27, 55, 61, and 143	August 31
The King Restored	2 Sam 19-24	6, 68, and 138	September 7
David’s Last Days	1 Kings 1-2	39 and 72	September 14
Psalms 22	--	22	September 21
Suggested Psalms	--	<i>As requested during our class</i>	September 28

Background: Under the leadership of Moses, God led the Israelites away from 400 years of hard servitude and bondage in Egypt. During this time, the Israelites looked to Moses as their leader and guide. God provided the law under which the people were to live. However, the Israelites found themselves in a vicious cycle of sin. The four stages of this cycle include:



During these cycles from sin to salvation, God provided a number of Judges to help Israel in their return to the Lord’s service. The last of the Judges was Samuel.

Samuel is sometimes referred to as the “king-maker”. Israel had voiced their dissatisfaction with their current system of government. “We want a king – just like every other nation” was their plea. God responded that the Israelites should be careful of what they asked for as they would have their king. Under direction from God, Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. Saul started off on the right foot, but soon found himself in direct and willful violation of God’s will. Saul did not obey God – he failed as the Lord’s anointed. The kingdom would be stripped from him and his descendents.

God had chosen another to become king and assume the throne. The youngest son of Jesse, a young shepherd, would be the next king of Israel. This shepherd-king was a skilled musician and masterful psalmist...



David and his Psalms

Psalms – A Brief Introduction

The book of Psalms contains inspired songs, prayer, and poetry from a number of people. David is one of the principle contributors. Although our class will not seek to the fully explore and understand all of the Psalms recorded, it is helpful to understand how the book and the individual Psalms are constructed.

The book of Psalms contains thoughts with both historical and prophetic perspectives. Some feature words of praise and honor for God – describing the magnificent attributes of God. Other Psalms contain the prayers of those who suffering and confessing sin. Often, the Psalms are very personal and rich in emotion. Psalms has a way of touching our heart. As you read, you can see the tears and feel the pain as the Psalm was written. Other Psalms invoke a deep sense of victory available through a right relationship with God.

psalm *noun*
: a sacred song or poem used in worship;
especially : one of the biblical hymns collected in the Book of Psalms

Source: www.merriam-webster.com

We often classify Psalms as a “book of Poetry”. Indeed it is. However, the poetry of Psalms is that of Hebrew poetry. Hebrew poetry is quite different from our western forms of poetry. Western poetry is generally constructed on word rhymes and rhythm. If rhyming was the principle construct of Psalms, translation to English would have been virtually impossible.

...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord...

Eph 5:19 NKJV

Often, the Psalmist would perform his psalm with the aid of a musical instrument, generally a stringed instrument. While we don't find any authority for using a mechanical instrument in our worship service today, we do often sing or cite various psalms.

Hebrew poetry uses concepts called “parallelism”. Parallelism involves the interrelationship of various parts of the verse. This helps us understand why ideas and thoughts are phrased certain ways. There are several varieties of parallelism in Hebrew poetry:

- *Synonymous parallelism* is where the second clause repeats the first.
- *Antithetic parallelism* is where the idea contained in the second clause is converse to that in the first clause.
- *Climatic parallelism* involves the subsequent clauses in a verse amplifying the first clause.
- *Constructive parallelism* is where the second clause supplements or completes the first.

***Psalms* (Authors)**

Many of the psalms mention their authors by name:

- David, king of Israel, authored at least half of the Psalms; 73 of them are ascribed to him. Two others are credited to him in New Testament writings (Acts 4:25-26 and Heb 4:7).
- Asaph, a Levite in charge of worship music in the Tabernacle (1 Chron 15:16-17) or one of his descendants authored at least 12 of the Psalms (Psalm 50 and 73-83).
- The "descendants of Korah", the priest who led a rebellion against Moses in Numbers 16, authored at least 12 Psalms. Psalm 88 lists Heman the Ezrahite (see 1 Chron 6:33) as an author along with them.
- Solomon wrote Psalm 72 and 127.
- Moses penned the oldest Psalm - Psalm 90.
- Ethan wrote at least one - Psalm 89.
- Authors of 34 of the Psalms are simply unknown.

Date Written

Psalms is a collection of writings that span a period of approximately 900 years. The earliest is believed to have originated during the time of Moses (Psalm 90, written about 1405 BC). Others were written during the time of Israel's return from Babylonian exile (Psalm 126, Psalm 147-150, written approximately 500 BC). In our study *David and his Psalms*, we will consider the Psalms written during the lifetime of David, or approximately 1063 BC.

Purpose of the Psalms

The purpose of the various Psalms differ somewhat, depending on the author and the occasion of the writing. For example:

- Almost all of the Psalms, in one way or another call the believer's attention to a notable characteristic or attribute of God.
- Some Psalms reflect on the role that God should play in the believer's life.
- Many of the Psalms reflect on God's work in the ancient nation of Israel.
- Several psalms are prayers of confession and beautiful sentiments of repentance.
- Many psalms call on God to punish the wicked and enemies of the author or Israel.



David and his Psalms

Lesson 1 – From Shepherd to King

Chronology Summary:

A. The Chosen One (1 Samuel 16)

1. Saul failed as the Lord's anointed one. God chose a new king to rule over his people. God ordered Samuel to go anoint one of the sons of Jesse, a man from Bethlehem. Samuel voiced concern that Saul would kill him if he found out the purpose of his journey. God provided a camouflage to conceal the purpose of the visit. Samuel was to appear as though he was traveling to perform a sacrifice. God told Samuel to anoint the man as selected by God himself. (16:1-5)
2. The sons of Jesse presented themselves before God and Samuel. Samuel, looking at the outward appearance, thought God would have selected Eliab. God was not looking at the outward, but the heart of the person. Eliab was not selected. All of Jesse's sons presented themselves before God and Samuel, except the youngest - David. Samuel inquired as to the location of the remaining son. Jesse explained that his youngest boy was out tending sheep. When David arrived, God instructed Samuel to anoint him. Samuel did as instructed. (16:6-13)
3. From that time forward, God was with David. The spirit of God left Saul and evil spirits caused him grief. Saul's servants recognized the need for someone to soothe Saul. They recommended that Saul procure the services of a musician to play the harp. This music would help calm Saul when the evil spirit was troubling him. One of the men recommended Saul employ the musical services of David, son of Jesse. When the request for David's services reached Jesse, he loaded a donkey with gifts and sent it with his son to Saul. David was skillful in refreshing the spirit of Saul when the evil spirit struck. (16:14-23)

B. Battling the Giant (1 Samuel 17)

1. The Israelites gathered to wage battle against the Philistines. The Philistine battle champion, Goliath, taunted the Israelites. Goliath was in all respects a giant, from his enormous physical attributes to his weapons. Goliath proposed an alternative to battling armies. One Israelite would advance and do single hand combat with Goliath. The Israelites, understanding the huge physical disadvantage this proposal carried, became afraid. (17:1-11)
2. Jesse ordered David to go check on the welfare of his older brothers who served in Saul's army. David was instructed to present a "care" package to his brothers and gifts to their commanders. (17:12-19)
3. While David met with his brothers, Goliath came out and again taunted the Israelites. David observed the cowardly reaction of his kinsmen. He inquired as to the rewards for killing the Philistine. The Israelites indicated that greatness would come to the one who killed the Philistine giant. (17:20-27)
4. Eliab, David's oldest brother, chastised David to attempting to interfere in the military affairs. Saul heard of David's questions and sent for him. David volunteered to take on Goliath. Saul, still fearful of the giant, explained the disadvantage David held. David tried to reassure Saul by telling him how he had killed a lion and bear to protect his father's livestock. The defense worked. Saul

tried to put his battle gear on David and prepared to send him to the giant. David, confident in his spiritual battle gear, rejected Saul's armor. David armed himself with a stick, sling, several smooth stones, and his faith. (17:28-40)

5. David approached the giant. Goliath saw that David came forward virtually unarmed. David and Goliath exchanged threats. David then ran to meet the giant. He took one stone and slung it at Goliath. God guided the stone to strike the giant in his forehead. Goliath fell to the ground where David beheaded. The Philistines fled in fear. (17:41-51)
6. The stunned Israelites pursued the Philistines. David carried Goliath's severed head and went to Jerusalem. (17:52-58)

Psalm 23 – The Lord is my shepherd

1. What was David doing when Samuel considered his older brothers as candidates to become the next king? What is required for success in this role?
2. What is significant about the shepherd causing his sheep to “lie down in green pastures” or being led by “still waters”?
3. How does the shepherd “restore the soul”?
4. What does it mean to have your “cup run over” in life? Is this something we should hope for or expect in our lives?

Psalm 19 – The heavens declare the glory of God

5. How might David's occupation as a young man influence his awareness of God? What can we learn about God and our own perceptions from this Psalm?
6. What is noteworthy about David's view of God's Word? Why was it important to him?

Psalm 8 – What is man that you are mindful of him?

7. What was the source of David's strength?
8. Why was David so willing to face Goliath?



David and his Psalms

Lesson 2 – In Saul’s Court

Chronology Summary:

A. The People’s Favorite (1 Samuel 18)

1. Following the stunning triumph over the Philistine giant, David and Jonathan, Saul's son, became the very close friends. The friendship between these two men was powerful and deep. Saul prevented David from returning home to the house of Jesse. Instead, he capitalized on the military prowess of David. David dutifully obeyed the king. In doing so, David experienced dazzling success and grew in the favor of Israel. The Israelite women granted David ten times the praise they offered to Saul. This deeply angered Saul. Saul attempted to murder David on several occasions. Saul knew the Lord was with David now and no longer with him. (18:1-13)
2. David continued to prosper in his military achievements. David grew in favor with the people. This perplexed Saul and caused him to grow fearful. Nonetheless, Saul offered to give his daughter Merab to David as a wife. However, in a strange turn of events, Merab was given to another man. Saul gave another daughter, Michal, to David. Perhaps in a devious attempt to kill his future son-in-law, Saul requested a rather strange marriage gift from David. He asked for 100 Philistine foreskins. Saul figured that David would perish in his efforts to acquire the Philistine foreskins. David went out with his men against the Philistines. He prevailed and presented Saul twice the number of foreskins. David became Saul's son-in-law. (18:14-30)

B. Conspiracy to Kill David (1 Samuel 19)

1. Saul attempted again to kill David. He ordered Jonathan to execute him. The friendship between Jonathan and David carried the day. Jonathan told David of his father’s order and encouraged him to flee. Jonathan helped his father to reconsider the execution order. Saul changed his mind. (19:1-7)
2. Again, David achieved excellence in his military efforts. This renewed Saul's anger. Once again, Saul attempted to spear David but failed. Saul again prepared David's execution orders. David fled while his wife, Michal, created a diversion to provide him time to put distance between himself from Saul. David went to see Samuel. Saul tried three times to send people to take David from Samuel. (19:8-24)

C. On The Run (1 Samuel 20-22)

1. David approached Jonathan to learn what was causing Saul to hate him. David and Jonathan devise a signal to let David know the heart and intent of Saul. The signal came after three days wait. David was warned to continue avoiding Saul. David and Jonathan exchanged farewells before David left. Saul’s anger continued to rage against David. David ran for his life. (20:1-42)
2. David’s running took him to Nob. In Nob, he met with Ahimelech. He fled further to Gath, Moab (where he left his parents), and Judah (where Saul ordered the execution of Ahimelech). David agreed to take care of Ahimelech's son Abiathar. (21:1-22:23)

Psalm 11 – In the Lord I put my trust

1. When challenges came, who did David turn? Why?
2. Did this display weakness or strength?
3. How might David have considered the continual assaults from Saul as a “test”?
4. Why did David behave the way he did towards the man who was trying to kill him?

Psalm 34 – I will bless the Lord at all times

5. What comes to those who trust the Lord?
6. When did David resolve to trust the Lord? What lesson can we learn from this?

Psalm 56 – Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up

7. During his flight from Saul, David felt the pains of oppression and fear. Discuss how he placed his confidence in the providence of God.
8. How does David describe the pursuit of his enemies?
9. What is the relationship between “fear” and “trust”?

Psalm 59 – Deliver me from my enemies, O my God

10. How did David describe those who sought to harm him?
11. List the terms and imagery that David used to describe God. Why are these important?



David and his Psalms

Lesson 3 – David On The Run

Chronology Summary:

A. David On The Run (1 Samuel 23)

1. David learned of an opportunity to help the people of Keilah in defeating the Philistines. He wisely turned to God in prayer about the situation. God instructed David to go ahead and battle the Philistines at Keilah. David triumphed over the Philistines. Saul learned that David was at Keilah and planned to go overtake the city to capture David. God warned David what would happen during the battle. David and his men fled and Saul abandoned the plan against Keilah. (23:1-13)
2. God protected David from the vengeful pursuits of Saul. David and Jonathan met and talked of David's future in Israel. Jonathan explained that both he and his father knew that David was selected to become Israel's next king. David continued his course of safety from Saul. (23:14-29)

B. David Spared the Sleeping Saul (1 Samuel 24)

1. David often found refuge in caves. Saul, and his 3,000 men, continued their pursuit of David. One night, both Saul and David sought refuge in the same cave. David knew Saul was there, but Saul was completely unaware of David's presence. David's men encouraged him to kill Saul. David refused. However, to show Saul that he had been there, David cut the edge of Saul's robe. (24:1-15)
2. David called into the cave and began a dialogue with Saul. David and Saul made their peace and each went his own way. (24:16-22)

C. David Married Abigail (1 Samuel 25)

1. Following the death of Samuel, David sent messengers to Nabal, a wealthy herdsman, for assistance. Nabal refused to assist David. The messengers returned to David with the news of Nabal's refusal to provide the assistance. (25:1-12)
2. David responded by arming his men for an attack against Nabal. Abigail, Nabal's wife, learned of the forthcoming attack. She prepared a gift for David and secretly went to him. Abigail discouraged David from attacking her husband and presented him with the gift. Abigail told Nabal what she had done. This caused Nabal to *become as a stone* (possibly suffering from a massive stroke). Ten days later, Nabal died. David then took Abigail to be one of his wives. (25:13-44)

D. David Spared Saul, Again (1 Samuel 26)

1. The Ziphites disclosed to Saul where David was hiding. Saul assembled his army and went to the Wilderness of Ziph to find David. (26:1-6)
2. David and his servant Abishai snuck into Saul's camp at night. They found Saul sleeping but David refused to kill the Lord's anointed one just as before. Instead, David left Saul alive and still sleeping. He took Saul's spear and water jug as evidence that he was close enough to Saul to cause him harm. When he was a safe distance away, David called out to Saul. During the conversation, Saul repented of his desire to kill David. (26:7-21)
3. David returned the property of Saul. (26:22-25)

Psalm 12-13 – Help Lord, for the godly man ceases!

1. How did David describe his situation while on the run from Saul?
2. What did David ask the Lord to do for him?
3. Was David being disrespectful in his plea to God in Psalm 13?
4. What caused David's heart to rejoice? What is meant by the word "rejoice"?

Psalm 54 – Save me, O God

5. How did the Ziphites, in 1 Sam 23, betray David?
6. How did David respond?
7. Who delivered David from all of his trouble? How might this apply to us today?

Psalm 142 – When my spirit is overwhelmed

8. Describe the emotion of David relayed in this Psalm.
9. Did David feel he had the upper hand in dealing with Saul?
10. Verse 7 asks for his soul to be released from prison. What did he mean by this?

Psalm 63 – O God, You are my God

11. Did David serve the Lord out of compulsion? How do you know?
12. When did David say he would remember the Lord?
13. What is involved in hungering and thirsting for the Lord?



David and his Psalms

Lesson 4 – The Demise of Saul

Chronology Summary:

A. Saul Sought Supernatural Assistance (1 Samuel 27-28)

1. David decided to go live at Gath. He did this to disallow Saul the chance to kill him. Achish, king of Gath, provided David and his family a place to live. Achish believed that David had abandoned the Israelites and would serve him. (27:1-12)
2. David joined himself to Achish as a bodyguard. The Philistines began preparation for another attack against Israel. When Saul learned of this attack, he trembled. He asked God for guidance. God did not answer him. Saul went to a *woman of the medium*, for help. The disguised Saul requested this woman retrieve the spirit of Samuel. When the woman saw Samuel, she knew that she was dealing with King Saul. Saul conversed with the spirit of Samuel. Samuel explained that God was no longer with Saul because of the sin in his life. Samuel concluded his conversation telling Saul he would die the very next day. This clearly terrified Saul. (28:1-25)

B. Saul's Final Battle (1 Samuel 29-31)

1. The Philistines gathered their army at Aphek. David and his men went with the Philistines, at the rear of the formation. The other Philistine leaders recognized David and insisted Achish send him away. Achish told David to take his men and depart. David did as instructed. (29:1-11)
2. While David traveled back to Ziklag, the Amalekites had raided the region and captured the women and children of Ziklag. David's men were furious and desired to stone David to death. David asked God what he should do. God instructed him to pursue the Amalekites and destroy them. David followed the instruction of God. However, some of his soldiers were too exhausted to continue with David. David ran into an abandoned Egyptian, servant of the Amalekites. This Egyptian agreed to take David to the camp of the raiders. David and his men routed the Amalekites and recovered all that was taken from Ziklag. David, proving he possessed an understanding heart, forced the victors to share the spoil with those men who were too exhausted to continue. David distributed the spoil to the elders of Judah. (30:1-31)
3. The Philistines continued their war against Israel. Jonathan was captured and summarily executed. As the battle increased, Saul was wounded. He demanded his armor bearer to finish him off. The armor bearer refused so Saul fell on his own sword, taking his own life. The Philistines defiled Saul's dead body and hung it in the temple of their god. The valiant men of Jabesh went and recovered Saul's body and buried him properly. (31:1-13)

Psalm 70 – Make haste, O God, to deliver me!

1. Who will say continually “Let God be magnified”?

Psalm 16 – Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust

2. What happens if a person loves other gods besides God? How do you love other gods?
3. Define hope. What can cause you to become hopeless?
4. How does a person have the kind of hope that David experienced?
5. Who does Psalm 16 refer to in verses 9-11?

Psalm 34 – I will bless the Lord at all times

6. How do you magnify the Lord?
7. How does God respond when sought?
8. What is required for God to see and hear his children?

Psalm 86 – Bow down your ear, O Lord, hear me

9. Define mercy.
10. What is involved in walking in the Lord? How does being needy, poor, and holy factor in?
11. How does David describe God?



David and his Psalms

Lesson 5 – Transition of Power

Chronology Summary:

A. Mourning Saul's Death (2 Samuel 1)

1. David battled the Amalekites and defeated them. A young man from Saul's camp came to David in Ziklag. David inquired of the man how the battle went. The man explained that things did not go well and that the king and his son were dead. The young man said that he had killed the mortally wounded Saul. He offered the king's crown and his bracelet as proof to David. David mourned the death of Saul and his dear friend Jonathan. David then had the young man executed. (1:1-16)
2. David composed an emotional song in memory of Saul and Jonathan. (1:17-27)

B. Civil War! (2 Samuel 2-4)

1. David inquired of the Lord as to what he should do with Saul being dead. God instructed him to go to Hebron. David, his wives, and his men all went as God instructed. (2:1-3)
2. David was appointed king of Israel. The first order of business was to properly thank the men of Jabesh Gilead for how they handled the recovery and burial of Saul. (2:4-7)
3. Soon thereafter, a civil war erupted between Israel and Judah. The problem began when Judah accepted David as king and Israel rejected him. Abner, the commander of Saul's army, pronounced Ishbosheth, Saul's son and seemingly the rightful heir, the king of Israel. This disagreement grew and a military conflict lasted for some time. Finally, the dispute over the appointment of Israel's king fell apart. Abner and his soldiers were defeated by David's army, under the command of Joab. Abner tried to flee the outcome of defeat and was chased by Asahel, Joab's brother. Asahel was in turn killed by a spear strike from Abner. Abner decided to support David. However, Joab vengefully killed Abner. Ishbosheth was killed by his own men, who in turn were executed by David. (2:8-4:12)

C. The Kingdom Unites (2 Samuel 5)

1. The warring factions of Israel consolidated under David's rule. David went to the city of Jebus to finalize the consolidation. The Jebusites refused to surrender their city to David. David offered an attractive military post to the individual defeating the Jebusites. Joab led the victory assault against Jerusalem. With the resistance gone, David was made king of all Israel. He rebuilt Jerusalem and made it the center of his new kingdom. Hiram, King of Tyre, assisted David in building his palace in Jerusalem. (5:1-11, 1 Chronicles 11:1-9)
2. David settled his prospering kingdom. As he sought military victories over his neighbors, David always prayed to God for guidance. He took many concubines and wives and had many children. (5:12-25)

Psalm 18 – I will love You, O Lord, my Strength

1. How did David describe his relationship with God? What is involved in this kind of relationship?
2. What role did God play in the challenging situations that David faced? What can we learn from this?
3. How was David able to emerge victorious over his foes? How did David feel about this?
4. What is David's disposition toward God for his goodness (18:49-50)?

Psalm 21 – The king shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord

5. What does it mean to “trust in the Lord”? Why is it important to incorporate this into your life?
6. What emotion did David experience upon victory?
7. Who will dole out punishment and vengeance? How might this affect us in life?

Psalm 24 – The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness

8. How did David view himself, even with his military success?
9. Why is it important for us to give the glory to God instead of taking it upon ourselves?

Psalm 101 – I will behave wisely in a perfect way

10. How does one “walk with a perfect heart”?

Psalm 133 – Behold, how good and pleasant it is ... Unity!

11. What significance would unity among the people hold for David?



David and his Psalms

Lesson 6 – Israel's New King

Chronology Summary:

A. Israel's Deadly Lesson (2 Samuel 6)

1. David worked to stabilize his kingdom. He desired to move the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem and install it a permanent temple. (6:1-3)
2. God had commanded the Levites to transport the ark on their shoulders. This implied man never touching the Ark. Israel broke this commandment and attempted transport of the ark on an ox-cart. The cart shook and Uzzah reached out his hand to break the fall of the Ark. Uzzah was destroyed because of his disobedience and irreverence for God's law concerning care for the Ark. The Ark in the house of Obed-Edom for three months. This resulted in a blessing for him. Eventually, the Ark was finally moved to Jerusalem. (6:4-11)
3. David experienced dazzling military success. The names of his army captains and commanders are recorded in 1 Chronicles 11. This passage also shows the number of soldiers in the Israelite army. (1 Chronicles 11:10-12:40)
4. Michal, Saul's daughter and David's wife, despised the success of David and died childless. (6:20-23)

B. No. (2 Samuel 7)

1. David requested that God might allow him to build a permanent temple. God denied this request. God did not want a warrior to build his temple. The response from God was in the form of a covenant with Messianic overtones. However, God did allow David to start the architectural work and material gathering efforts. (7:1-17, 1 Chronicles 17:1-27)
2. David prayed an inspirational prayer of praise. (7:18-29)

C. David Prospers (2 Samuel 8-10)

1. God allowed David success in the expansion of his kingdom. (8:1-18, 1 Chronicles 18:1-19:19)
2. David demonstrated his goodness in the events regarding Mephiboseth, Jonathon's lame son. Often, a new king would seek out and destroy all potential and proper heirs to the throne. This included killing all male children and grandchildren of the king. Saul's grandson Mephiboseth would have qualified to take the throne once Ishbosheth was assassinated. David understood this and chose not to kill Mephiboseth. Rather, David took good care of Jonathan's son. (9:1-13)
3. Israel defeated the Ammonites and the Syrians. (10:1-19)

Psalm 110 – I will make your enemies your footstool

1. Did David think that he would triumph over the enemies of Israel of his own power?
2. What role does God play in the rise and fall of nations?

Psalm 2 – Why do the nations rage?

3. How does David describe the fall of some nations?
4. Which nations will be blessed by the Lord?

Psalm 122 – Let us go into the house of the Lord

5. What role did worship play in the life of David? When was David likely to engage in worship?
6. What made him glad when people said “Let us go into the house of the Lord”?
7. What does David pray for regarding Jerusalem? Why is this important?

Psalm 105 – Make known His deeds among the peoples!

8. Why is it important to remember God and his glorious works? When is it appropriate to do so?
9. What is the covenant that God made with Abraham? Why is that important to David?

Psalm 101 – I will...

10. This psalm contains a number of “I will” resolutions. Please list them here.
11. Will David keep his promise regarding these matters?



David and his Psalms

Lesson 7 – Sin and Remorse

Chronology Summary:

A. David's Sin with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)

1. During the springtime, armies customarily engaged in battle. This timing allowed the soldiers to leave their duties at home with minimal conflict of interest. David sent his army, commanded by Joab, to fight against the enemies. However, David stayed at home. Idleness led David into severe problems. (11:1)
2. One evening, David went out onto the roof of his palace. He looked down and saw a beautiful woman bathing. David wanted to know who this woman was. Unlike Joseph so many years prior, David ran to the temptation before him. (11:2-3)
3. David was told the woman was Bathsheba and that she was married. Regardless, David desired this woman and committed adultery with her. Matters got worse. As a result of the sinful relationship, Bathsheba learned that she was now expecting a baby. Matters got worse. David tried to cover the consequence of his sin by having Bathsheba's husband return to his home and wife. David thought Uriah would have relations with his wife and everyone would think that Uriah was the father of the child. Uriah refused to go to his wife even after David tried to get him drunk. David decided to murder Uriah by putting him on the battlefield. Uriah was indeed killed and David then created a lie to cover the poor battle strategy that resulted in Uriah's death. (11:4-27)

B. Nathan confronted David (2 Samuel 12)

1. Nathan used an illustration to get David's attention. Nathan told David of a wealthy man that stole the lamb of a poor man. Nathan explained that the wealthy man had plenty yet ravaged the paltry possessions of the poor man. The story had a profound effect on David. (12:1-4)
2. David responded to the illustration with fierce anger. David, not realizing that Nathan was using an illustration, stated the wealthy man deserved to die. Although he did not pronounce the death sentence on the illustrated man, David did order the repayment of four times the damage. (12:5-6)
3. Nathan informed David that he was the wealthy man of the story. Nathan stated that David was guilty before God. Nathan spoke the voice of God in condemning David for his sins. David confessed his sin before Nathan and God. God forgave David and removed the guilt of sin from him. However, David would have to face several heavy consequences of his sin. First, David would experience severe family problems. These problems would cause much discomfort for David. Secondly, the child conceived in the sinful relationship would have to die. (12:7-19)
4. Despite David's prayer of mercy, the baby died as warned by Nathan. David fasted, mourned, and accepted the death of his child. After he accepted the loss, David composed himself and did not let the consequence of sin destroy him. (12:20-23)
5. David comforted Bathsheba and she conceived another son, named Solomon. God loved this child. (12:24-25)

Psalm 51 – Create in me a clean heart

1. What is man's responsibility when he learns of sin in his life? Is this popular in our society?
2. How does David view his sin? Does he try to redefine it into something less than what it is?
3. Who did David sin against in 2 Samuel 11? Why does he say what he did in verse 4?
4. Is David asking God for removal of guilt or the consequences? How do you know?
5. What does this Psalm say about the nature of God?

Psalm 32 – Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven

6. What role should the conscience of man play when sin is committed? What can dull the conscience?
7. What is involved in confessing sin to God? What can we learn from this thought?
8. How does God cover man's sin today?
9. Did God ever promise to relieve man of the consequences of sin? What about the guilt?

Psalm 20 – May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble

10. What should we do in the day of our trouble? How about the day of our salvation?
11. Why is it folly to trust in chariots and horses?



David and his Psalms

Lesson 8 – Trouble on the Home Front

Chronology Summary:

A. Severe Family Trouble (2 Samuel 13-14)

1. Nathan had told David that “the sword would never depart from his family”. David did not have to wait long for the turmoil to began. Amnon, a son of David, raped Tamar, his half-sister. (13:1-14)
2. Following the tragic deception and rape, Amnon decided that he now despised Tamar and sent her away in shame. News of the incident made it to David and infuriated him. Tamar's brother Absalom avenged Tamar by killing Amnon at a sheep shearer convention. David heard that the conflict between Absalom and Amnon resulted in massive casualties. Jonadab, the crafty individual who taught Amnon how to isolate and rape Tamar, told David that only the rapist was dead. This provided some relief for the grieving king. However, Absalom was forced to flee from Israel. (13:15-39)
3. Joab knew that David’s heart was heavy over the absence of Absalom. He employed the services of a wise woman to obtain a royal judgment from David to absolve Absalom of guilt in the death of Amnon. Joab devised an imaginary incident, remarkably similar to the case of Absalom and Amnon, which required the king's judgment. David heard woman's story. David realized that Joab was behind this whole imaginary scenario. David talked to Joab about this story and instructed him to retrieve Absalom. (14:1-24)
4. Joab obeyed David and returned Absalom to Jerusalem. Absalom returned to Jerusalem, but refused to meet with David for two more years. (14:25-33)

B. Absalom, O Absalom! (2 Samuel 15-18)

1. Absalom desired the throne and began a political conspiracy to overthrow David. Absalom undermined the effectiveness of David and won the affections of Israel. (15:1-37)
1. David was forced to flee from Jerusalem. During his flight, David received a cursing from Shimei, relative of Saul. Absalom committed fornication with David's concubines to further defy David. (16:1-23)
2. Absalom was taken with his newfound power and deeply desired to end the influence of his father. He was advised to to assemble an army of 12,000 men to pursue his father. Absalom was told that only his father would be killed. None of the men with him would be harmed. Absalom desired a second opinion. He summoned a man who unbeknownst to Absalom was aligned with David. Hushai warned that the advice from Ahithophel was bad. This would allow time to warn David and allow him to escape. The plan worked. (17:1-23)
3. When Absalom’s forces arrived, the battle claimed 20,000 of them. Absalom's rebellion was put down. Absalom was eventually killed by Joab. David deeply mourned the death of his son. (18:1-33)

Psalm 3-4 – Lord, how they have increased who trouble me!

1. What were the consequences David would face as a result of his sin? Discuss the difference between guilt and consequences.
2. When faced with dire circumstances in his family, where did David place his faith?
3. Who was David talking about in Psalm 4:4?

Psalm 27 – The Lord is my light and my salvation; Who shall I fear?

4. Why does David not have to fear?
5. Define joy. How is joy possible when so much trouble surrounded David?
6. How does courage factor in when dealing with trials and tribulations in life?

Psalm 55 – Give ear to my prayer, O God

7. When faced with treachery and destruction, David turned to God. Discuss what he prayed for in this Psalm.
8. Should we pray this way about our enemies? Why or why not?

Psalm 143 – I remember the days of old

9. Why is it important to remember the good times when dealing with the bad?
10. Do you ever find yourself in “the pit”? What should you do when that happens?

Psalm 61 – Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer

11. Discuss David’s response when he heard that Absalom was dead. How is this characteristic of one who is “a man after God’s own heart”?



David and his Psalms

Lesson 9 – The King Restored

Chronology Summary:

A. The Kingdom Restored (2 Samuel 19)

1. David continued to mourn the death of Absalom. Joab rebuked David for what he felt was excessive mourning. Joab accused David of loving his enemies and hating his friends. (19:1-8)
2. David had some work to do in order to restore his kingdom. The hearts of many were turned to Absalom. Shimei, the man who had taunted David during his flight from Absalom, asked for and received a pardon from David. David made his way back to Jerusalem to reestablish himself as king of the whole land. (19:9-43)

B. Rebuilding (2 Samuel 20-23)

1. Sheba, a *worthless* man from the tribe of Benjamin launched another rebellion and was put down. (20:1-26)
2. Israel experienced a famine because of Saul's blood thirst against the Gibeonites. David attempted to appease the Gibeonites by offering them a peace settlement. The Gibeonites requested and received seven descendants of Saul to execute. However, David protected the life of Mephiboseth. (21:1-14)
3. The Philistines waged war against Israel. David took his army and battled the enemy. During the course of the battle, David and his men struck down the giants from Gath (from Goliath's family). David composed and presented a song of thanksgiving and praise to God. (21:15-22:51)
4. The *Military Hall of Fame* for David's military forces was presented. Uriah, the murdered husband of Bathsheba, rounded out this list. (23:1-39)

C. The Sinful Census (2 Samuel 24)

1. David ordered a census of Israel. Joab was ordered to count the citizens of both Israel and Judah. Joab questioned why David asked for such a thing. David reserved his explanation and Joab did as ordered. Joab returned a count of 1.3 million fighting men. (24:1-9)
2. David realized that his order violated the law of God. He repented and asked for forgiveness. God responded through a seer named Gad. God offered David three consequences for his sin. The three consequences included: Seven years of famine, three months oppression from the Israelite enemies, or a three day plague-like pestilence throughout Israel. (24:10-14)
3. David chose the three day pestilence. This was very costly in human life as 70,000 Israelites died. The angel controlling the pestilence prepared to destroy Jerusalem. God stopped the pestilence at the threshing floor belonging to Araunah. David courageously offered himself as payment for his sin. He knew the people were innocent. (24:15-17)
4. David was told to build an altar at the place where God stopped the death angel. David insisted that he purchase Araunah's threshing floor. There he constructed the altar and appeased the anger of God. (24:18-25, 1 Chronicles 21)

Psalm 68 – Let God Arise; Let His enemies be scattered

1. What chance do the enemies of God stand?
2. How should this influence us in our lives?
3. What are the righteous supposed to do? Is this always easy to do?
4. Name at least three benefits David received from his relationship with God.
5. To whom does David ascribe strength? What is significant about this?

Psalm 138 – I will praise you with my whole heart

6. What is significant about David's claim to praise God with his whole heart?
7. How does God feel about half-hearted service?
8. In what way(s) does God offer revival?

Psalm 6 – O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger

9. What transpired in David's life to possibly inspire this Psalm?
10. What would save and deliver David?
11. From what did David seek salvation and deliverance?



David and his Psalms

Lesson 10 – David's Last Days

Chronology Summary:

A. A Successor Selected (**1 Kings 1**)

1. Adonijah, Solomon's power thirsty half-brother, desired the throne. Adonijah figured that his ambition was applauded by his father since David had not spoken against him. Adonijah prepared his forces to take the throne of David. Joab and Abiathar, the priest, sided with Adonijah to overthrow Solomon's appointment. Most of David's mighty men sided with Solomon. (1:1-10)
2. Nathan persuaded Bathsheba to inform David of the trouble brewing in his kingdom. She followed Nathan's advice and approached David with the situation. Nathan likewise approached David and asked him if Adonijah was selected to succeed David. David confirmed Solomon as the selected successor to the throne. (1:11-40)
3. Adonijah was informed as to the confirmation of Solomon as king. This news terrified him and his men. Adonijah feared Solomon. Solomon pledged the safety of Adonijah pending his acceptance of Solomon as king. (1:41-53)

B. The end of David's days (**1 Kings 2**).

1. David's life drew to a close. David encouraged Solomon to live and rule by God's law. David asked Solomon tend to those who caused grief for David. These people included Joab and Shimei. He also asked for Solomon to show kindness to other people. After talking with Solomon, David died. David reigned over Israel for 40 years. (2:1-11).

Psalm 39 – Lord, make me to know my end

1. Why did David ask for help in restraining his tongue?
2. Does your tongue ever give you trouble? How is the tongue connected with the heart?
3. David understood that his days are limited. What does he express to God in Psalms 39?
4. In what way is life like a vapor or a shadow?
5. What is wrong with heaping up earthly treasure?
6. In what did David place his hope?

Psalm 72 – Give the king your judgments, O God

7. What did David ask of God concerning his son, Solomon, in Psalms 72? Please list his requests here.
8. Is there anything improper about David requesting these things for his son?
9. What is significant about the change of focus in 72:18? Why do you think David made this change?
10. How does David end this Psalm?



David and his Psalms

Lesson 11 – Psalm 22

Psalm 22 – My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?

1. Does David write of his own suffering, or that of someone else? How do you know?
2. Explain how this Psalm is messianic in its prophesy of the suffering, death, resurrection of Jesus.
3. What are the specific elements of suffering mentioned? Please cross reference this list to the various writings of Christ's suffering.
4. Who is able to bring relief to the sufferer of this psalm?
5. What did the Psalmist refer to in verse 18? What is significant about this being recorded some 1000 years before Christ?
6. Explain the change of tone in Psalm 22 away from suffering and despair in verse 21. What significant statement is made to alter the tone?
7. Summarize the message and tone of the Psalm from verse 22 onward.