

The Life of David: Conclusion

Call to Worship: Psalm 106:1-3

1st Scripture: 1 Chronicles 29:26-30

2nd Scripture: 1 Kings 2:10-12

Hymn Insert- *Come People of the Risen King*

Hymn #224- *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

Hymn #216- *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Introduction:

While we could continue on, working through the first chapter and a quarter (or so) of 1 Kings, since David is involved there, by and large, that material is preparatory for the reign of Solomon. It deals with the rebellion and judgment of Adonijah, who seeks to take the throne of his father, contrary to the will and design of David (and more importantly, God), who would have Solomon replace David.

And so, this morning, we will end this lengthy series, skipping ahead to our main text, where we are told of David's death.

I. Remembering David

"So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David" (vs. 10). Having preached 118 sermons on the life of David, over the last 2 1/2 years or so, the question must be begged: How do I sufficiently close out this series?

I suppose I can take the Veggie Tales approach and emphasize the great faith of David, how he defeated the giant Goliath and conquered all of his enemies. Certainly, much can be learned from the prosperity of David, his great faith, being a man after God's own heart... etc, and while I hope that we have laid hold of such a profound testimony and benefitted from it, that is not where I will be going this morning. Or, maybe I can take the Hollywood dramatic approach, and really cash in on David's hardships, especially his love affair with Bathsheba. Again, while much can be gleaned from pondering the sins and the repentance of David, I believe that we have done that quite extensively already.

What I want to do this morning is reiterate what I believe to be most important in the life of David. I want to pull back from the trees and look at the forest, so that we can walk away from this series with a sobering reminder of God's broader purpose in all of the history of redemption. To that end, David's life is really just another piece in a very large puzzle. You see,

in reality, David was what David was, and David is included in this glorious, rich, living Book of infallible, inerrant truth, because David found grace in the eyes of a sovereign God, who works all things out, to the minutest detail, according to His perfect will. And to that end, we can say that David's life and story is God's story.

In Ephesians 1:11, the Apostle Paul reminds us of a profound and deep truth, embedded in a statement about our wondrous redemption: "In [Christ] also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him *who works all things according to the counsel of His will.*" We would be foolish to miss here, not only the fact that David's life is to be included in the "all things" of God's preordained will, but ALL THINGS (every minute detail of history and all who enter it, and every action performed in it) are to be included in the "all things" here. This is God's story... all of it! David's life is God's story... all of it! And God's power and glory are so exalted, that the pen which He uses to convey divine truth, is inked, in part, with the unfolding of history!

And so, when we ponder the life of David, we remind ourselves, in accordance with Ephesians 2:10, that David was God's "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that (he) should walk in them."

Looking then, at the life of David through this bigger lens, we note the following essential conclusions:

1) Recognizing the depraved, fallen nature of man, it is important for us to understand that David (as well as all men for that matter) is Saul, apart from the grace of God. In fact, we can say that David, left to his own natural, fallen inclinations is best defined by his sin with Bathsheba. The real David is the adulterer, the liar and the murderer. The Holy Spirit regenerated and redeemed David; the beloved in Christ, before the foundation of the world David, is the faithful, giant conquering, humble, man after God's own heart. And brethren, this goes for every man (or woman) of God, ever to be used by God in all of history.

Now, why is this important? Because our natural inclination is to exalt man, and to attribute giftedness, faithfulness and virtue to the will of the creature, rather than to the will and power of God. Now, while we ought to honor all of God's people, and to recognize giftedness and to speak well of those who have faithfully finished the race, at the same time, we must

always be quick to pull back the curtain of their flesh, and to recognize the Christ who is in them, as the real source, power and provider of every outward virtue. Without Christ, we can do nothing. Christ is the Author and Finisher (Perfector) of our faith. It is God, who is at work in us TO WILL and TO DO according to His good pleasure. Like Noah, we differ from the rest of the world only because we have "found grace in the eyes of God." Abraham left an idolatrous household, in an idolatrous land, because God went to him, and called him out.

Recognizing these things, brethren, is a critical means of sustaining a living, breathing humility within each and every one of us. Seeing God first and foremost, in and by the workings of His people, will serve to make us powerful, useful tools in the hands of God. It will lead us to walk humbly before our God and men. It will provoke in us a fervent jealousy, which will hunger after obedience to the holiness of God, while at the same time, causing us to come alongside of sinners, calling them to repentance and faith, rather than looking down upon sinners, as if we rest in a righteousness that is our own. And so, firstly then, let us ever recall to mind that the David, whom we admire and love, is the David, who in every noble and righteous sense, exemplifies our beloved Christ! What we see and love in the saints of God: their humility, their gifts, their love, their holiness, their obedience, their faithfulness and whatever else is lovely to behold, are all glorious reflections of the Lord Jesus Christ, who dwells in them. Let's not lose Christ in our view of the individual.

2) That being the case, let us ever be reminded that every molecule invested in the forming of this amazing world (and solar system and galaxy and universe, and hidden heavenly realm, and whatever else exists beyond that); every simple and complex molecule, protein and cell, which God has created; indeed, every fiber of this creation (and everything ever created), visible and invisible, living and non-living, exists for the ultimate purpose of glorifying and exalting the Lord Jesus Christ! When all there was was God, and God initiated any act of creation (be it angel or man, animal or star, whale or single celled amoeba), the glory of Christ was set as the magnet, toward which, every purpose was fixed and would be drawn. We love to read good and interesting biographies. Creation, history, existence of any kind is a "glory of Christ" biography!

Christian, your life and salvation are first and foremost for the glory of Christ. You're one small piece of that immense puzzle! Unbeliever, your life, and should you die in your sin, your very condemnation will be unto the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ! All of this is His... it is by Him and to Him and for Him, in keeping with the indestructible and righteous blueprint of our God and Creator! And so, the zeal of the Lord of hosts is accomplishing, and will accomplish in its fullness, a Christ centered, Christ glorifying, Christ exalting Kingdom! And therefore, we should expect this reality to permeate the very outworking of history itself, which brings us to our third point.

3) In the life of David, we find God continuing to unfold and fulfill His promise from Genesis chapter 3, in keeping with His glorious plan of redemption. It is through David, that God will forever secure the kingdom in Judah, culminating in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, who, as the God Man, ascends the universal throne over all things in heaven and on earth and under the earth, forever! The scepter will be carried by Judah in accordance with the eternal will of God. God's covenant with David secures this promise!

And so, as we worked through the life of David, we saw God's plan of redemption continuing to unfold, reminding us that in the midst of all of mankind's designs and plans; in the midst of the rising and falling of nations, the rising and falling of dictators; in the midst of man thinking that he is leaving his mark on history in any respect, God proves that every single detail of this history is a servant (a handmaiden) of God; a small tributary ultimately spilling into the ocean of God's plan of redemption. We live in the unfolding of history, one day at a time, just like David did, but as we are given the privilege and opportunity to see the completed package of David's life, we are reminded that history is God's story... as equally with us, as it was with David. And so, we don't get swept away in the current of political events. We are not moved by the wrath and injustice of men, for we know, that history still serves the same Master, which it has served since the beginning. And in the midst of much chaos; in the midst of the collapse of a rebellious nation, God is yet calling his people out of the four corners of the earth, to be redeemed subjects of His Beloved Son! And when the dust clears; when the smoke settles, all who are in Christ will be standing, and all who are against Him will be destroyed!

Oh brethren, let the Scriptures; let these precious pages of Holy Writ, continually take us through the portal of this flesh and into the heavenly places, so we can see what really is, in the light of what seems to be, and live accordingly! And consider that even as God has, at just the right time, sent Samuel to anoint the child David; apart from any inclination or movement on David's part (he was just caring for his father's sheep); and even as God sent His Son into the world to redeem sinners, in the fullness of the times, likewise, He has called you brethren, out of this world and into His marvelous grace, right in accordance with His glorious and eternal plan, not a moment too soon or late!

4) As we end now, our consideration of the life of a man of God; faithful, prosperous, humble, not without sin, not without much toil and ongoing trial, we are finally told that David rested. David has entered his rest in the joy of the Lord! David reigned in Israel for forty years, but he has since reigned with Christ for some three thousand years now, moving toward eternity!

His sins and his sufferings are all put away. They're merely recorded here for our present benefit in the battle. We borrow from him, but they have no direct link to him anymore, and they haven't, since he has entered into his rest!

a) Brethren, let us live in light of that rest. The toil and the battle; the sacrifice and the trial, the temporal and the worldly, are all very, very short term. We must live here for the time being, but we ought to live with the mindset that embraces our eternal rest. [Read Hebrews 11:13-16]

b) To the unbeliever, this is all you have. So temporary, so fragile, so unstable, so unfulfilling, and all for what? What profit is there in gaining the whole world and losing your very soul? What would you give in exchange for your soul? Would you trade your never dying soul for a day's pleasure? Take a look around you. We're all dying. Why not give what you cannot keep to gain what you cannot lose? The Gospel!!!

Amen!!!

Benediction: Jude 1:24-25