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Dear Associates and Friends,

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This month's article is the third installment of the biblical history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.<sup>1</sup> Read "[Israel and Judah: 3. David, Philistines, and Uzzah](#)." King David is still center stage as the larger-than-life character who, on one hand, is a man who is deeply meditative and profoundly loves God. On the other hand, David can easily be perceived as a killer, a mass murderer, an adulterer, and power hungry, even a beast-like person.

His outer life is on display in the books of Samuel-Kings and Chronicles, while his inner contemplative life is displayed in the Psalms which were written by him. They exhibit his love of God. In return David is much beloved by God. Yet David's negative personal characteristics and actions in life have been told and written about extensively.

One book in particular is by Baruch Halpern, *David's Secret Demons: Messiah, Murderer, Traitor, King* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001). The title well describes Halpern's topic and point of view. It is one of those wonderfully detailed books of deep and wide biblical scholarship where everything is true except the text, everything is possible except what is described, and every motivation is obvious except what is stated plainly.

What do biblical authors say about David?

**"Yahweh said to Samuel, '... For not as a human sees, does the One, Elohim, see. A human sees the visible appearance, yet Yahweh sees into the heart.'"**

**• 1 Samuel 16:7**

- On the day David was anointed to be future king, "**the spirit of Yahweh prospered on David from that day onward**" (1 Samuel 16:13).
- "**He [YHWH] is the One magnifying the salvations of His king. And showing benignity [*chesed*, loving kindness] to His anointed, To David, and to his seed for the eon" (2 Samuel 22:51).**
- "**Solomon replied, You have shown great benignity to Your servant, my father David, as he walked before You in faithfulness and in righteousness and in uprightness of heart with You. You kept toward him this great benignity [*chesed*, loving kindness], ..."** (1 Kings 3:6).
- "**Should you be walking in My ways so as to keep My statutes and My instructions, just as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days**" (1 Kings 3:14).
- "**As for you [Solomon], if you should walk before Me, just as your father David walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness by doing according to all that I have instructed you, and if you should keep My statutes and My ordinances, ... [great blessings will result]" (1 Kings 9:4).**
- David spoke words of truth by God's Holy Spirit, as Jesus says: "**For he, David, said, in the holy spirit, 'Said the Lord to my Lord, 'Sit at My right, Till I should be placing Thine enemies for a footstool for your feet''"**" (Mark 12:36).

<sup>1</sup> The first article in the series was "[Israel and Judah: 1. Saul and David](#)" and the second was "[Israel and Judah: 2. David as King](#)." Most all biblical quotations are from the Concordant Version of the Old Testament (Concordant Publishing Concern, Almont, MI 48003), used with permission.

In the New Testament we are told by the apostle Paul speaking in Pisidian Antioch about King David of Israel and what kind of man he was. There is always man's assessment and then there is God's assessment of a man. Reread the first quote of this Newsletter above, 1 Samuel 16:7. God judges the heart accurately and here is his assessment of David's heart in spite of everything he did wrong in his life:

**“And, deposing him [King Saul], He rouses David for their king, to whom He said also, in testifying, ‘I found David, of Jesse, a man according to My heart, who will be doing all My will.”**

• **Acts 13:22, quoting  
1 Samuel 13:14**

Remember, none of this information regarding David has a direct bearing on salvation, not David's salvation or your salvation. You are not compared to David or any other person regarding salvation except that as believers we are all “in Christ.” Just as Abraham's nephew Lot, who chose to live in Sodom, was declared to be “just” by God, so too we are more than just, we are justified “in Christ.” Note the list in this verse below: **“just man ... just man ... just soul ... devout.”** Peter gives us an interesting description of Lot.

**“[God] rescues the just man, Lot, harried by the behavior of the dissolute in their wantonness (for the just man dwelling among them, in observing and hearing from day to day, tormented his just soul by their lawless acts), the Lord is acquainted with the rescue of the devout out of trial, ...”**

• **2 Peter 2:7–9**

Read this passage in other translations, underlining where I have underlined. Most of us think, “that idiot Lot lived in a cesspool, of course he's going to be covered with filth.” Well, God looks upon the heart and He rescued Lot. Apparently Lot was affected less than you or I would be. The heroes of the faith were not without sin or fault. The heroes of faith in Hebrews chapter 11 had frailties, yet they did what God wanted them to do, as He guided them. King David's advice to his heir, Solomon, shows a similar understanding:

**“And you, Solomon my son, know the Elohim of your fathers, and serve Him wholeheartedly and with a delighting soul, for Yahweh inquires into all hearts, and He understands every form of devisings. If you seek after Him, He shall be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He shall cast you off for the future.”**

• **1 Chronicles 28:9**

Most people think King David was one of the better, more noble people in the Bible and in history. But his heart was as desperately wicked as is yours and mine (Jeremiah 17:9), and his faults are on display to the ends of the ages! We can never completely reconcile the contradictions about people in the biblical accounts.

One moment we are true to the principles of life, the next moment we embrace principles of death. Such is our human condition inherited from the first Adam and made righteous by Christ expressed in Romans.

## **Thank You**

All of us communicate with the minds of other people each time we write a note or speak to each other, or meet face-to-face. God communicates with us through His written Word and His messengers who arrange circumstances in our lives. We will be very surprised how He does that for us in this our “early development” stage of becoming resurrected children of God.

We will someday know fully the “mechanism” how His Holy Spirit transmits God and Christ's messages for us to grow in grace and in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18), as we build character through endurance (2 Peter 1:6). As babes now we can only make inarticulate noises to God and Christ both (Romans 8:26).

We wish we could show our gratitude adequately to you for letting us help others as we serve you, one newsletter, one commentary, one article, one book at a time. Thank you for your gracious help.

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