

## ***The Five Key Cities and Seasons in the Life of David***

### **I. WHY WE SHOULD STUDY THE LIFE OF DAVID**

- A. God called David “the man after God’s heart”. By studying David’s life we learn what God is looking for and how David developed the “spiritual root system” in his secret history in God.  
*<sup>14</sup> The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart... (1 Sam. 13:14)*
1. To obey the commands of God's heart: setting our heart to fully obey God
  2. To study the emotions of God's heart: experiencing intimacy with God
  3. To contend for the purpose of God’s heart: full power and purpose in this generation. Find out what God is doing in your generation then fully throw yourself into it.  
*<sup>36</sup> David...served the purpose of God in his own generation... (Acts 13:36, NAS)*
- B. God’s eyes search the earth for those whose heart is fully His. God is looking for something very specific. He called David based on his heart responses.  
*<sup>9</sup> For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. (2 Chr. 16:9)*
- C. David is a witness or picture of what God is looking for. He is a model for obedience and faith.  
*<sup>4</sup> Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people. (Isa. 55:4)*
- D. The Holy Spirit will raise up shepherds who are after His heart like David was.  
*<sup>15</sup> I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding (of God’s heart). (Jer. 3:15)*
- E. By studying David's life, we learn how to better view life through the eyes of the Spirit.
1. What David saw about God's heart: David, the theologian of God’s beauty and affection
  2. What David saw about himself in God's sight: David’s beauty before God’s eyes
  3. What David saw about others through God's eyes: David's enlightened view of people
  4. What David saw in circumstances: how David handled pressure and prosperity
- F. *David’s life is found in Scripture in 1 Sam. 16-31; 2 Sam. 1-24; 1 Chr. 1-29 and in the Psalms.*  
Each of the five seasons in David’s life, had a specific city and lesson associated with it.
- G. King Saul's rejection by God in two key episodes is the setting in which David was raised up. Saul’s sin at Gilgal (1 Sam. 13) was in functioning as a priest in direct disobedience to God. Kings were not permitted to function in a priestly role in offering sacrifices. The next major sin was with the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15). Saul failed to obey God in executing judgment on God’s enemies (Amalekites). Saul repented only when he was caught.

## II. BETHLEHEM: 1 SAMUEL 16

- A. **The Bethlehem years** (until David was about 17 years old): David developed his **spiritual identity** (as one loved by God and who loved God), walked in **humility** (by being faithful in small things) and gained **understanding** of God's Word (heart). He developed his **spiritual root system** in these three parts of his life, instead of focusing on "establishing himself" in the eyes of people.
- B. David was anointed as king three times. Each had a specific purpose. This was the first time (1 Sam. 16:13). He received prophetic promises that required that he was faithful in the mundane.
- C. David's sense of value or success was found in his intimacy with God, in walking in meekness and in gaining understanding of God's Word. David saw himself and **measured the success** of his life in context to how much he grew in the anointing of love, meekness and understanding.
- D. David was overlooked in this season when the famous prophet Samuel came to his home for dinner and they did not invite David. He was keeping the sheep. This showed contempt for him.  
*<sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord not chosen these." <sup>11</sup> And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "...We will not sit down till he comes here." <sup>12</sup> So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. (1 Sam. 16:10-13)*
- E. David had to overcome rejection by his family in this season (1 Sam. 16:7-11). David did not yield to bitterness nor self pity, but found his life and affirmation in God.  
*<sup>10</sup> When my father and my mother forsake me...the LORD will take care of me. (Ps. 27:10)*  
*<sup>11</sup> My loved ones and my friends stand aloof...my relatives stand afar off. (Ps. 38:11)*  
*<sup>7</sup> Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; shame has covered my face. <sup>8</sup> I have become a stranger to my brothers...<sup>9</sup> Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up...<sup>10</sup> When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. (Ps. 69:7-10)*
- F. David developed a servant spirit this season of his life. He served behind the scenes in mundane ways to help others. He was responsible with small details like keeping the sheep and leaving his supplies in good hands (1 Sam. 16:10-11; 17:22). This prepared him for his future as a king.  
*<sup>21</sup> Well done...you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many. (Mt. 25:21)*
- G. **Lesson:** We focus on establishing our identity in God as we are faithful to serve in the mundane. (Mt. 25:21; 1 Sam. 16:10-11). God knows our address and His timing is never late. David did not try to get Samuel's favor or attention. God needs no help in locating "His David". We don't have to strive to get attention from the leaders. David was out of the sight of men worshipping God and serving. We do not need to push to be recognized if we believe in God's perfect timing.

### III. GIBEAH: 1 SAMUEL 17-20

- A. *The Gibeah years* (David was about 18-22 years old): In this season, David killed Goliath. It resulted in promoting him to national prominence. David moved to King Saul's royal court in Gibeah. This was like moving into the White House in Washington, DC.
- B. David's identity was tested and strengthened by early praise and success (promotion before men) before a time of testing that would suddenly interrupt this season.
- C. David was promoted to a high position and married King Saul's daughter. The young women throughout the nation sang songs of his triumph. This made King Saul very jealous and angry.  
*<sup>5</sup> Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people...<sup>6</sup> The women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul...<sup>7</sup> So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." <sup>8</sup> Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him... (1 Sam. 18:5-8)*
- D. David was tested with praise and adversity at the same time. Early promotion is a preparation for our future destiny. Many stumble in pride in this season. They become distracted from walking in their true spiritual identity, walking in humility and continuing to grow in the Word.  
*<sup>21</sup> The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives. (Prov 27:21, NIV)*
- E. **Lesson:** Do not quickly get too busy to seek God in times of popularity and promotion. David responds to a time of promotion and popularity by continuing to fervently seek God, study the Word and walk in humility before people with a servant's heart.
- F. Saul's personal crisis is the opportunity God picked to use David (1 Sam. 16:13-23). Israel's national crisis is the opportunity God picked to use David again (1 Sam. 17:1-58). In 1 Sam. 18-20, David experiences God's favor in the midst of being mistreated with injustice.

### IV. ADULLAM: 1 SAMUEL 21-31

- A. *The Adullam years* (David was approximately 23-30 years old): David's identity was tested and strengthened by hardship in the wilderness for about 7 years. He was lied about, hated without cause and persecuted (3,000 men sought to kill him).  
*<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (perseverance). <sup>4</sup> But let patience have its perfect work... (Jas 1:2-4)*
- B. David escaped to the cave of Adullam and made it one of his "headquarters" in this season.  
*<sup>1</sup> David...escaped to the cave of Adullam...<sup>2</sup> Everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him. (1 Sam. 22:1-2)*

- C. In 1 Sam. 21-31, David was being groomed for national leadership as Israel's great warrior king. When God raises up a David, He sometimes trains him in the "seminary of Saul", the demonized king season. This season ended with the death of King Saul (1 Sam. 31).
- D. David stumbled in Ziklag (1 Sam. 27-30), but repented. He did not fall to bitterness or self pity. **Lesson:** Do not be swept away with any bitterness or self pity because of being mistreated.

## V. HEBRON: 2 SAMUEL 2-5

- A. **The Hebron years** (David is 30-37 years old): David's identity is tested again in only receiving partial fulfillment of the promises after a long season of hardship and waiting. In the city of Hebron, he was only king over the region and/or tribe of Judah, which was one of the twelve tribes of Israel that God promised him leadership over about 13 years earlier (in Bethlehem).
- B. David wondered, "What if God doesn't want me to be king of Israel in this season." He inquired "Shall I go up?" meaning, should he go to the capital city of Gibeah to replace Saul as king. David's primary focus in this season was to be a lover of God, not in being the king of Israel. David spent 7 years in Hebron. This is the second time David was anointed as king (2 Sam. 2:4).  
*<sup>1</sup> David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "Where shall I go up?" And He said, "To Hebron." (2 Sam. 2:1)*
- C. David's men were disappointed because they assumed that the death of Saul indicated that God wanted David to be king over all Israel at this time. They undoubtedly wanted their promotion.
- D. **Lesson:** We are to function in our ministry assignment without losing our identity as one who focuses on God's love as we minister to people with a servant spirit while staying in the Word.

## VI. JERUSALEM (ZION): 2 SAMUEL 6-24

- A. **The Jerusalem years** (from age 37-70 years old): This is the season in which we walk in our full destiny or the fullness of all that God promised us in this age. This is the season that most long for. His identity was tested as he walked in the fullness of his earthly promises and prosperity.
- B. The Lord knows that the most difficult time to keep His people focused on their primary spiritual identity is in the time of popularity, prominence and prosperity.  
*<sup>11</sup> Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments...  
...<sup>12</sup> lest when you have...built beautiful houses ...<sup>13</sup> and your silver and your gold are multiplied...<sup>14</sup> when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD... (Deut. 8:11-14)*
- C. This is where David was empowered to conquer God's enemies without losing his identity or servant spirit. The third time David was anointed was in Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5:3). **Lesson:** We function in ministry without losing our focus on growing in intimacy with Jesus (Rev. 2:2-5).