

King David Part 1

Turn to Romans 15

In this series, I will not be reading all of the records relating to the background of the prophet Samuel or king Saul. If you want, you can read the records related to these two men in 1 Samuel.

Since King David's life is recorded in the Hebrew Bible (what we call the Old Testament), we should be reminded of the purpose of the Hebrew Bible.

Romans 15:4

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

The Revised English Bible is a bit clearer:

4 The scriptures written long ago were all written for our instruction, in order that through the encouragement they give us we may maintain our hope with perseverance.

5 And may God, the source of all perseverance and all encouragement, grant that you may agree with one another after the manner of Christ Jesus,

6 and so with one mind and one voice may praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Turn to Galatians 5

God is the source of grace, the source of our salvation, the source of our hope, the source of our endurance, the source of our spiritual understanding of all these matters, which comes to us by way of holy spirit. It is holy spirit in each and every one of us that enables us to understand the instruction that is available in the Hebrew Bible, which will encourage us and help us maintain our hope with endurance.

Galatians 5:5

5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

It is by way of holy spirit that we are able to eagerly wait with endurance, for our hope. This waiting is not a passive waiting, such as waiting at a bus stop or in the waiting room at a doctor's office. This is an active, powerful, busy waiting. We are to get busy, walking by the spirit, doing the work that God would have us to do, because we have the hope of the future rewards which we are earning today.

Turn to 1 Peter 1

Because we know that Christ is returning, because we know about our hope and our rewards, we are motivated to get busy about the business our Father would have us to do. This is what it is to Love Christ's return. Since we Love his return, we get busy and stay busy until God informs us that we have completed our tasks and finished our work. Then we can be assured that we will receive the crown of righteousness as our reward (2 Timothy 4:8).

King David Part 1

1 Peter 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born ~~again~~ (from above) to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

Do you understand why it is a living hope? Our inheritance is imperishable, unfading – it will endure and never lose its impact. It is undefiled, it's clean, it's not corrupt or corruptible.

We have not obtained our inheritance yet; this is still future. Our inheritance is safely kept in heaven for us.

1 Peter 1:5

5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor **at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

We have not yet received our salvation, which is part of our inheritance. We have received the token of our salvation which is the guarantee that we will take possession of our inheritance and our salvation sometime in the future.

Until that time, we are to walk by the spirit and endure, eagerly awaiting our hope of righteousness.

1 Peter 1:8

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,
9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Revised English Bible handles verse 9 as follows:

9 while you are reaping the harvest of your faith, that is, salvation for your souls.

Verse 4 refers to all aspects of our inheritance, both that which is received by grace and that which is received by merit. Verses 7 through 9 refer to that aspect of our inheritance which is earned by merit.

Now, you may be asking yourself, what does all this have to do with King David? The next few verses will answer that question.

1 Peter 1:10

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,

King David was also a prophet. He was one of these prophets "...who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours..."

King David Part 1

1 Peter 1:11

11 inquiring what person or time (the circumstances) the Spirit of Christ in them (this refers to the holy spirit which was upon them) was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

They were working to find out how to put all of this together – the sufferings of the messiah, his glory, and the grace that was to be ours.

1 Peter 1:12

12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you **at the revelation of Jesus Christ**.

Turn to 2 Timothy 2

How can you set your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to us in the future, if we know little or nothing about it? This hope is so big, that even the Hebrew prophets were serving **us** in regards to this grace and this hope. King David was one of these prophets.

2 Timothy 2:8

8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David (*this is King David*), as preached in my gospel,

9 for which (*referring to 'my gospel'*) I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect (*the believers*), that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. (*this salvation is obtained when Christ returns*).

11 The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

Romans 6:3-11 indicate that we have died and that we will also be raised as he was. We are to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. So, this “living with him” here in 2 Timothy 2:11 is guaranteed; it is not something earned by merit.

2 Timothy 2:12

12 if we endure, (*this is conditional*) we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

So, what do we earn by enduring? We earn the privilege and reward to also reign with him. We won't just have everlasting life, we will also reign with him. As we will see, a king does not and cannot reign all by himself.

What about the 2nd half of verse 13? What is this denial about? The context explains it. If we do not endure, that is a denial of him. This denial of him results in his denial of our reigning with him.

Christ Jesus remains faithful, no matter what we do. He will reign regardless of any unfaithfulness on

King David Part 1

our part.

Turn to James 1.

James 1:12

12 Blessed is the man (*or woman*) who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

You see, if we endure, regardless of the pressures, mental pressures and challenges that we experience in this life, we will receive what we have earned, the reward of the crown of everlasting life.

Yes, we have everlasting life guaranteed to us, but what kind of life will this be? Will we spend the rest of eternity just inside the gate? This reward is the “crown of everlasting life” which indicates that we have the wonderful privilege to reign with our savior.

In this verse, our love for God is indicated by our endurance. Do you see why it is so important to have endurance?

Turn to 1 Samuel 3

These records from the Hebrew bible that we are about to read are there for OUR instruction so that we may be encouraged and actively maintain our hope with endurance. We are not to give up walking by the spirit no matter how much trouble we get into, or how much the world complains and rejects us or how much pressure we experience.

Living as a believer, walking by the spirit and evidencing the power of God in our lives requires endurance. This book, the bible does not exist to instruct us in how to make OUR dreams come to pass, it does not contain recipes in how to have the best of everything the world has to offer. It certainly does not instruct us in how to find and maintain our comfort zone.

As we walk by the spirit, we are liable to live a life that is full of change. Growth is change and we are to grow. If you do not like change and controversy, you should put down the bible and walk away from it; never open it again. If your priority in life is to live in your comfort zone, then likewise, you should put this book down and never look into it again.

This book and this teaching is for people who desire to grow in the expression of their love for God and who desire to grow in their expression of the power of God that resides in them. It's for people who desire to endure to the end everything that the world and the adversary may throw at them.

There are two people that figure extensively in the background of David, the king. These two people are Samuel and Saul. I'm not going to spend a lot of time on this background material, but I will introduce Samuel.

King David Part 1

1 Samuel 3:19

19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD.

21 And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

1 Samuel 4:1a

1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

Samuel grew up and became a prophet of the Lord. He was chosen, not by man, but by the Lord. The believers knew that he was a prophet of the Lord because his words always came to pass, they were not empty words which were devoid of power.

Samuel was a spokesman for God, he spoke what God wanted spoken. As such, he was God's Agent, God's representative to the believers at that time. This Hebrew concept of Agency is a much deeper concept than anything that we have in the Western culture. To a Hebrew, the Agent of a principle can be considered as the principle himself. For example, my eldest son is my agent by birth; it's part of his inheritance. Because of this concept, when my son is blessed by someone, it is as if they are blessing me. If my son is insulted by someone else, it is as if they are insulting me. We will see this concept in the next record, when God has to remind Samuel that he is acting as His Agent.

Samuel was the last judge of Israel. He did have his sons assisting him as his agents, but Samuel was the last judge. There was no centralized, formal government at this time. Samuel is a transitional figure, when Israel transitioned from a time of rulership by judges to the rulership by kings.

You can read about this in 1 Samuel chapter 7

Turn to Deuteronomy 17

So, how did the kingdom come about?

The mosaic law makes provision for a king to rule over the Israelites:

Deuteronomy 17:14

14 "When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,'

15 you may indeed set a king over you whom **the LORD your God will choose**. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.

So, they can have a king rule over them, but this king will be chosen by God. This is not a democracy; the king is not elected or chosen by any other method. This king must be one of their own; he cannot be a foreigner. How will God make known his choice? By way of His Agent, His spokesman who is a prophet.

King David Part 1

Deuteronomy 17:16

16 Only he must not acquire many horses **for himself** or cause the people to **return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses**, since the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall never return that way again.’

This king is not to establish a horse trading industry with Egypt. He is not to acquire many horses for himself. The horses are used by the military. If you are going to have many chariots and a powerful cavalry, you will need many horses.

How many horses are “too many” horses? The scripture does not say. This requires spiritual wisdom and knowledge.

Deuteronomy 17:17

17 And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

Again, how many is too many and how excessive is too excessive? This has to be answered by spiritual wisdom and knowledge.

Among the wives of the king are foreign wives. These marriages with foreign women take place when treaties and alliances are made with foreign kingdoms. In essence, the king is not to make or trust in many binding alliances with foreign governments. These women will end up turning his heart away from God.

The king is not to enrich himself excessively. He has the position of rulership for the benefit of the nation. The main purpose of this privilege is not for the personal enrichment of the king!

Deuteronomy 17:18

18 “And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests.

19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, (*why?*)

20 that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he **and his children**, in Israel.

Whether or not the king had to personally write his own copy of the mosaic law, I do not know.

Generally when it is written that the king built a palace or did some great work, it does not mean that he did it personally. It means that he had the work done; he commissioned the work. It could be the same way here.

Turn to 1 Samuel 8

The king was to have his own personal approved copy of the law that he could read any time. He was to learn to respect the Lord his God by keeping all of the law and statutes; he was not above the law! His heart was not to be lifted egotistically above his fellow Hebrew believing brothers and sisters. The benefit is a long life and the establishment of his family as hereditary rulers in the kingdom of Israel. That is about all the law has to say about the duties of a king, ruling over the kingdom of Israel.

King David Part 1

1 Samuel 8:1

1 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel.

2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba.

3 Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

Keep a marker here in chapter 8, and turn to James 2.

Samuel was getting old. So, he appointed his sons as judges to assist him in this work. However, they gave in to pressure; they did not endure and ended up accepting bribes and perverting justice. Their lack of endurance had national consequences.

Here is a question – who or what kind of person is able to give a bribe? James 2 has a comment to make about partiality in judgment.

James 2:5

5 Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court?

7 Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

Those that are rich have the capability to go to court and purchase a favorable outcome for themselves. Between the time of 1 Samuel 8 and James 2, things in the world had not changed very much. Perverted justice was for sale to the highest bidder. Typically, those in rulership and leadership positions had access the wealth needed to make the bribes to buy the judges.

Not all the rich are corrupt, but those who do corrupt judgment with bribes are rich.

Turn back to 1 Samuel 8

Another fact about bribes is that they are given in secret. It is such a dangerous business that it must be kept secret and hidden.

1 Samuel 8:4

4 Then **all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah**

5 and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

Isn't this interesting! All of the elders and leadership of Israel got together and confronted Samuel in his home town. They had met among themselves and agreed upon their agenda, all without including Samuel. Somehow, word had gotten around that his sons were taking bribes. How does that happen? How is it that this became common knowledge among the leadership of Israel? How is it that the leadership decided to use this against Samuel so they could advance their agenda?

This situation really stinks! The scriptures do not document the activities of these leaders behind the scenes, but given their attack on Samuel, their motives and activities should raise suspicion. Whatever was done, it was not hidden from God!

King David Part 1

1 Samuel 8:6

6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD.

7 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, **but they have rejected me from being king over them.**

God reminded Samuel that he was acting as an Agent for God. This attack on Samuel and his family was an attack on God. The leadership of the children of Israel was again rejecting God.

God desired to rule over the people so that they could have the greatest freedom and greatest prosperity possible. However the leadership of Israel that day would have none of it.

You see how the devil worked against the weakness of Samuels sons to orchestrate an attack on Samuel and an attack on God. Samuel went to God to obtain His view on the entire matter.

1 Samuel 8:8

8 According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you.

The elders and leaders did not endure. They rejected the Creator and became enslaved to serve the creation. They were slaves of other gods.

1 Samuel 8:9

9 Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

10 So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him.

11 He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons (*he won't ask, he will take*) and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots.

12 And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.

13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.

14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants.

15 He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants.

16 He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work.

17 He will take the tenth of your flocks, and **you shall be his slaves.**

18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

Look at all the taxes that the king will levy against the nation. All these resources that were available for the towns and families will now be diverted to the king, to one man! The people, not just the leaders, will have to pay. They will have no choice in the matter.

God wanted the people to be free. But their leaders rejected freedom and chose slavery; imagine that –

King David Part 1

THEY CHOSE TO BE SLAVES!

Throughout this time, Samuel continued to faithfully act as God's spokesman with great endurance.

1 Samuel 8:19

19 But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us,

20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us (*not Samuel*) and go out before us and fight our battles." (*before this, it was God who went out before them and fought for them*)

21 And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people (*the elders, the leadership*), he repeated them in the ears of the LORD.

22 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." Samuel then said to the men of Israel, "Go every man to his city."

This is how the kingdom of Israel came about – the elders, the leadership of Israel, cast God, His man and His liberty behind them and demanded to become slaves.

In spite of what others may choose, God's spokesman, God's Agent can continue to endure and choose to faithfully continue to walk by the spirit. Regardless of the situation or challenge it is available to persevere in spite of the response of others.

Remember what God told Samuel:

"...they have not rejected you, **but they have rejected me...**"