

DAVID
AN IMPERFECT KING

December 28, 2025

INTRO

- 1. A DIVIDED KINGDOM**
- 2. SPIRITUAL PEOPLE CAN GIVE BAD ADVICE**
- 3. GETTING ADVICE IS ALWAYS BEST**
- 4. GREAT LEADERS HAVE GREAT CHARISMA**

2 Samuel 19:14–15

- a. Leadership is a Spiritual gift
- b. We all have Spiritual gifts.
 - a. Identify which gift you have
 - b. Use it to build up the church

- 5. SATAN NEVER STOPS**

2 Samuel 21:15

“Once again there was a battle between the Philistines and Israel. David went down with his men to fight against the Philistines, and he became exhausted.

2 Samuel 21:18

“In the course of time, there was another battle with the Philistines”

2 Samuel 21:19

“In another battle with the Philistines”

2 Samuel 21:20

“In still another battle, which took place at Gath”

Revelation 12:12

*“Therefore rejoice, you heavens
and you who dwell in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea,
because the devil has gone down to you!
He is filled with fury,
because he knows that his time is short.”*

- 6. AFTER EVERY VICTORY, DAVID GIVES PRAISE TO GOD**

AN IMPERFECT KING

Romans 3:20

“Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”

Romans 3:23–24

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

1. THE ONE THING THAT WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON:

- a. We all have sinned
- b. We all will continue to sin

Hebrews 10:1–4

“The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”

Hebrews 9:22

“In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

DAVID WAS CHOSEN BY GOD

- a. Not because he was perfect
- b. His heart was the kind of heart God is looking for

Acts 13:22

“After removing Saul, God made David their king. He testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’”

1 Samuel 13:14

“the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people”

DAVID’S SINS**1. LYING AND DECEITFUL****1 Samuel 21:1–3**

“David went to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he met him, and asked, ‘Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?’ David answered Ahimelech the priest, ‘The king charged me with a certain matter and said to me, ‘No one is to know anything about your mission and your instructions. As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place. Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find.’”

1 Samuel 27:9–11

“Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish. When Achish asked, ‘Where did you go raiding today?’ David would say, ‘Against the Negev of Judah’ or

“Against the Negev of Jerahmeel” or “Against the Negev of the Kenites.” He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, “They might inform on us and say, ‘This is what David did.’” And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory.”

- a. David would lie to protect his own skin
- b. He would justify his lying
- c. Lying is a sin
 - a. White lies
 - b. Lying to not hurt feelings
 - c. To look good
 - d. A LIE IS A LIE
 - i. No such thing as little sins and big sins

Matthew 5:21–22

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”

- ii. I would rather you hate me than murder me
- iii. Before God, there is no difference
- iv. Both will be judged as sin

Proverbs 6:16–19

“There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.”

CONSEQUENCES OF DAVID’S SIN

1 Samuel 22:9–10

“But Doeg the Edomite, who was standing with Saul’s officials, said, “I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob. Ahimelech inquired of the LORD for him; he also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine.”

1 Samuel 22:17–19

“Then the king ordered the guards at his side: “Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because they too have sided with David. They knew he was fleeing, yet they did not tell me.”

But the king’s officials were not willing to raise a hand to strike the priests of the LORD.

The king then ordered Doeg, “You turn and strike down the priests.” So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with its men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys and sheep.”

1 Samuel 22:22

“Then David said to Abiathar: “That day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, I knew he would be sure to tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of your father’s whole family.”

CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL OF US WHO RESORT TO LYING

Revelation 21:6–8

“He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

2. ADULTERY and MURDER

2 Samuel 11:1–5

“In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “Isn’t this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

2 Samuel 11:14–17

“In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it he wrote, “Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.” So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David’s army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.”

Deuteronomy 5:17–21

“You shall not murder.” (Commandment 6)

“You shall not commit adultery.” (Commandment 7)

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.” (Commandment 10)

- a. David broke three of the Ten Commandments

- i. Not just coveting his neighbor's wife
- ii. But adultery
- iii. And also, murder
 - 1) Not just the death of Uriah
 - 2) The other soldiers who died

b. SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

2 Samuel 12:7-14

"Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

"This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'" Then David said to Nathan, **"I have sinned against the LORD."** Nathan replied, *"The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die."*

2. LACKING IN FAITH

Romans 14:23

"everything that does not come from faith is sin."

Hebrews 11:6

"And without faith it is impossible to please God"

COUNTING THE SOLDIERS

2 Samuel 24:1-4

"Again, the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go and take a census of Israel and Judah." So, the king said to Joab and the army commanders with him, "Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and enroll the fighting men, so that I may know how many there are." But Joab replied to the king, "May the LORD your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?" The king's word, however, overruled Joab and the army commanders; so they left the presence of the king to enroll the fighting men of Israel."

- a. We need to listen to those around us (who revere the Lord)
- b. **Last week** we talked about importance of listening to advice
- c. When we **launch** out on our own without advice
- d. Consequences can be severe
 - i. Not only for us

- ii. But for others around us

2 Samuel 24:8–10

“After they had gone through the entire land, they came back to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. Joab reported the number of the fighting men to the king: In Israel there were eight hundred thousand able-bodied men who could handle a sword, and in Judah five hundred thousand.

David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing.”

2 Samuel 24:11–15

“Before David got up the next morning, the word of the LORD had come to Gad the prophet, David’s seer: “Go and tell David, ‘This is what the LORD says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.’” So Gad went to David and said to him, “Shall there come upon you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me.”

David said to Gad, “I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men.” So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died.”

- a. David was responsible for the deaths of 70,000 people
 - i. Tragic
 - ii. Taking matters in our own hands
 - iii. Pride
- b. Never know what damage our sin can cause

3. SHOWING NO MERCY

1 Kings 2:1

“When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.”

1 Kings 2:5–6

“Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—what he did to the two commanders of Israel’s armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet. Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace.

WHY DID JOAB KILL ABNER AND AMASA?

- a. **ABNER** killed Joab’s brother Asahel

2 Samuel 2:18–24

“The three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab, Abishai and Asahel. Now Asahel was as fleet-footed as a wild gazelle. He chased Abner, turning neither to the right nor to the left as he pursued him. Abner looked behind him and asked, “Is that you, Asahel?”

"It is," he answered. Then Abner said to him, "Turn aside to the right or to the left; take on one of the young men and strip him of his weapons." But Asahel would not stop chasing him. Again Abner warned Asahel, "Stop chasing me! Why should I strike you down? How could I look your brother Joab in the face?" But Asahel refused to give up the pursuit; so Abner thrust the butt of his spear into Asahel's stomach, and the spear came out through his back. He fell there and died on the spot. And every man stopped when he came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died. But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner"

- b. **AMASA** turned traitor and tried to kill David

2 Samuel 17:25

"Absalom had appointed Amasa over the army in place of Joab"

2 Samuel 19:12–13

David said, "You are my brothers, my own flesh and blood. So why should you be the last to bring back the king?" And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my own flesh and blood? May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if from now on you are not the commander of my army in place of Joab. '"

- i. Possibly jealousy
- ii. Possibly Didn't trust him

- b. **DAVID'S SIN**

1 Kings 2:5–6

"Now you yourself know what Joab son of Zeruiah did to me—what he did to the two commanders of Israel's armies, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He killed them, shedding their blood in peacetime as if in battle, and with that blood stained the belt around his waist and the sandals on his feet. Deal with him according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to the grave in peace."

1 Kings 11:14–17

"Then the LORD raised up against Solomon an adversary, Hadad the Edomite, from the royal line of Edom. Earlier when David was fighting with Edom, Joab the commander of the army, who had gone up to bury the dead, had struck down all the men in Edom. Joab and all the Israelites stayed there for six months, until they had destroyed all the men in Edom. But Hadad, still only a boy, fled to Egypt with some Edomite officials who had served his father."

1 Kings 11:21

"While he was in Egypt, Hadad heard that David rested with his fathers and that Joab the commander of the army was also dead. Then Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me go, that I may return to my own country."

1 Kings 11:25

"Rezon was Israel's adversary as long as Solomon lived, adding to the trouble caused by Hadad. So, Rezon ruled in Aram and was hostile toward Israel."

4. GOD IS RICH IN MERCY

- a. David's asking for God's mercy

- i. 36 of the Psalms asking for mercy

ii. David understood that he was a sinner

iii. He looked for God's mercy

Psalm 51:1–12

*"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."*

GOD IS RICH IN MERCY

Micah 7:18–19

*"Who is a God like you,
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance?
You do not stay angry forever
but delight to show mercy.
You will again have compassion on us;
you will tread our sins underfoot
and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea."*

Isaiah 55:6–7

*"Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way
and the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him,*

and to our God, for he will freely pardon.”

WE NEED TO SHOW MERCY TO OTHERS

Colossians 3:13

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Matthew 6:14–15

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

James 2:12–13

“Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment! “

- a. Not showing mercy to Joab
- b. Especially considering all the people he was responsible for their deaths
- c. Was a sin of major proportions

1. David wasn't perfect
2. Nor was he a perfect king
3. But we learn from the Psalms about **his heart**
4. And his overwhelming desire to please God
5. He accepted God's discipline without getting resentful

6. HE TRULY WAS A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART