

Psalms III
Fairview Church of God
January 19, 2008

In 2000, we did an 8 week study about the life of David.

The Bible describes David as a person who truly sought out God's will.

Acts 13.22 = David "a man after my own will"

Kingdom Dynamics: Only one man in the Bible enjoys the designation of being a man after God's own heart - David.....

1 Sam 13.14

From the Bible, we also found that David was a:

- Warrior
- Musician
- Saint
- Sinner
- Prophet
- Type of Christ

The Bible also honored him with titles:

- City of David
- Star of David
- Son of David

Characteristics we found applied to David:

- confident - had faith = had no backup plan for fighting Goliath
- humble = 'why me' when Saul gave his daughter(s)
- calm = did not try to avenge himself when Saul threw spears at him
- obedient = did not seek the positions he was given
- patient = did not try to unseat Saul by himself according to his own timetable
- prudent/non-confrontational = ran off rather than fight Saul
- handsome - repeatedly stated for emphasis
- praiseful - always gave God credit
- grateful - gave thanks

If David was so revered, I thought we should begin looking at what he said. This will not be a contiguous study. It will be inserted a week at a time – from time to time.

There are 150 Psalms. The authorship is generally attributed to David, but many are accepted as being written by Moses, Solomon and many others – including many from unknown sources called "orphan psalms". They were apparently written between 1000 and 300 BC and pulled together to form a singular "book". The collection process resulted in some being included twice such as 14 and 53.

Hebrew poetry does not necessarily rhyme sounds as does recent age poetry. Hebrew poetry rhymes thoughts

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Approximately half of the Old Testament references to the Messiah quoted by New Testament writers are from the Book of Psalms.

Psalm 11

- 1 In the LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain"?
 - David's counselors have given him advice that he cannot take
- 2 For look! The wicked bend their bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly (*in the darkness*) at the upright in heart.
 - The wicked slander him
 - They lurk in the dark – the enemy doesn't make himself easy to see
- 3 If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?
 - The foundations are destroyed – the order of society – the established institutions
 - The wicked are intent on making anarchy the way of life
 - David wanted to get away from it all, but he is surrounded by his enemies and circumstances
 - Don't we all have periods of time in our lives when we just want things to change that we cannot control?
 - We have an election process going on right now. In less than 10 months, we will be asked to vote – to choose between 2 people to lead the country for 4 years. Odds are very slim that anyone will agree totally with one or the other, but we will need to choose.
 - In most cases, the individual is helpless to change the "foundations"
 - David is expressing his frustration
- 4 The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.
- 5 The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.
 - Times like these are a test of the patience of a righteous person.
- 6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup.
- 7 For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.
 - Or the upright behold his countenance – either could be correct

Psalm 12

- 1 Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.
 - Starting of with "help" acknowledges the need
 - The wicked apparently outnumber the righteous
- 2 They speak idly everyone with his neighbor; With flattering lips and a double heart (*an inconsistent mind*) they speak.
 - David had flip-floppers in his time, too

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- They would speak whatever they thought people wanted to hear
- They say they were for the invasion against Saul before they were against it ☺
- 3 May the LORD cut off (*destroy*) all flattering lips, And the tongue that speaks proud (*great*) things,
 - The Lord detests idle gossip and scandalous rumors
- 4 Who have said, "With our tongue we will prevail; Our lips are our own; Who is lord over us?"
 - They are showing disrespect for authority
- 5 "For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, Now I will arise," says the LORD; "I will set him in the safety for which he yearns."
 - God will rescue the godly – in His own appointed time
- 6 The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.
 - David knows the time may be a long way off
 - But, he knows that Gods word will prevail
 - God will keep His promises
- 7 You shall keep them, O LORD, You shall preserve them from this generation forever.
- 8 The wicked prowl on every side, When vileness is exalted among the sons of men.
 - When the rulers are immoral, then immorality is promoted at all levels of society

Psalm 13

- 1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?
- 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?
 - At low points in our lives, it feels like God has forgotten us
 - Logically, we know better
 - By saying “how long” four times, David has stressed the depth of his despair
 - He is not saying that God has truly forsaken him – only that it feels that way
 - He feels alone
 - “taking counsel” indicates a degree of worry – searching one’s own thoughts
- 3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, Lest I sleep the sleep of death;
 - Enlighten my eyes = restore the sign of vitality – raise my spirits!
- 4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him"; Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.
- 5 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

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- 6 I will sing to the LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.
 - Sing praises to God regardless of the situation you are experiencing at the time!
 - Never give up!

Psalm 14

- 1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.
 - The "fool" is not a person without intellect – he is a person who has made a conscious, intellectual decision that there is no God
 - This is not simply an atheist – it is someone who flouts his independence from God
- 2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.
- 3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.
- 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the LORD?
 - These people are not content to live a quiet life with their belief that God does not exist, or that they don't need Him – they feel compelled to try to convince others they are right and to take away the rights of others to worship as they please
- 5 There they are in great fear, For God is with the generation of the righteous.
- 6 You shame the counsel of the poor, But the LORD is his refuge.
- 7 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.
 - Jacob is symbolic of all Israel
 - Our ultimate deliverance is a motive to praise God and to rejoice!

Psalm 15

- 1 LORD, who may abide (*sojourn*) in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
 - "who" is not so much the question – it is more like "what kind of person"
 - "abide, sojourn, live, dwell" all interpretations imply a temporary residence
- 2 He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;
 - First there are 3 positive traits
- 3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up (*receive*) a reproach (*slur*) against his friend;
 - Next there are 3 negative traits
- 4 In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the LORD; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
 - Two more positive traits

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- “swears to his own hurt and does not change” refers to one who enters into a business deal that turns sour, yet the person still keeps his word
- This person’s honor is more important than his wallet
- 5 He who does not put out his money at usury (*excessively high interest – especially to the poor*), Nor does he take a bribe (*maybe means compensation*) against the innocent (*or hungry?*). He who does these things shall never be moved.
 - Two more negative traits
 - God is steadfast
 - The character of a person is of utmost importance
 - This person may suffer adversities, but he will never be shaken from his belief in God

Psalm 16

- 1 Preserve me (*watch over me*), O God, for in You I put my trust.
- 2 O my soul, you have said to the LORD (*Yahweh*), "You are my Lord (*adonai*), My goodness is nothing apart from You."
 - “you have said to Yahweh, “You are my master”
- 3 As for the saints who are on the earth, "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."
- 4 Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god; Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, Nor take up their names on my lips.
 - NIV = “libations of blood” should reference their offerings – and maybe even human sacrifices
- 5 O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain (*uphold*) my lot.
- 6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.
 - Lot and lines refer to the divisions of the Promised Land
 - Could be referencing Canaan or the Kingdom
- 7 I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.
 - Commentators seem to ignore that the word translated “heart” here literally means “kidneys”
 - The intent is that the psalmist’s inner being is dedicated to God’s ways
- 8 I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.
 - God’s instructions enable us to live wisely
- 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory (*a poetic expression for the soul*) rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.
- 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol (*the abode of the dead – the pit – the grave*), Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption (*undergo decay*).
 - Part a refers to David – and his trust in the resurrection
 - Part b refers to Jesus – His body would not corrupt in the grave
 - **Acts 2:**

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- 25 "For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.
- 26 Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.
- 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
- 28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'
- Acts 13:
 - 35 "Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'
 - 36 "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;
 - 37 "but He whom God raised up saw no corruption.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
 - "forevermore" – live everlasting in the Kingdom of God
 - Revelation 21:
 - 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.
 - 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."