

What Was Great About David?

06-13-21

God raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' Acts 13:22

When we read about David in the New Testament, we do not read much about his faults, which he certainly had (Bathsheba and the numbering of Israel). Instead, we are told that David marks a type that God finds pleasing and acceptable DESPITE the failings. This is important; we all fall short of the glory of God, so all of us would desire to be an acceptable person before God. What was so great about David?

First of all, he REALLY trusted in God. No better example of that is in his life than when he confronted Goliath as a young man in 1 Samuel 17:31-51. His confidence was not based on God having told him ahead of time that he would be victorious; instead, his confidence was in the nature of God. He trusted that God would defend him as if defending His own character.

Second, he REALLY sought God's advice. Consider when he was a refugee in the wilderness in 1 Samuel 23:2-4. When the time came to find out what to do, he sought God's direction. Even when it was something that everyone else thought he should (or should not) do, his purpose was to ask God (2 Samuel 7:2-12). This mindset was very pleasing to God.

Third, consider that when he did sin, he REALLY repented about it. When he sinned with Bathsheba, he was convicted and wrote Psalm 51. There he described how badly he felt about sinning. When he sinned by numbering Israel, he reasoned with God that this sin was his alone, and that he needed to atone for it (1 Chronicles 21:13-26). David understood that being forgiven was not cheap, and was prepared to truly estimate his sins to obtain forgiveness.

Finally, consider how much David loved God's law. David was not perfect, and broke God's law on multiple occasions. But he still loved and esteemed it, and understood that God's Word is the way of life. Consider his longest Psalm, Psalm 119. There David repeatedly tells us that the Law of the Lord is the way that we should walk, and that he loved the Words of God.

Centuries after David the prophet Isaiah would prophesy to us about the promises of Christ. He would declare *"Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you-The sure mercies of David"* (Isa. 55:3). We all want the mercies of David; to be loved of God despite our failings. To have that we need to follow the characteristics of David. We need to REALLY trust God (1 Timothy 4:10). We need to GENUINELY seek the Lord's will (Romans 12:2). When we sin, we need to WHOLE HEARTEDLY repent (2 Corinthians 7:10). Finally, we need to TRULY love the Law of Christ (John 14:15).

David said *"I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart"* (Psalm 40:8). Is this true of you?