

I. KING DAVID, AS A MODEL FOR THE RADICAL PURSUIT OF GOD

A. There is more written about David than any other person in the Bible (besides Jesus). David faithfully persevered in doing *all* the will of God in his generation (Acts 13:22, 36), even while struggling with deep personal weakness and failure by having *confidence* in God’s extravagant mercy (Ps. 34:18; 51:16-17).

Ps. 51:16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit... and a contrite heart—These, You will not despise.

B. David is a model, revealing how God desires to *relate to us* in our weakness and how we are to *respond to Him* in the various seasons of our life, whether in victory or failure, prosperity or lack (Isa. 55:3-4). David understood he was a sign of how far God’s extravagant love would go in relating to our weakness (Ps. 86:17).

Isa. 55:3 “I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David. 4 Indeed I have given him [David] as a witness [model] to the people, a leader and commander for the people.”

Ps. 86:17 Show me a sign [model] for good... because You, LORD, have helped me.

C. The first description of David that the LORD gave to King Saul through Samuel, called David “a man after God’s heart” (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). David was only a young teenager at the time. He is a picture of what God is *seeking* in His people and what the Spirit desires to *reproduce* in our personal lives and leadership style toward others. What God did *in* David and *through* him is an example of what God wants to do *for* others.

1 Sam. 13:14 “The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander [leader] over His people.” (Acts 13:22)

D. Being a person after God’s own heart includes:

1. Pursuing the emotions of God’s heart: David diligently searched out God’s emotions. David became a reflection of God’s heart (mercy, humility, generosity), because he personally encountered God’s heart.

Ps. 27:4 One thing I have desired of the Lord... to behold the beauty of the Lord...

Ps. 17:15 As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall... awake in Your likeness.

2. Obeying the commands of God’s heart: David set his heart to obey God, as an expression of the love he first received from God. Jesus taught affection-based obedience was far superior to duty-based (Jn. 14:15).

Ps. 17:3 You have tried me and found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

Ps. 101:3 I will set nothing wicked before my eyes... 4 I will not know wickedness.

3. Contending for the purpose of God’s heart: David pursued the fullness of God’s purpose for his life and generation. God testified David did “*all My will*” and served His purpose in his generation (Acts 13:22, 36).

Acts 13:22 “I have found David... a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.”

Acts 13:36 “David... served the purpose of God in his own generation.” (NASB)

II. UNDERSTANDING THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

A. David, the man after God’s heart (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22) saw the intimate details of God’s dwelling place in heaven –the perfection of beauty (Ps. 50:2; 119:96), along with its’ governmental order of worship around His throne (1 Chr. 28:11-19). David was commanded to replicate this liturgical pattern (2 Chr. 29:25).

1 Chr. 28:11 David gave... 12 the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the... house of the Lord... 13 the division of the priests... the work of the service... and for all the articles of service... 19 “All this,” said David, “the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans.”

Ps. 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth.

Ps. 119:96 I have seen the consummation [fullness] of all perfection [beauty, glory and majesty]...

B. The heavenly order of worship that David received by revelation was *God-centered* (Ps. 27:4), *relational* (Ps. 89:26), *continual* (1 Chr. 9:33), *musical* (1 Chr. 15-16), and *antiphonal* or responsive (Neh. 12:8-9, 24).

C. Due to David’s all-consuming desire to dwell in God’s immediate presence within the heavenly temple (Ps. 27:4; 28:2), he vowed to establish a dwelling place for God on the earth, as it is in heaven (Ps. 132; Mt. 6:10).

Ps. 132:1 Remember David and all his afflictions; 2 how he swore to the Lord and vowed... 3 “Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house or... the comfort of my bed; 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, 5 until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

D. Around 1000 BC, David set the Ark in the tabernacle that he pitched for it in Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6; 1 Chr. 16:1), where he employed 4000 musicians (1 Chr. 23:5) and 288 singers (1 Chr. 25:7) to minister to God in day and night prayer with worship, as a full time occupation (1 Chr. 9:33; 16:37). Thus began the “Davidic order” of worship with prophetic music and singing, centered on encountering God’s beauty, as it is in heaven.

1 Chr. 16:1 They brought the ark... and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David erected for it. 4 He appointed Levites [singers and musicians] to minister before the ark... to praise the Lord... 37 to minister before the ark of the covenant of the LORD regularly, as every day's work required.

1 Chr. 9:33 These are the singers, heads of the fathers’ houses of the Levites, who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night.

E. As a prophetic foreshadow of Jesus, the great High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, David had a “key of authority” (Isa. 22:22; Rev. 3:7), giving him access to God’s throne through replicating the governmental order of worship in heaven (Ps. 27:4; 28:2). Is the “Davidic order” priestly or governmental? Yes!

Rev. 3:7 “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”

1. The Hebrew word “key” [H4668] denotes authority granted and means an “opening instrument”. Could God be doing a play on words? Now they accessed God’s glory through praise (Ps. 27:6; 107:22)! This prophetic realm is rich with the infinite creativity of God to magnify the beauty and glory of Jesus.

Ps. 27:6 I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle. I will sing praises to the Lord (Ps. 107:22)

2. In 2 Kings when Elisha the prophet wanted to open up the prophetic realm he called for a minstrel.

2 Kgs. 3:15 “*But now bring me a minstrel [H5059].” And it came about, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him. 16 And he said, “Thus says the Lord...”*

3. The first time this word was used it was spoken of David who drove out the demons with his music!

1 Sam. 16:23 *Whenever the spirit... was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play [H5059] it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and... the distressing spirit would depart from him.*

F. This movement is fueled by God’s beauty (Isa. 4:2; 62:3-5, 6-7), releasing such intimate revelation of Jesus through song that it produces the same response in the nations as when Isaiah actually saw Jesus face-to-face (Isa. 6:5; 24:16). We won’t just sing “worthy”, we will sing why he’s worthy and the nations will respond!

Isa. 6:3 *And one [Seraphim] cried to another... “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” 5 Woe is me, for I am undone! For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!*

Isa. 24:16 *From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: “Glory to the Righteous!” But I said, “I am ruined, ruined! Woe to me!”*

G. The seraphim that have incessantly worshipped God for 1000’s of years are only holding our place until we mature into our primary governmental position of beholding His beauty and declaring His glory to the rest of the created order from the earth (Isa. 6:1-3; Rev. 4:8; 5:8-10; 6:1)! As His eternal partners we aren’t limited to beholding His external glory and demonstration of His character like the angels, but have unhindered access to the depths of His heart and mind, while freely experiencing His character towards us in a personal way!

1 Cor. 2:9 *Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God... 12 Now we have received... the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

H. For 33 years the Tabernacle of David was in operation, releasing spiritual breakthrough and military victory to the nation. However, whenever Israel went astray from the governmental order of worship that David established, Israel immediately fell under the oppression of their surrounding enemies. In mercy, God raised up spiritual reformers 7 times with a vision to restore the divine pattern and heavenly order of worship that David established to revive the nation (2 Chr. 5-8; 20; 23-24; 29-30; 35; Ezra 3:10-13; Neh. 12:28-47).

I. In 750 BC, God promised to restore the “Tabernacle of David”, as in the days of old with prophetic musicians and singers, as a full-time occupation (Am. 9:11-12). This describes the order in which we function as a house of prayer (i.e. Davidic order), which is from the place of encountering God through the veil (Heb. 6:19; 10:19) in day and night prayer with worship songs (prophetic music/singing) that are fueled by the beauty of God, which is the primary catalyst for world missions. This time it would not just be local, partial and limited, but global, total and comprehensive, including *all the Gentiles* in every place (Acts 15:16-17)!

Am. 9:11 *On that day I will raise up the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” says the LORD who does this. (Acts 15:16-17)*

III. BEING A PERSON OF “ONE THING”: DWELL – BEHOLD – INQUIRE

A. At the heart of the “Davidic order” is David’s radical pursuit of God as revealed in Psalm 27:4.

Ps. 27:4 *One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.*

B. *Premise:* We have no godly desires apart from God’s Spirit imparting them (Ps. 37:4; Jn. 15:5; Phil. 2:13). Since the carnal mind is continually at war with God’s Spirit (Rom. 8:7), the fact that we desire more of God is the evidence of His divine influence in our lives. We only love Him, because He first loved us (1 Jn. 4:19).

Phil. 2:13 *It is God who works in you both to will [inspire] and to do [empower] for His good pleasure.*

C. David’s *DESIRE* for God was first God’s desire for David (Jn. 17:21, 24). David only desired to pursue God, because God was pursuing David and imparted this desire to him (Ps. 37:4). Like David, our confidence isn’t in our ability to pursue God, but God’s ability to empower us to fulfill the desires He placed within us.

Jn. 17:24 *“Father, I desire that they... may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory...”*

D. You cannot *DWELL* on the run. It takes time and intentionality to rest and abide. Mary wasn’t unusually anointed to dwell in God’s presence; she simply *chose* it (Lk. 10:38-42)! I remember asking the LORD, “But who will do all the work?” He said, “You will and you’ll bear more fruit, because you’ll work the *right way*” (Jn. 15:5). *Lovers always outwork workers.* People don’t get “burned out” from *hard work*, but *wrong work!*

E. “*Learn from your Father’s*” to understand why only “one thing” is needed (Rev. 4:4, 10; 5:5, 6, 8, 11, 14; 7:11, 13; 11:16; 14:3; 19:4). Encountering the beauty of God in intimacy is the everlasting fount from which all kingdom activity effortlessly flows. The wise virgins prioritized intimacy above activity (Mt. 25:1-13).

1. **Rev. 4:4** *Around the throne... I saw twenty-four elders sitting... (Rev. 5:6; 14:3)*
2. **Rev. 4:10** *The twenty-four elders fall down before Him... and worship... and cast their crowns...*
3. **Rev. 5:8** *The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp [worship music], and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song...*
4. **Rev. 5:14** *The twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.*
5. **Rev. 7:11** *The elders... fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God...*
6. **Rev. 11:16** *The twenty-four elders who sat before God... fell on their faces and worshiped God...*
7. **Rev. 19:4** *The twenty-four elders... fell down and worshiped God... saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”*

F. As we consistently *BEHOLD His beauty* we are progressively transformed into His image (Ps. 17:15; 2 Cor. 3:18). The very beauty that God possesses He imparts to His people (Ps. 90:17).

2 Cor. 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

G. To *INQUIRE IN His Temple* assumes personal access. Central to this move is Jesus’ desire for His people to personally encounter Him through the veil (Jn. 17:24; Eph. 2:4-6; 3:11-12; Heb. 4:16; 6:19-20; 10:19).

Heb. 10:19 *Having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way... through the veil... 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith... (Heb. 4:16)*