

Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.
Number 41, 1st January 2021

Born in Bethlehem King David

Today, people associate the little town of Bethlehem with the birth of Jesus. However, it's important to consider that Bethlehem is also the place where King David had his humble beginnings nearly a thousand years before Jesus. The Gospel of Luke refers to Bethlehem as follows: 'Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.' Luke 2:4, NIV

The picture on the right is a photograph of Bethlehem about 120 years ago.



David is mentioned more than 1,100 times in the Bible, more than anyone else (apart from Jesus). There is much we can learn from his life. One reason David is so significant is his role in establishing God's earthly headquarters in Jerusalem.



Painting of King David purchasing Araunah's threshing floor.

King David Buys Araunah's Threshing Floor

'When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming towards him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" "To buy your threshing-floor," David answered, "so that I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped." Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing-sledges and ox yokes for the wood. Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the LORD your God accept you." But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings.'

2 Samuel 24:20-25, NIV

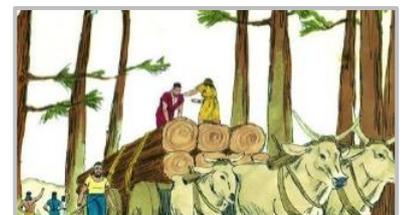
'Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.'

2 Chronicles 3:1, NIV

King David said:

'The House to be Built for the LORD Should be of Great Magnificence'

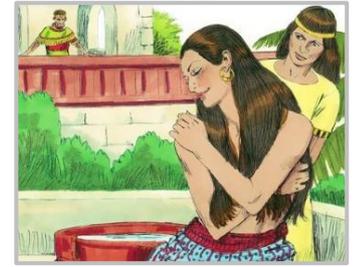
'Then David said, "The house of the LORD God is to be here, and also the altar of burnt offering for Israel." So David gave orders to assemble the foreigners residing in Israel, and from among them he appointed stonecutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God. He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighed. He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted, for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David. David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD should be of great magnificence and fame and splendour in the sight of all the nations. Therefore I will make preparations for it." So David made extensive preparations before his death.'



1 Chronicles 22:1-5, NIV



Nathan Tells David 'You Are That Man'

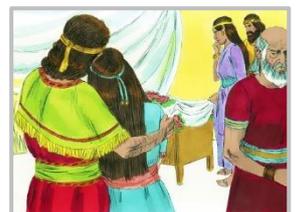
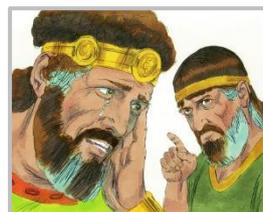


King David sent his army, under the command of Joab, to lay siege to the Ammonite city of Rabbath. David chose to stay at home in Jerusalem. One evening David was walking around the roof of his palace and saw a beautiful woman

washing. Her name was Bathsheba, her husband Uriah was away fighting in David's army. David sent for Bathsheba and when she arrived, he slept with her. A while later Bathsheba sent a message to David saying that she had become pregnant. David then sent a message to Uriah to come and see him. David asked Uriah how the siege was going, then sent him home to spend the night with his wife. David was hoping that Uriah would sleep with Bathsheba and later think the child was his. But Uriah did not think it was fair that he should be at home while the other troops were living in army tents, so he slept at the palace entrance instead. The next day David found out that Uriah had not spent the night with Bathsheba. So that day David deliberately got Uriah drunk, but again he did not return home to his wife. David's devious plans had failed.

David then wrote a letter which he sealed; he gave it to Uriah to deliver to Joab. The letter ordered Joab to put Uriah at the forefront of the fiercest fighting, then to withdraw from him so that he would be struck down and die. Uriah returned to the siege and Joab obeyed the order. He deliberately placed Uriah in an area where he knew the strongest soldiers of Rabbath were attacking, consequently Uriah was killed. After Bathsheba's time of mourning for her dead husband was over, David brought Bathsheba to his palace and she became his wife.

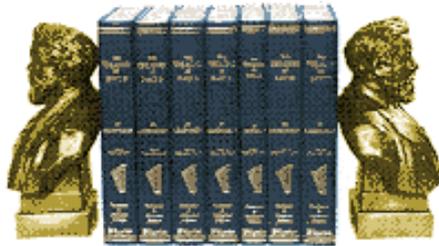
David's actions greatly displeased the Lord, so the prophet Nathan was sent to David. Nathan told David the following story: There were two men, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep, but the poor man had nothing except one pet lamb. It grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. One day the rich man had a visitor, but instead of taking one of his own sheep to prepare a meal, the rich man stole the lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it as a meal for his guest!' After David heard the story he was furious. 'As surely as the Lord lives, the man who committed this crime must die!' he told Nathan. 'He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he had no compassion.' Nathan then pointed his finger at David and said: 'You are that man! This is what the Lord says, "I anointed you king over Israel. I delivered you from Saul. I gave you all of Israel and Judah. Why did you disobey and do such a detestable thing? You murdered Uriah and selfishly took his wife to be your own, consequently, calamity shall never depart from your family."' David was devastated and cried, 'I have sinned against the Lord'. Nathan replied, 'The Lord has forgiven your sin. You are not going to die. However, because you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, your son born to Bathsheba will die.' After Nathan left, the child became ill. David pleaded with God to spare the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying on the ground. Seven days later the child died. David was told the heart-breaking news. He then went and comforted Bathsheba. 2 Samuel 11:1-12:23 summary



David's Eldest Son Amnon is Murdered

Amnon was the son of King David by his wife Ahinoam. As Amnon was David's eldest son Amnon was first in line for the throne. Amnon fell in love with his half-sister Tamar and subsequently violated her. Tamar's brother was called Absalom. He was the third son of David by his wife Maacah. Absalom avenged the wrong done to his sister Tamar by arranging to have Amnon assassinated two years later. Incest and violence in David's own family were the beginning of his chastisements for his own twin sin of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah her husband. The picture shows David being comforted after the death of Amnon. You can read the tragic story in 2 Samuel chapter 13.





The Treasury of David

The Treasury of David by Charles Spurgeon is a Bible commentary on the book of Psalms. Incredibly it's seven volumes in total! This work was first published in weekly installments over a twenty-year span in the periodical, *The Sword and the Trowel*. Completed sections were released



volume by volume, until the seventh and final volume was released in 1885. Within a decade more than 120,000 sets had been sold. *The Treasury of David* is a superb literary achievement. Spurgeon's wife, Susannah, said that if Spurgeon had never written any other work, this would have been a permanent literary memorial. The work remains in print today in several editions.

The 150 Psalms are divided into five books:

Book 1, Psalms 1-41, based on Genesis (and is 'concerning man') in which David has 37 Psalms.

Book 2, Psalms 42-72, based on Exodus (and is 'concerning Israel as a nation') in which David has 18 Psalms.

Book 3, Psalms 73-89, based on Leviticus (and is 'concerning the Sanctuary') in which David has 1 Psalm.

Book 4, Psalms 90-106, based on Numbers (and is 'concerning Israel and the nations') in which David has 2 Psalms.

Book 5, Psalms 107-150, based on Deuteronomy (and is 'concerning God and His Word') in which David has 15 Psalms.

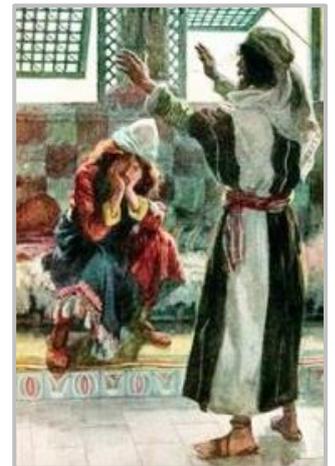
So the total number of Psalms bearing the name of David are 73. This paragraph is based on the *Companion Bible*.

After his encounter with Nathan, David wrote Psalm 51, which reflects his humility and sincere repentance for his adultery with Bathsheba and for his scheming to have her husband Uriah killed. Imagine composing a song about your failures and making them public for all time. David was not so much concerned about what people thought, but what God thought.

Psalm 51

A Psalm of David

'God, give me mercy from your fountain of forgiveness! I know your abundant love is enough to wash away my guilt. Because your compassion is so great, take away this shameful guilt of sin. Forgive the full extent of my rebellious ways, and erase this deep stain^[a] on my conscience. For I'm so ashamed. I feel such pain and anguish within me. I can't get away from the sting of my sin against you, Lord! Everything I did, I did right in front of you, for you saw it all. Against you, and you above all, have I sinned. Everything you say to me is infallibly true and your judgment conquers me. Lord, I have been a sinner from birth, from the moment my mother conceived me. I know that you delight to set your truth deep in my spirit. So come into the hidden places of my heart and teach me wisdom. Purify my conscience! Make this leper clean again! Wash^[b] me in your love until I am pure in heart. Satisfy me in your sweetness, and my song of joy will return. The places within me you have crushed will rejoice in your healing touch. Hide my sins from your face; erase all my guilt by your saving grace. Create^[c] a new, clean heart within me. Fill me with pure thoughts and holy desires, ready to please you. May you never reject me! May you never take from me your sacred Spirit! Let my passion for life be restored, tasting joy in every breakthrough you bring to me. Hold me close to you with a willing spirit that obeys whatever you say. Then I can show to other guilty ones how loving and merciful you are. They will find their way back home to you, knowing that you will forgive them. O God, my saving God, deliver me fully from every sin, even the sin that brought bloodguilt. Then my heart will once again be thrilled to sing the passionate songs of joy and deliverance! Lord God, unlock my heart, unlock my lips, and I will overcome with my joyous praise! For the source of your pleasure is not in my performance or the sacrifices I might offer to you. The fountain of your pleasure is found in the sacrifice of my shattered heart before you. You will not despise my tenderness as I humbly bow down at your feet. Because you favour Zion, do what is good for her. Be the protecting wall around Jerusalem. And when we are fully restored, you will rejoice and take delight in every offering of our lives as we bring our sacrifices of righteousness before you in love!' *TPT* including footnotes



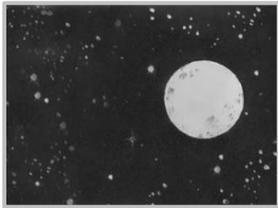
Nathan Rebukes David

Footnotes:

[a] David uses a Hebrew word for washing clothes (not bathing). David wants the stains of his actions removed.

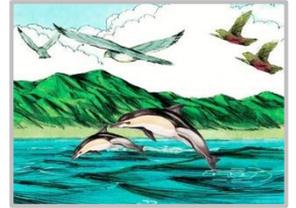
[b] Or 'Wash me with the snow from above so I can be whitened.'

[c] The word used for 'create' takes us back to Genesis 1, it means to create from nothing. David knew he had no goodness without God placing it within him. David wanted a new creation heart, not just the old one changed.



Psalm 8

A Psalm of David



'LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!' *NIV*



Psalm 23

A Psalm of David

'The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.' *NKJV*

Psalm 133

A Psalm of David

'Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing – life forevermore.' *NKJV*



Mount Hermon

David Dances:

His Wife Michal Disapproves



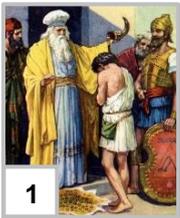
'When the ark of the LORD entered the City of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked down from the window, and upon seeing King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she thought contemptuously of him in her mind. They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people before the LORD of Hosts. He distributed to all of the people, the entire multitude of Israel, both men and women, one bread cake, one date cake, and one raisin cake to each one. Then all of the people left, each to his house. David returned to bless his household, but Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet him. She said, "How the king of Israel has dignified himself today, exposing himself this day in the sight of his servant's slave girls like one of the rabble might shamelessly expose himself." Then David responded to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me over your father and over everyone in his household, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. I was celebrating before the LORD. I will humble myself even more than this and be abased in my own eyes. But by the maidservants, of whom you have spoken, I will be held in honour." Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.' *2 Samuel 6:16-23, MEV*

David and Goliath

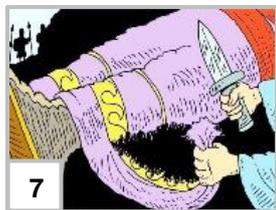
'The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!" Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands." So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him.' 1 Samuel 17:43-50, NKJV



Some of David's Other Experiences



1. 'Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him . . . and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David.' 1 Samuel 16:13, NKJV
2. 'David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul; would become refreshed.' 1 Samuel 16:23, NKJV
3. David had killed both a lion and a bear and Goliath would be like them as he had defied the living God. 1 Samuel 17:34-37
4. 'David and Jonathan became best friends. Jonathan thought as much of David as he did of himself.' 1 Samuel 18:1, CEV
5. 'Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.' 1 Samuel 18:11, NKJV
6. Saul wanted David dead. 'So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled.' 1 Samuel 19:12, NKJV
7. David was hiding in a cave and then: 'David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.' 1 Samuel 24:4, NKJV
8. 'Then David said to Abigail: "Blessed is the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me!"' 1 Samuel 25:32, NKJV
9. Mephibosheth was Jonathan's son. He was lame. David said to him: 'I will surely show you kindness'. 2 Samuel 9:7, NKJV
10. Absalom was David's third eldest son, he tried to become King, so David had to escape from Jerusalem. 2 Samuel 15
11. 'Three mighty men broke through . . . drew water from the well of Bethlehem . . . and brought it to David.' 2 Sam. 23:16, NKJV
12. Bathsheba told David that Adonijah, David's son, had decided to declare himself King, instead of Solomon. 1 Kings 1



David: 'A Man After My Own Heart'

David is one of the most prominent figures in the history of the world. Despite David's glaring flaws God calls him 'a man after My own heart, who will do all My will'. From David's seed God raised up a Saviour – Jesus Acts 13:22-23, NKJV. David was far from perfect, but his faith and zeal made him the standard that all of Israel's future kings would be measured against. David foreshadowed Jesus in several ways: Many of David's psalms that refer to himself are Messianic as they also refer to Jesus. Both were born in Bethlehem of low estate; each was oppressed and persecuted. Both were shepherds: David cared for his father's sheep and Jesus cares for His Father's spiritual sheep. Also, David was anointed (by Samuel) and *Christ* means 'the anointed'. Lastly, David was a King . . . foreshadowing the King of Kings – Jesus.

See if you can memorise some, or all, of Psalm 23, *NKJV*

1. 'The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
2. He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
3. He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
5. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.'

Word Search

KING	DAVID
ABIGAIL	JONATHAN
LION	BETHLEHEM
BEAR	NAZARETH
CEDAR	SOLOMON
RABBATH	JERUSALEM
URIAH	SHEPHERD
NATHAN	SPURGEON
AMNON	BATHSHEBA
PSALMS	PHILISTINE
HERMON	ADONIJAH
MICHAL	ARAUNAH
SAUL	GOLIATH
SAMUEL	ABSALOM

K	M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	M	S	N	I	K
K	I	N	O	O	N	P	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D
I	I	N	I	A	S	S	Z	L	U	O	G	N	I	K
N	L	N	H	A	N	U	A	R	A	S	F	H	O	Q
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E	B	E	A	B	E	A	U	A	L	I	O	M	A	N
B	A	C	X	T	H	T	A	I	L	O	G	J	Q	D

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Bible abbreviations:

CEV: Contemporary English Version. NIV: New International Version. NKJV: New King James Version. MEV: Modern English Version. TPT: The Passion Translation.

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