

A MAN'S AFTER GOD'S HEART

By Keith Greer

"And when He had removed him, He 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} " But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you" {1 Samuel 13:14} Saul had failed as the king that God wanted him to be and that the nation needed – God chose another to take his place – after His heart!

Can you think of a higher compliment one could be given, then what we read concerning King David? A man "after God's own heart"! The man who slew the giant Goliath, who stood and mocked God's people. King Saul sought his life to keep him from his throne. Yet, even when the opportunity presented itself, David would not kill the "Lord's anointed"!

When Saul is killed in battle, an Amalekite tells him how Saul asked him to put him to death. David's response? The man is killed, for killing the Lord's anointed! Later David wanted to build a temple for God. The Lord tells him his son will build the temple, with a wonderful promise concerning his seed. "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever". {2 Samuel 7:12,13}

We can read from the sacred word of God, of many praiseworthy things which David did. Surely, this man would be a faithful example and leader for God's people. Right?

"Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. 'I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! 'Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.'" {2 Samuel 12:7-9} David committed adultery and murder, to gain Bathsheba as his wife! Later we read another account concerning David. "And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people ... " {2 Samuel 24:10} David's sin was seeking glory and strength in numbers of his people, instead of trusting in God!

How can these things be?! David surely would not be so foolish and sin before God. Maybe God had made a mistake in choosing David? How could he be considered "**a man after God's own heart**"!

In both cases, noticed David's attitude concerning his sins. "So David said to Nathan "I have sinned against the Lord." {2 Samuel 12:13} " ... So David said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done; ... take away my iniquity ... I have done foolishly". {2 Samuel 24:10} In both cases,

David acknowledged his sins, and asked for forgiveness. No excuses, he accepted his guilt and asked for pardon.

Yes, a man "**after God's own heart**" fell short. Why? Because he was a man! {Romans 3:23} Yet, David's seed brought the Messiah to this earth! For you see David repented, and the Lord forgave him.

Many today mock at obedience to try to convince others we believe in "perfect obedience." Nothing could be farther from the truth. God gave us an advocate because He knew we would fall short too. "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." {1 John 2:1} All God has asked of us is to have David's heart! Dear reader, do you have such a heart today? ***