

## David and God

### Commentary for October 1, 2015 — Their Relationship Examined

This month's article is "Israel and Judah: 13. Mighty Men and the Census." The "[October 1, 2015 Newsletter](#)" should be read first. It sets the stage for the article. The census commissioned by David was a sin against God that caused thousands of his subjects to die.

Scripture tells us many things about David's relationship with God, as well as what God thought about His relationship with David. Several Psalms relate how David loved YHWH and His law. Yet King David did some surprisingly sinful and horrid acts. Besides his sins, God said David was "**a man of wars**" and who shed "**bloods**" (plurals in Hebrew), and as a result YHWH did not allow David his desire to build the Temple (1 Chronicles 28:3).

God gave David more physical blessings than any other person (except perhaps Solomon), yet David's reign was hard. He fought opponents at every step. Several of his enemies were his own sons. As we read in the "Israel and Judah" series of articles, David always had God's assistance giving him victory over Israel's enemies (2 Samuel 22:1) as God promised:

**"I shall be with you wherever you go, and I shall cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones who are on the earth."**

• *2 Samuel 7:9, Concordant Literal Version*

God did this because David's heart was generally aligned with God's heart (1 Samuel 13:14). The apostle Paul taught this fact in the synagogue of Antioch of Pisidia. David was, "**a man after mine [God's] own heart, which shall fulfil all my will**" (Acts 13:22 quoting 2 Samuel 7:9, CLV). This meant that YHWH could work with David to fulfill His will. Why did David commit heinous sins, and face rebellions so often? (Why do you do the sinful things you do?)

**First**, David's heart was deceitful, like everyone's heart (Jeremiah 17:9). A deceitful heart is "**of the flesh.**" The apostle Paul explains the true condition of our flesh:

**"... the disposition of the flesh is death, yet the disposition of the spirit is life and peace, because the disposition of the flesh is enmity to God, for it is not subject to the law of God, for neither is it able. Now those who are in flesh are not able to please God. Yet you are not in flesh, but in spirit, if so be that God's spirit is making its home in you."**

• *Romans 8:6–9, Concordant Literal Version*

**Second**, King David certainly did not always make decisions "**in accord with [God's] own heart.**" David and his subjects suffered terribly for his sins even after he repented. Perhaps Jesus referred to David when He said:

**"Now nothing is covered up which shall not be revealed, and hidden which shall not be known, because whatever you say in the darkness shall be heard in the light, and what you speak in the ear in the storerooms shall be heralded on the housetops."**

• *Luke 12:2–3*

Everything David did — the good, the bad and the ugly — became known to all Israel and probably known to all nations (Psalm 44:21; 1 Chronicles 29:29).

**Third**, David lacked God's Spirit residing within him. This point needs elaboration. Christians have the gift of God's Holy Spirit, which was promised by Christ in Acts 1:1–4, fulfilled to His disciples in Acts chapter 2, and given to all believers from the Father through Christ since Pentecost (Acts 2:38, 10:45). God's Holy Spirit was and is today resident within all believers. This was not the case from creation until Christ sent God's Spirit. Now we are able to please God as it says above in Romans 8:9.

Yes, King David was a prophet as Peter says in Acts 2:30, and David had God's Spirit available to him when God allowed, but David was like other prophets as Moses described:

**“Yet Moses said to him [Joshua]: Are you zealous for my sake? O that all the people of Yahweh were prophets! For Yahweh put His spirit ON them.”**

• *Numbers 11:29, CLV*

David had God's spirit “on” him upon occasion, especially when he wrote prophetic Psalms and made decisions in accord with God's will, but David did not have God's Spirit “within” him. This constitutes the great difference between David and Christians.

David made decisions in accord with his flesh which deluded his heart, as we all do. David sinned greatly, even as his heart sought after God's own heart. After he sinned (as when he murdered Uriah the Hittite or conducted the census violating the Law of Moses), the God-given, God-aligned heart in David caused him to recognize and understand his sin, and God gave him wisdom to repent of his sins. For us Christians,

**“... the spirit also is aiding our infirmity, for what we should be praying for, to accord with what must be, we are not aware, but the spirit itself is pleading for us with inarticulate groanings. Now He Who is searching the hearts is aware what is the disposition of the spirit, for in accord with God is it pleading for the saints.”**

• *Romans 8:26–27*

So, what was the basis of David's personal salvation? It was the Old Covenant. Why will he be in God's Kingdom to rule Israel in the millennium? It was because of David's faith — a faith clearly expressed in David's Psalms where he opened his impure heart to God. David trusted God (Psalm 27:3). David knew God loved him in spite of his sins. He looked forward to God changing his “deceitful” heart. Read David's moving words about his heart for God in these several verses of Psalm 9:1, 13:5, 17:3, 26:2, 38:8–10, 40:10, 51:10, 17.

**“Wherefore, my heart rejoices, and my glory shall exult; Indeed, my flesh, it shall tabernacle in serenity. For You shall not forsake my soul in the unseen [*sheol*] ...”**

• *Psalms 16:9–10*

God in Jeremiah 30:9 says that at a time still future to us: **“And they [all Israel] will serve Yahweh their Elohim and David their king, whom I shall raise up for them.”**

David Sielaff  
[david@askelm.com](mailto:david@askelm.com)