

I AM THE SINNER

INTRODUCTION

David is the pride of every Jewish heart. **He was a great warrior** – he defeated the Philistine giant and dragged his hairy head back to Jerusalem. **He was a renowned harpist**, singer, and poet – he penned inspiring psalms which have been sung by congregations in synagogues and churches for thousands of years. **He was a great leader**– the warriors in David’s service were utterly devoted to him and performed feats of bravery almost without parallel. **He was a great conqueror** – he humbled the nations around Israel in every direction – some he destroyed and others paid tribute. **He was a great promoter of his religion** – he crafted the design for the temple of Solomon and requisitioned all the building materials for its construction. By all accounts **David was a great man!**



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Yet the life of David did not end well. Against all advice to the contrary, David counted the fighting men of Israel and brought the wrath of God upon his people. A plague broke out and 70,000 men of Israel died because of David’s sin. When the Angel of the LORD stretched out his sword over Jerusalem to destroy it David cried out **“I am the sinner and the one who has done wrong. O LORD my God let your hand fall upon me and my family but do not let this plague remain on your people”** (1 Chron. 21:17). How did it all go so horribly wrong? That is what we explain in this paper.

¹ Stained glass panel figuring David in the Rose Window of the Catholic Church of Jesu in Marquette, Wisconsin, USA

THE CORONATION OF DAVID

Scripture records this event:

“All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said ‘We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the LORD said to you ‘You will shepherd my people Israel and you will become their ruler’. When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.” (2 Samuel 5:1-2)

This was the beginning of the downfall of David and ultimately the downfall of the nation Israel.

Scripture records that the king made a compact, a covenant, with the elders at Hebron. The Hebrew word is ברית (Bereet) which means ‘an alliance’ ‘a compact’ ‘a league’ or ‘a confederacy’. In other words, the elders of Israel surrendered all their authority over Israel and became merely the allies or the supporters of David. David became the absolute ruler of Israel. Dissent was impossible because the elders of Israel and the people of Israel had pledged their loyalty to him.

When the people of Israel came out of Egypt the LORD God was their protector, their king, the one to whom they owed loyalty and obedience. This had now completely changed. The loyalty of Israel, even the elders of Israel, was no longer to the LORD God, but to a human king, the man, David.

Israel had asked for a king to rule over them ‘**like the Gentiles**’ (1 Samuel 8:5). Samuel informed them what they had done was ‘**an evil thing in the eyes of the LORD to ask for a king**’ (1 Samuel 12:17). As a sign of God’s displeasure the wheat harvest was destroyed by rain (1 Samuel 12:18).

Can an Israelite obey God and the king? If the king obeys God then the people who follow the king will obey God. But if the king disobeys God then the people who follow the king will disobey God. The fate of an entire nation rests on the shoulders of a single man, their king, to lead them in obedience to God.

So the question boils down to this: can a king obey God? And, the answer is no. Even David, who in his youth was a man after God’s heart, could not obey God. David was anointed but he was also a sinner like all men. Up to the coronation we read in the life of David many occasions when his deeds reflected spiritual insight and humble obedience. But after the coronation, the life of David was marked by carnal decisions that demonstrated his frailty and his humanity. No sign of spirituality at all.

The righteous thing for David to have done was to have renounced the crown back to God. He ought to have begged the people to make Jehovah their king again. But David did not. He took the crown to himself! **Because of this disobedience the anointing of the Spirit left him never to return**. The kings in heaven would never do such a thing! They lay their crowns down before the LORD (Rev. 4:10).

THE BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURE OF DAVID

[1] **His Life Prior to His Coronation** – Demonstrating His Spirit Anointing

- As a mere youth and untrained for war he risked his life to meet Goliath's challenge
- He sang such spirit touched songs he drove the demons from Saul's mind
- The women came from all the towns to sing praises to David but he did not become puffed up
- In his humble state of mind he did not consider himself worthy to be the king's son-in-law
- Although the king attacked him with a spear he forgave and returned again to serve him
- He did not strike the king but spared his life when given the chance to take it
- Rather than distress the king he left the country and took a repulsive job working for heathen

[2] **His Failure to Return the Kingship to Jehovah** – The Spirit of God Departs Never To Return

- He knew Samuel told Israel it was a great sin to ask for a king 'like the Gentiles'.
- He knew the trouble kings could bring to their people from his own sufferings of persecution
- He knew and had penned the line a thousand times: 'The LORD is King of all the Earth'
- Yet he took the Crown of Israel away from Jehovah when he had the chance to return it
- And so, the Spirit of God departed from King David – Jehovah was not Lord of his life any more

[3] **His Life after His Coronation** – Demonstrating His Carnality – Lack of Spirit Anointing

- He lusted after a married woman and committed adultery with Bathsheba
- He put her godly husband the warrior hero Uriah to death in order to cover his crime
- His sin made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt and so the son of that union died
- He showed favoritism and would not judge Absalom for the rape of Tamar
- This led to Absalom killing all the king's sons
- He denied justice and would not put Absalom to death for his crime of multiple murders
- That led to the rebellion of Absalom, civil war, and the rape in open air of David's concubines.
- This in turn led to the death of Absalom, which David should not have mourned but did

David's behavior after being crowned king was despicable. Prior to losing the anointing of the Spirit David was capable of acts which deny the self and which exalt God. After losing the anointing of the Spirit David demonstrated that he was as carnal in his desires, as selfish to his own interests, as blind to spiritual truth, as irresponsible to duties, and as biased in exercising judgment as the worst sinners among us! **A murderer! An adulterer! A nepotistic despot! A partial judge!**

The dramatic change in David's spiritual life before the coronation to after the coronation testifies the event of the coronation was the turning point. David did not bow before Jehovah and return the kingship to the rightful owner. And so, to all his other crimes he added this one: **A Thief!**

THE SCHEME TO BUILD A TEMPLE

David brought the Ark of the Covenant from a small village, Kiriath Jearim, **up to his castle, the City of David where he placed it in his garden under a tent.** This was not the will of God. We know because the Tabernacle of the LORD was located in Gibeon. There was the holy veil, the altar of incense, the table of showbread, the golden candlestick, the bronze laver, and the bronze altar. The fitting and proper place for the Ark of the Covenant was in the Tabernacle of the LORD not in the king's back yard.

This act of sacrilege was lost on the people of Israel. They were so smitten by King David they thought he could do no wrong. No one came to the King and said: 'You have taken possession of the holy Ark of the Covenant as if it is a piece of furniture and you put it in your garden'. Why did David do this strange thing? **Suspecting God might not be keen on his plan to build a temple, David ensured none of the prophets would instruct the priests to hide the Ark from him.** To ensure the Ark would not be moved out of his sight **David kept it safely locked up inside his castle walls.**

The people continued to come to Gibeon to worship the LORD. Sacrifices continued to be offered. Priests continued their ministry. But the Ark of the Covenant was not there. This was a powerful symbol that **the coronation of David and his alliance with the elders had violated the covenant God with his people.** The people were still willing to worship, but spiritually the presence of King David over them prevented them from having a direct communion with God.

Furthermore, **David got it in his mind to dispense with the Tabernacle of Moses altogether:**

"He said to the prophet Nathan, 'Here I am living in a palace of cedar while the Ark of the Covenant is under a tent.' (1 Chron. 17:1)

Nathan betrayed his spiritual ignorance of what happened at the coronation when he replied:

'Whatever you have in mind do it, for God is with you' (verse 2)

God corrected Nathan. The plan of David to build a temple was evil and God wanted it stopped.

That night the word of God came to Nathan, saying: 'Go tell my servant David 'This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build me a house to dwell in. I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel out of Egypt to this day...'' (verse 4 and 5).

God promised that he would establish a house, a throne, and a kingdom forever through a descendant of David [who we now know was Jesus Christ, the Son of David and the Son of God]:

I declare to you that the LORD will build a house for you: When your days are over and you go to be with your fathers I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons [Son of David], and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a

house for me, and I will establish his throne forever, I will be his father and he will be my son [Son of God]. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it from your predecessor. I will set him over my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.” (1 Chron. 17:4-14)

In spite of this great and precious promise the Messiah would be his own seed, **David did not listen. He continued with his plan to build a temple.** To work around the admonition that he would not be the one to build it, David determined to build it through his son Solomon.

“King David rose to his feet and said: ‘Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. But God said to me ‘You are not to build a house for my Name, because... you have shed blood.’” (1 Chron. 28:2-3)

Here is the reality fully exposed: The seat of David is the throne that belongs to the LORD:

“He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the Kingdom of the LORD over Israel” (1 Chron. 28:5)

And here comes the big lie. God never said this:

“He said to me ‘Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father” (1 Chron. 28:6)

Notice the prophecy of Nathan does not say God will *chose* a man to be his son, it says ‘I will be his father’. In other words, **the true Messiah will be immaculately conceived!**

David designed the temple and he provided the materials for the construction of the temple. Solomon supervised the construction and dedicated it. In reality it was the Temple of David: **a work of Satanic seduction**, a lie, a snare and a trap for the people of God. *[More on that later in this paper].*

Solomon continued in the error of his father David when he declared with great eloquence:

“O LORD, God of Israel... You have kept your promise to your servant David my father... May your eyes be open to this Temple day and night, this place of which you said you would put your Name there” (2 Chron. 6: 14-15, 20).

Solomon misled the people of Israel into believing the Temple of stone which David designed was the fulfillment of his promise to establish his kingdom forever through his descendant, himself. Solomon was implying he was the Messiah, the promised one who would establish David’s kingdom forever.

It was all pure heresy. The origin of it was evil, from the author of lies himself. He worked through David, who had become like putty in his hands once the Spirit of Truth had departed from him.

THE COUNTING OF THE FIGHTING MEN

Scripture recounts this event:

“Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops ‘Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me that I may know how many there are’. But Joab replied ‘May the LORD multiply his troops a hundred times over. My lord the king, are they not all my lord’s subjects? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?’”
(1 Chronicles 21:1-3)

Here it is in black in white, written down in Scripture so there can be no doubt: **David was no longer anointed by the Spirit of God, David was under the control of Satan!** This is not the opinion of this writer: it is the plain truth of the Bible. David was now being led by an evil spirit down a path of evil.

What was so terrible about counting the fighting men? Joab explains this when he says **‘May the LORD multiply his troops’** implying that the men of Israel are spiritual – they serve in the army of Israel out of reverence for God – their souls belong to Jehovah. Joab further explains ‘Are they not all my lord’s subjects?’ King David might call the servants of Jehovah to battle, but Jehovah would move his servants to fight in that battle or not. They are free Israelites. They do not belong to King David, as a slave would belong to him. He is the shepherd of Israel, on behalf of the LORD, who owns the sheep.

Here is how it would happen. A crier would come into a town and say to the people **‘Every man who wishes to be counted in the army of King David, please step forward.’** By coming forward to be counted, the fighting men gave up the freedom to choose to volunteer. They ceased to be ‘Israelites’; they became ‘King David-ites’. **David had stolen the crown – now David was stealing the sheep!**

Joab returned and reported the number of the troops. When he told David the number all the souls of the fighting men were transferred from the spiritual army of Jehovah into the temporal army of King David. Since David was under the authority of Satan, the soldiers in David’s army had spiritually joined the army of the Devil. **David had led the biggest mass treason to Jehovah in all history to that point.** The sin was not only on him but on every fighting man who had joined his army. Scripture says there were over a million counted. The sin was great. One cannot steal God’s sheep and go unpunished.

The Seer Gad [whose name means ‘troop’] came to David with the bad news about his kingdom:

“This is what the LORD says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you... three years of famine, three months of being swept away before your enemies, with their swords overtaking you, or three days of the sword of the LORD – plague in the land, with the Angel of the LORD ravaging every part of Israel.” (1 Chron. 21:10-12)

THE THRESHING FLOOR OF ARAUNAH THE JEBUSITE

David chose the third option: **three days of the sword of the LORD – plague in the land**. There was terrible loss of life: 70,000 men in Israel died². We continue with the account:

“And God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. But as the angel was doing so, the LORD saw it and was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was destroying the people ‘Enough! Withdraw your hand!’ The angel was then standing at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” (1 Chron. 21:15)

The LORD by his own mercy stopped the massacre. Not by David’s prayer which came next:

“David looked up and saw the Angel of the LORD standing between heaven and earth, with a drawn sword in his hand over Jerusalem... David said ‘Was it not I who ordered the fighting men to be counted? I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. O LORD my God, let your hand fall on me and my family, but do not let this plague remain on your people.’” (verses: 16-17)

David’s prayer was not heard. David was leading a rebellion. He had no place in the presence of God.

“Then the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell David to go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. So David went in obedience to the word Gad had spoken in the name of the LORD.” (verses: 18-19)

Since the LORD would not communicate with David, **the Lord spoke through his anointed servant Gad.**

“David paid Araunah 600 shekels of gold for the site. David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the LORD and the LORD answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.” (v: 25-26)

The sin of David was not atoned. It was only covered temporarily. This was the purpose of animal sacrifices under the Law of Moses. Sin can only be paid with the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:12).

“Then the LORD spoke to the angel and he put his sword back into his sheath.” (v.27)

The burnt offerings did not restore the relationship of David with God. It only put on hold the judgment for the sin of David of counting the fighting men. **David no longer worshiped the LORD:**

“**The Tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses had made in the desert... was at Gibeon. But David could not go before it to inquire of God,** because he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD.” (verses: 29-30)

² That was exactly 1,000 deaths for each one of the 70 elders who forsook the Lord and entered into alliance with David.

THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON – PROPHETIC IMPORTANCE

God dictated all the measurements in the Tabernacle of the Ark of the Covenant to Moses. The whole construction is rich with meanings and symbols which speak of the sacrifice of Christ and his work on the cross. The fabric speaks of his flesh. The ark and other sacred furniture being composed of common wood with gold overlay speaks of the miracle that he could be both human and divine. The unleavened show bread speaks of his sinless life. The altar of incense speaks of how his prayers were heard because they are mixed with the virtue of his suffering. And so on, and so on.

God never said the Tabernacle of the Ark of the Covenant would be replaced. He made that clear when he informed David that he was not the one to build a Temple for God. **‘Did I ever say to any of the elders whom I commanded to shepherd my people ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’**

The Tabernacle of the Ark of the Covenant was a real functioning sanctuary during the times of the Jews but there would come a time when there was no longer a need for it: **‘When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once and for all by his own blood.’** (Heb. 9:11-12) **The Tabernacle of the Ark of the Covenant was not replaced - it was fulfilled** when the prophecies imbedded in it came true in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

The measurements of the temple which David designed were not dictated by God. All the construction materials, dimensions, sizes and weights of objects, were different from the Tabernacle of Moses. Entirely new objects appear that were not in the design of the Tabernacle of Moses: for example the two bronze pillars outside the doors, the portico in front of the doors, and the steps.

If the construction materials weights and sizes of objects in **the Tabernacle of Moses point to Messiah**, then what does it mean when those things differ in the Temple of Solomon? It means **the Temple of Solomon points to a false Messiah**. Get ready for it... it means **the Temple of Solomon points to the Antichrist**. Solomon received 666 talents of gold a year. He is a type of the Antichrist in our Bible.

Who will be the Antichrist? Will he not sit on the throne of David? Which is the ‘Throne of the LORD’! Will he not be known as the ‘Son of God’ and even at the appropriate time claim to be God? Surely the Antichrist must be a descendent of David. (But keep in mind Solomon was half Hittite.)

If Solomon is a type of the Antichrist, then David is a type of the False Prophet: the person all Jews revere without question and who sets up everything for the Antichrist to take power. David wrote the Psalms. David was at one time a prophet. Sadly he lost the anointing and went over to the dark side.

When the Spirit of God departed from David, an evil spirit entered his heart. **David became a tool of the Devil to deceive Israel into false worship** and to pave the way for the Antichrist to rule the world.

APPLICATION OF THE LIFE OF DAVID TO THE CHRISTIAN

Firstly, we must know for a certainty Jesus is the true Messiah. Jesus was God in the flesh who walked among us – just as the Tabernacle of Moses traveled with the children of Israel. The enemies of Jesus were those in the religious camp who were waiting for a Messiah like David who would deliver Israel from the enemies all around her. The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees rejected Jesus – he did not fit the dimensions of the Temple they were looking for. Jesus came meek and lowly, like the Tabernacle of Moses, uninspiring to look at. The elders of the Jews and the High Priest were looking for a Messiah like the Temple of Solomon – who would be a glorious King reigning from Jerusalem.

Secondly, if we believe in Jesus we must continue to walk in his humble spiritual path. ‘He that says he abides in him ought to walk, even as he walked.’ (1 John 2:6) It is contrary to every teaching of Jesus to for his followers to behave in a religious manner. We are not to be as the hypocrites who meet in temples erected by the hands of men. They think their religious show impresses God, but it has the exact opposite effect. The LORD says ‘Who has required this of you, this trampling of my courts? Your New Moons and appointed feasts my soul hates. I am weary of bearing them.’ (Isaiah 1:12-14). The temple of God is our physical bodies. God wants us to meet him there and he wants to speak to us in quiet reflection, in prayer, in the still small voice of his Spirit in our hearts. If we meet with other Christians, it is meant to be in small gatherings for times of intimate fellowship, sharing, and ministry to one another. Not in large ecstatic worship gatherings, such as David arranged when he marched the Ark up to his castle to the loud accompaniment of trumpets, cymbals, and shouting.

Thirdly, if we want to serve Jesus we must never take a position of authority over the people of God. Jesus said ‘All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey my commandments’ (Matt. 28:18-20) All authority must remain in the hands of Jesus. If any group of Christians appoints a minister or a priest or a padre or a pastor to rule over them and shepherd them in the same way that the tribes of Israel approached David at Hebron to rule over them, those Christians have walked right into the trap of the Devil. Jesus explicitly told us ‘call no man father, for one is your Father in heaven and you are all brothers’ (Matt. 23:9)

Fourthly, we ought to reckon ourselves as members of the spiritual army of Jehovah. We must never sign up with or belong to any temporal army of man arranged here on the earth. We must never be counted as a ‘member’ of a local church or a ‘member’ of a denomination. This is a grievous affront to the grace of our Lord Jesus whose blood purchased our freedom. We belong to him alone and his body is not divided. We must never identify ourselves by the name of any human organization, such as ‘Baptist’ or ‘Pentecostal’ or ‘Catholic’ or ‘Orthodox’. If anyone asks the author ‘what church do you go to?’ I will respond ‘The Free Church’. They will say ‘Oh, what is that?’ And I will say ‘It is the church established at the cross over two thousand years ago.’

And all God’s people said (without prompting): Amen!