



How To Build A Good Foundation For Life
King David - A Biographical Sketch - Sermon Series
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

**How To Build A Good Foundation for Life
King David (Part 1) - The Beginnings
Sunday Sermon, September 06, 2026**

We begin a series of studies - a biographical sketch of King David.

A 70-year life journey.

Our goal is to look into his life, his calling, formation, challenges, leadership, his failures/successes, his life of worship, etc. and draw insights that we can apply to our own lives and walk with God. We wish to learn about our God and His ways, and to learn how we can walk even more deeply with our God.

BACKGROUND

All dates in this study are approximate dates (estimated).

David, Hebrew meaning "beloved" or "beloved one".

Birth 1040 B.C.

Son of Jesse, born in Bethlehem, in the tribe of Judah.

Youngest among 8 brothers. He had 7 older brothers and at least 2 sisters (1 Samuel 16:10-11; 1 Chronicles 2:16).

Anointed by prophet Samuel, perhaps when he was about 17-20 years of age.

Age when he became king: 30 years

His reign around 1010-970 B.C.

Reign over Judah: 1010-1003 B.C. (7 1/2 years)

Reign over united Israel: 1003-970 B.C. (33 years)

Total reign: 40 years

Died at 70 years of age.

Bible passages: 1 Samuel 16-31; 2 Samuel 1-24; 1 Kings 1-2; 1 Chronicles 11-29t, the Psalms of David and New Testament references.

EARLY LIFE & ANOINTING

Today we focus on his early life and anointing and draw insights from this.

DAVID AS A SHEPHERD



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David was the youngest son of Jesse, and he was put in charge of his father's sheep. So he began his early life as a shepherd.

1 Samuel 16:11

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

DAVID PROTECTS HIS FLOCK

David took his responsibility very seriously. We know from what David mentioned in a later stage, that he protected his sheep from wild animals, including a lion and a bear, showing his courage and reliance on God.

1 Samuel 17:34-36

**34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,
35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.
36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."**

ANOINTING BY PROPHET SAMUEL

David was anointed by Samuel as king while still a young shepherd, as God had rejected Saul due to his disobedience. David must have been between 17-20 years of age at this time.

1 Samuel 16:1,7,12-13

**1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."
7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"**



13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

KEY INSIGHTS

Here are some key insights we can take away from David's early life:

#1, A HEART AFTER GOD

The very first reference to David, although not directly by name is found in 1 Samuel 13:13-14 when the prophet Samuel announces that God has sought and found a man after his own heart.

1 Samuel 13:13-14

13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

14 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."

The Hebrew phrase "a man after His own heart" literally means: "a man according to His heart" or "a man like His heart."

This does not mean that David was a perfect man who would never make mistakes. But this points to a person whose heart was tender and inclined to the thoughts and purposes of God. A person whose desire was to seek after God, to listen to God, do His will.

We could therefore conclude that David was being shaped and formed as a man whose character, desires, passions, decisions, and allegiance was toward God, to serve God and to fulfill God's purposes.

Interestingly this (1 Samuel 13:14) is announced in contrast to king Saul who was on a downward spiral of repeated willful disobedience to God, seeking to do his own will, seeking to please people, blaming others instead of repenting and taking responsibility, eventually leading to total failure.

The apostle Paul references 1 Samuel 13:14 and states it like this:



Acts 13:22

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.'

David was not a perfect man, but he was a man whose heart was in the right place - in God - with the intent of doing God's will.

The reason God told Samuel to overlook the 7 older brothers of David was that God was observing the heart. *"So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!" But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."* (1 Samuel 16:6-7).

There was something about David's heart that got the attention of God.

A heart rooted in God is our foundation for all that is to be built in time to come.

#2, SEEDS OF DESTINY

We have this mention made by one of king Saul's servants about David:

1 Samuel 16:18

Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."

Consider the bio given about David - six key characteristics:

- Skillful in playing the harp
- Man of courage (brave man)
- Mighty warrior (man of battle, fights well)
- Skillful in speech - this could also have reference to his ability to compose psalms.
- Good looking
- The Lord is with him

These were characteristics that became evident very early in David's life. People around him saw and recognized these in him. We refer to these as "seeds of destiny", things



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God has placed in you in “seed form”, which need to be nurtured and developed, and have an important part to play in helping you fulfill God’s assignment on your life.

There are things God has placed in you during your early years, that are seeds for your life’s assignment.

We know that David eventually became king and led in great military conquests. He also became the sweet Psalmist of Israel (2 Samuel 23:1).

Proverbs 18:16

A man's gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men.

Gift = present, reward, offering, something you give
We understand this literally - when you give something to someone.
But we can also “give” off our talents and skills.

These characteristics, seen in David, opened a door for him to come into the king’s court.

David must have been in his late teens or early 20’s when he is brought in to serve as a musician in king Saul’s court.

David enters the palace as a servant before he enters it as king.

Understand that your gifts open doors of service before you can step into places of leadership.

The mistake we often make is we desire places of leadership because of our gifts, without learning to first serve with our gifts.

#3, FORMED IN OBSCURITY

We also learn from David’s early life that God prepare us in hiddenness, and in obscurity for life’s assignment.

David’s own father did not consider him “important enough” to have him at home when the prophet Samuel came to visit.

1 Samuel 16:11



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And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

We do not know the details, but there is no indication that David insisted that he must attend the gathering when Jesse and his sons were invited to meet with Samuel (1 Samuel 16:1-5). We can just imagine when Jesse received an invitation from the prophet Samuel to come with his sons to attend the sacrifice that Samuel was going to conduct at Bethlehem. All the sons of Jesse must have been excited. David would have heard about this too. But he did not get to go to the sacrifice and was instead left to keep the sheep. David didn't fight to go to the gathering. He didn't get offended that he was not taken along with his brothers.

David stayed faithful in his assignment (taking care of sheep), and God called him out through the prophet Samuel.

Even after he was anointed by prophet Samuel to be king and gained access to the king's court - he remained in service as a servant - a shepherd to his father, a musician to the king, whenever invited to play the harp for king Saul. David did not push or elevate himself to any place of prominence.

David was in no hurry to step in his calling as king. He let God work out the process.

Do not be in a hurry to step into your prophetic destiny. Stay faithful in your current assignment, even when you are unrecognized, go unnoticed or unrewarded. God never fails to notice your faithfulness.

The experiences and learning that takes place in obscurity prepare us for the time God brings us into visibility.

Hiddenness formed the man before visibility revealed the man.

A note about the Psalms of David.

PSALMS OF DAVID

Of the 150 Psalms, 73 are traditionally attributed to David by their Hebrew superscriptions. A smaller group especially Psalms 3, 7, 18, 34, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63 and 142, has an explicit or very strong historical connection to episodes in David's life.



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We do our best to match the Psalms of David to the phases of his life, when they were most likely to be written. This is an approximate effort and not precise.

The Psalms give us insight into his spiritual life and his walk with God during various seasons/phases of his life.

PSALMS MOST LIKELY WRITTEN DURING THIS PHASE:

Psalms 8: God's greatness and man's calling. Shows David's recognition of the greatness of God and the smallness of us human beings.

Psalms 19: Shows David's recognition of God's revelation through creation and His Word. Shows David's reverence for God's Word and recognition of its purity and power.

Psalms 23: The LORD as Shepherd (Note: This is not dated by the superscription but traditionally associated with David's shepherd experience.). Shows an intimate personal knowledge of God as a loving, caring, providing, protecting Shepherd.

Psalms 29: Shows David's recognition of the glory and power of the LORD and of His mighty voice.

SUMMARY

KEY INSIGHTS FROM DAVID'S EARLY LIFE AND ANOINTING

#1, A HEART AFTER GOD

A heart rooted in God is our foundation for all that is to be built in time to come.

#2, SEEDS OF DESTINY

Understand that your gifts open doors of service before you can step into places of leadership.

#3, FORMED IN OBSCURITY

The experiences and learning that takes place in obscurity prepare us for the time God brings us into visibility. Hiddenness formed the man before visibility revealed the man.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME



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Minister as the Spirit leads



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There is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *1 Samuel 13:13-14; 1 Samuel 16:1-18*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.



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Q1, David was a man after God's own heart. Reflect on what this means. What would this look like in daily life. Discuss the insight: A heart rooted in God is our foundation for all that is to be built in time to come.

Q2, There was key traits or characteristics that were observed early in David's life (1 Samuel 16:18). We call these "seeds of destiny". Reflect on what this looks like in our lives. How do we identify "seeds of destiny" and how we should nurture these. Discuss the insight: Understand that your gifts open doors of service before you can step into places of leadership.

Q3, Although David was anointed to be the next king by prophet Samuel, and had gained entrance into the king's court because of his gifts, he remained as a servant taking care of sheep and playing the harp whenever invited. What does this teach us about learning to be formed in obscurity. Discuss the insight: The experiences and learning that takes place in obscurity prepare us for the time God brings us into visibility. Hiddenness formed the man before visibility revealed the man.

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

BELIEVERS BIBLE COMMENTARY: <https://believersbiblecommentary.com>

SERMON OUTLINE

In this sermon series studying the life of king David, we draw key insights on how to build a good foundation for life. We examine three key insights. (1) A heart rooted in God is our foundation for all that is to be built in time to come. (2) Understand that your gifts open doors of service before you can step into places of leadership. (3) The experiences and learning that takes place in obscurity prepare us for the time God brings us into visibility. Hiddenness formed the man before visibility revealed the man. Do not be in a hurry to step into your prophetic destiny. Stay faithful in your current assignment, even when you are unrecognized, go unnoticed or unrewarded. God never fails to notice your faithfulness. This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon presentation) are free for use in personal study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.



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KEYWORDS

Build a good foundation, foundation for success, a heart after God, seeds of destiny, obscurity, hiddenness, king david, biographical sketch, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:

Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886).

Free Bible software and AI tools are also used as Bible study aids, from time to time.