



The First 40 Days

Seek God and Restore Everything

A 40-Day Journey with Glenn Beck

STUDIES 16-20

SIXTEEN

DAVID

King Saul had rejected God and His commands, and as a result, God rejected him. In his place, God raised up a new King—an unexpected hero—David. David was from the tribe of Judah and a descendant of Ruth and Boaz (See Day 7). He was the youngest in his family and had no political intentions. Yet, working closely with God, he became an extraordinary King.

His story begins in 1st Samuel.

1 Samuel 16

The prophet Samuel searched among David's brothers for the future King of Israel. Presumably, he saw strapping, tall, young men and thought, "Ah yes, that's the King."

But then God said, “Humans look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

As you already know from Day 14, “heart” is the Hebrew word “lev.” It encompasses the entire inner life of a man. It drives our behavior, stirs our emotions, and inspires our thoughts. It is, essentially, the “real you.”

Twice in the Bible, David is described as a man “after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). Something at the core of who David really was was in alignment with God. Does that mean he was perfect? Far from it. When you read his entire story, you’ll find plenty of moments sullied with sin, but even still his orientation was towards God, and God recognized that.

God saw the real David and chose to put His spirit on him.

The word “spirit” in Hebrew is “ruah.” It means God’s breath or even “wind,” and it’s documented moving throughout the earth from Genesis onward. It’s still moving today. Many call it “The Holy Spirit.”

Along with being anointed with God’s spirit, David is described as a brave soldier who chose his words carefully and was pleasant to look at (1 Samuel 16:18). He had both the gifts of war and music and is credited with writing many of the Psalms.

But the story he is most remembered for is when he faced off against the giant Goliath.

 1 Samuel 17

- ▶ **TOMORROW:** COVENANT OF FRIENDSHIP

Journal Your Response.

Then, if you can, discuss your responses with a friend.

Facing a giant, David ran to the battle line and proclaimed, *“You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied.”*

What giants are you facing?

Do you honestly believe that they can be conquered with God, or are you trying to fight your giants alone?

What giants are the people of God facing in our country and abroad?

SEVENTEEN

COVENANT OF FRIENDSHIP

There are few more wholesome friendships in the Bible than the brotherly love between David and Saul's son, Jonathan.

1 Samuel 18:1-5

In this passage we see a different type of covenant from what we've studied previously. This was not a covenant made between God and man, but between two men. Similar to the marriage covenant, Jonathan bound himself to David for as long as he lived. They were united forever in devoted friendship.

Unfortunately, Jonathan's Father, King Saul, did not take as kindly to David.

1 Samuel 18:6-16

David grew greater in the eyes of the people, and Saul became murderous with jealous rage. In one of King Saul's earlier murder attempts, it was Jonathan who stepped in to protect David's life.

1 Samuel 19:1-7

But King Saul didn't keep his word. He was determined to end David's life. Again, it was Jonathan and their mutual covenant of friendship that stood between David and death.

1 Samuel 20

We have sworn, both of us, in the name of The Lord, that The Lord will be between me and you, and between my descendants and yours, forever.

1 SAMUEL 20:42

In this passage we see an example of layering covenants. The depth of the original covenant is expanded and revealed; now it encompasses both David and Jonathan's families forever. We see this frequently in covenants made between man and God. As we read the Bible, we find the covenants layering, expanding, and revealing new information. They build on each other like a tower and none eliminates or reduces the prior. It's a process of ongoing revelation.

Jonathan and David made their first covenant at the start of their friendship. Then, when their friendship was tested by the threat of death, the covenant gained even more meaning. It expanded in its scope, but the core remained intact. It's the core—the brotherly love—that set the stage for the next layer in their mutual covenant.

The covenant between David and Jonathan teaches us that promises made to our fellow man are also made before God. They become law in our lives, and they change the course of our existence.

Think carefully before you make covenants—pacts or treaties—with your fellow man. Jonathan loved David as much as he loved himself. May we all enter covenants with loyal and godly men and women like Jonathan, or else not enter them at all.

► **TOMORROW:** THE ARK

EIGHTEEN

THE ARK

After many deaths, close-calls, heroic acts, and near misses, David was finally anointed King over Israel.

2 Samuel 5:1-6

As one of his first acts as King, he decided to bring back the Ark of the Lord.

For the people of Israel, the Ark of the Covenant served as an earthly manifestation of God. Its holiness was unparalleled by any earthly object. Few people in the Bible interacted with it directly and only under very specific circumstances. To even look into the Ark proved deadly.

But God struck down some of the inhabitants of Beit Shemesh, putting 70 of them of death, because they looked into the Ark of the LORD.

1 SAMUEL 6:19

The Philistines had captured the ark and taken it back to their land. They quickly learned that was a huge mistake.

1 Samuel 5

The Philistines willingly sent the ark back to the Israelites and, eventually, David brought it to Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 6:1-19

Why did Uzzah die?

To answer that question, we first need to understand the commands surrounding transportation of the ark.

When transported, the ark was to be carried by poles.

Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry it.

EXODUS 25:15

Only Kohathites from the tribe of Levi were to transport it, and no one could touch it.

...when the camp is ready to move, only then are the Kohathites to come and do the carrying. But they must not touch the holy things or they will die.

NUMBERS 4:15

The Ark was supposed to be covered.

When the time comes to break camp, Aaron is to go in with his sons, take down the curtain which serves as a screen, and cover the ark of the testimony with it.

NUMBERS 4:5

Uzzah was from the tribe of Benjamin. They were transporting the Ark on a cart, and it doesn't say they covered it. Yet it wasn't until Uzzah touched the Ark that he died. Why, when others were also breaking commands about transporting the ark, did only Uzzah die?

The real answer is we don't know for sure. But we can speculate.

Ask yourself, what's more worthy of touching the Ark: man, or the dirt? Uzzah thought it would be better for the embodiment of God to touch him than the earth. He thought, in a short instinctual moment, that he was the preferable contact point.

But he was wrong.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1), and he saw that it was good (Genesis 1:31).

The Hebrew word for good is “tov.”

To be “tov” is to be fulfilling the reason you were created—to be functioning as designed.

Creation, at the beginning of the world, was functioning as designed—even the dirt. It was all “tov.”

Perhaps the dirt beneath Uzzah’s feet was still “tov.” But Uzzah was not. Uzzah attempted to “save” God from the dirt. But perhaps, in that moment, the dirt was more in-line with its purpose than Uzzah was.

It was an act of mercy that everyone didn’t die that day. David realized that and said,

“How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me?”

He had to wrestle with his own unworthiness. Why would the manifestation of God on earth want to come to him? How could it ever?

How could God ever come to me?

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have set in place;
What is man that You think of him,
And a son of man that You are concerned about him?

PSALM 8:3-4

The chasm between God and man is unbridgeable but for God's unending love. Knowing we are no holier than the dirt, it's unfathomable that God allows us in His presence.

Quoting the Psalms, the apostle Paul wrote,

There is no one righteous, not even one!
No one understands,
no one seeks God,
all have turned away
and at the same time become useless;
there is no one who shows kindness, not a single one!

ROMANS 3:31

There is no one righteous, except God.

Does that mean we don't pursue righteousness? Do we just give up?

Paul, just a few sentences later, answers that question.

Do we then nullify the Law through faith? Far from it! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

ROMANS 3:31

Only God in his infinite mercy can close the gap between Himself and us. We could never be good enough—never be obedient enough. That's not why we obey God. We obey God because He closes the gap—because of his mercy and endless love. Knowing we are no better than dirt and still allowed in his presence, it's the least we could do.

NINETEEN

HOUSE OF DAVID

As recorded in the first chapter in the book of Matthew, Jesus was a descendant of King David.

Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

MATTHEW 1:17

The Apostle Paul, speaking in a synagogue in Antioch, used this point as further proof that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah.

Acts 13:16-23

Paul was referring to an exchange between David, God, and God's prophet, Nathan, when God promised to set up the throne of David and his descendants forever.

2 Samuel 7

When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

2 SAMUEL 7:12-16

David's son Solomon did build a "house" for God—Solomon's temple. It was a glorious building lined with cedar wood and clad in gold. It became a permanent resting place for The Ark of The Covenant and stood in glory until it was destroyed by the Babylonians. That was seemingly the end of the Davidic dynasty.

Or was it?

Jeremiah 33:14-26

God has promised that the line of David will rule forever, and from his line would sprout a "righteous branch."

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse*; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. But with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

ISAIAH 19:1; 4

*Jesse was David's father.

They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever.

EZEKIEL 37:25

Like Paul, the Apostle Peter believed that Jesus was that righteous branch—the promised prince of Israel established on the throne forever.

Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'" (Psalm 110:1) Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

ACTS 2:29-36

▶ **TOMORROW:** KING JOSIAH

TWENTY

KING JOSIAH

Following the reign of David, the Kings of Israel moved farther and farther away from God. They turned to the worship of idols and foreign gods and forgot the law given to Moses.

That all changed when an eight-year-old boy—Josiah—assumed the throne after the death of his Father. He defied his immediate predecessors and, as the Bible says, “did what was right in the Lord’s perspective, living entirely in the manner of David.”

During his reign, King Josiah made an incredible discovery.

2 Kings 22

The people were so far from God that they had actually lost the scriptures. The covenant God made with Moses was abandoned and then forgotten. King Josiah received the word of the covenant as if for the first time.

His response was grief. He mourned the time spent without God's word. They were even farther from God than he could have ever imagined. Yet God was longsuffering, and He allowed Josiah to set the people on the path of restoration, at least for a time.

2 Kings 23:1-28

And the king went up to the house of the Lord and every man of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, the prophets, and all the people, from the small to the great; and he read in their presence all the words of the Book of the Covenant which was found in the house of the Lord. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep His commandments, His provisions, and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant.

2 KINGS 23:1-4

The covenant made by Josiah was not new but rather renewed. It was a recommitment to the covenant made with Moses—a covenant made with the seed of Abraham. They confirmed the covenant by promising to observe the commands, instructions, and regulations of God that they had abandoned.

The content of the covenant was not original—they did not add to or subtract from the conditions of the covenant—but for the people standing with King Josiah, it was a brand-new start. Similarly, the festival of Passover had not been celebrated since the time of the Judges, but now the people celebrated it again. It was not a new holiday—as a people, it was old. But in their lives, it was new.

In his short time on this earth, King Josiah restored and renewed the covenant by bringing the people back to God through obedience.

Before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart, all his soul, and all his might, in conformity to all the Law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.

2 KINGS 23:25

King Josiah is an example to us all of how to renew a covenant. First, we turn to God with all our heart—our inmost being. Then, we conform our lives to his commands. No matter the cost, no matter what lies we inherited from our fathers, no matter how far society has fallen, to renew a covenant we must give ourselves wholly and completely to God and do what he says.

► **TOMORROW:** JESUS AT THE FOUNDATION

In the Word.

What covenant or covenants did King Josiah restore?

Did King Josiah change or modify the previous covenant or covenants in any way?

Think About It.

Why did King Josiah destroy the places connected to the worship of other gods? Could he have left them standing and still renewed the covenant?

Hungry For More?

Read Nehemiah 8 for another example of restoring a covenant.