

# David the Messiah

By Victor Gluckin

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More than any other Biblical figure King David exemplifies an individual with a heart for GOD. In even a cursory examination of David's life and the early acts of his reign, one would see his passionate desire to honor the LORD and follow His will above even his own. It is no surprise to read that when GOD was looking for a new man to rule over His people, one who had a heart like He did, Jesse's youngest son David was selected and anointed to be king. It is in the life of David that we see not only GOD's desire for a king over Israel being fulfilled but we can also catch sight of the one which GOD would have rule the entire world forever.

As the children of Israel entered into the promised land of Canaan, a great conquest under Joshua ensued. Tremendous victories were achieved, conquering Jericho, Ai, and other Canaanite cities. However, one place alluded them altogether – the Jebusite city of Jebus. This was the location that GOD had desired His name to dwell and yet it was not taken during the Canaanite conquest. “The city remained foreign to the Israelites (Judges 19:11) until the end of the period of seven and a half years which David reigned in Hebron<sup>1</sup>.”

It was not in Israel's possession until David the Messiah came and took the stronghold of Zion even against challenging odds. “Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, and they said to David, ‘You shall not come in here, but the blind and lame will turn you away’; thinking, ‘David cannot enter here.’ **Nevertheless**, David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is the city of David.<sup>2</sup>” After decades of idolatrous inhabitants, GOD's city was taken by GOD's people. What a joyous occasion it must have been for them to finally enter into the gates of Jerusalem. Although David was claiming a capital city, his selection of Jerusalem was not based on his own desires, but rather on the

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<sup>1</sup> Hastings, James. Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible. Hendrickson Publishers Inc. New York. c. 1909 – “Jerusalem” entry, page 438

<sup>2</sup> II Samuel 5:6-7 - NASB

choosing of GOD. At this time “joy prevails in Israel. The division which rent the people is healed. Every doubt as to David’s divine call to occupy the throng of the king has disappeared<sup>3</sup>.”

The second act of King David continues to characterize him as a trustworthy leader in Israel and one who yearned to honor the LORD. David plans to bring back the Ark of the Covenant, which had been in enemy possession. At first he is unsuccessful in this act due to his ignorance to the prescribed way of the LORD. "Because you did not carry it at the first, the LORD our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance<sup>4</sup>." However, after seeking the correct way to carry the Ark of GOD, David begins the march into the city once more. “David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the city of David with gladness. And so it was, that when the bearers of the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. And David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouting and the sound of the trumpet<sup>5</sup>.” “The ark’s arrival in Jerusalem, there, is a critical moment in this larger design: Yahweh’s ‘name’ is in its place and Israel is soon to have the promised ‘rest from all their enemies’ (II Samuel 7:11)<sup>6</sup>.”

In just the early weeks of this new administration David captures Jerusalem and restores the worship of the LORD to Israel. As his reign continued he would orchestrate a new revival in the praise and worship of the true God, call for a new order of Levitical praise leaders, set plans and gather resources for a permanent temple, and begin to rule over part of the land that was originally promised to Abraham<sup>7</sup>. He established twelve princes under him who would help him as overseers of the kingdom<sup>8</sup>. He ordered GOD’s kingdom and created an environment in which all of Israel devotedly served the LORD, the time of Zion.

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<sup>3</sup> Krummacher, F.W. David – The King of Israel. Baker Book House Company. Grand Rapids. C. 1868 first edition. Page 248.

<sup>4</sup> I Chronicles 15:13 - NASB

<sup>5</sup> II Samuel 6:12-15 - NASB

<sup>6</sup> McCarter Jr., P. Kyle. The Anchor Bible – I Samuel. Doubleday & Company Inc. Garden City, NY, c. 1984. Page 175

<sup>7</sup> I Chronicles 18:3 – “David also defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah as far as Hamath, as he went to establish his rule to the **Euphrates River**.”

<sup>8</sup> See I Chronicles 27:25-31 for listing

Though David had many trials and fell into temptations, no other king in the history of Israel did more to honor GOD. When he sinned, he confessed “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight<sup>9</sup>.” He was concerned about giving the enemies of the LORD an occasion to blaspheme His name<sup>10</sup>. He cared about GOD’s will being done, even over his own. King David, through his words and his actions, showed emphatically that he was a man after GOD’s own heart.

In David the Messiah we see the type of King GOD always wanted. In Jesus the Messiah, we see the actual King that will rule for GOD, forever. After seeing David’s heart displayed by his first actions as King, we can parallel those with some of the very first acts of King Jesus when he returns as King of kings and Lord of lords. At the very last moments of this present evil age, mankind will be in a very deplorable state. Wickedness and evil will abound and confusion will reign, but in the eyes of the world, a sudden change will occur. Words originally spoken in regards to David’s triumphant take over of Jerusalem can be used to describe the coming of Jesus as well: “The hope for the future of Israel long appeared like a dead tree. Now it sent forth new fresh branches rich with promise<sup>11</sup>.”

The Scriptures tell us about one of the first acts of Jesus when he returns: “In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south<sup>12</sup>.” Jesus like his father David before him will come to take the city of GOD and give it and the kingdom over again to the people of the Most High<sup>13</sup>. Secondly Jesus will restore worship of the true GOD not only to Jerusalem, but also to the entire earth<sup>14</sup>. A new time of joy will

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<sup>9</sup> Psalm 51:4 – NASB

<sup>10</sup> II Samuel 12:13-14

<sup>11</sup> Krummacher. Page 249

<sup>12</sup> Zechariah 14:4 - NASB

<sup>13</sup> Daniel 7:27

<sup>14</sup> Isaiah 2:4, 11-12, etc

begin at this moment and will continue forever. He will even appoint his twelve princes after the manner of David to help judge the twelve tribes of Israel<sup>15</sup>.

Though David's rule was great, Jesus "will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end<sup>16</sup>." As we have seen, David was able to have a victorious reign because he submitted his will to GOD's and was obedient. How much more so will the reign of Jesus be triumphant and glorious knowing of his perfect submission to GOD. Jesus Christ had a greater heart for GOD than any man before him, for he was willing to set aside his own will and lay down his own life as the atoning sacrifice for all of mankind. All men since Adam, even David at times, grasped for equality with GOD until Jesus, and as a result, GOD has highly exalted him<sup>17</sup>.

King David was an amazing man of GOD. His first acts as king, taking GOD's city and restoring the worship of the LORD to Israel manifest this truth. In similar fashion, King Jesus will take over Jerusalem with his first act as King. This is not a small issue for "Jerusalem is more than the city of brick and mortar built upon Mt. Zion, it is an eschatological city...When (the rest of the earth) will be turned into a plain, Jerusalem will remain secure upon its lofty pinnacle, the eternal city from which Yahweh will rule the earth<sup>18</sup>." That act will be followed by a radical religious revival not only in Israel but also over the whole earth. What a glorious day it will be when this comes. Under both men, the priority of their Kingdom is the exaltation and glorification of GOD. Studying the joyous time of Zion during David's reign can give us a small picture of what it will be like during the eternal reign, of Jesus, the son of David and the son of GOD.

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<sup>15</sup> Matthew 19:29; Luke 22:30 (cp. I Chronicles 27:25-31)

<sup>16</sup> Luke 1:32-33 - NASB

<sup>17</sup> Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>18</sup> Newsome Jr., James D. The Hebrew Prophets. John Knox Press, Atlanta. c. 1984. Page 205

<sup>19</sup> Cover Page Photo source - <http://www.harrariharp.com/pictures/kingdavid.gif> - last accessed 10/7/04