

The following sermon was preached at Redemption Baptist Church on Sunday, 6 November 2022. We encourage you to look up the Scriptures that are referenced and see the context for yourself. May the Lord speak to your heart as you study His Word.

Jesus, the Son of David

Matthew 1:6

Most Christians have vivid images in their minds of what some of the famous scenes in the Bible would have looked like; and if you've known the Lord since childhood (as I have), your mental images of Bible scenes have probably been shaped by pictures from Bible story books that you read as a kid, or from an old family Bible. As for myself, I still remember the pictures from my parents' old "Spirit of Liberty" bicentennial edition of the King James Bible. When we had our family devotion time after supper each evening, we all took turns reading from Scripture; and I always claimed the big family Bible as the one that I'd read from. My motivation for wanting to read from this Bible was twofold. First, I liked this Bible simply because it was big (and kids always like big things)! Secondly, I loved the *pictures* that were tucked here and there throughout the Bible. I remember the classic painting of old Daniel, standing with his hands behind his back, and looking up toward the mouth of the lion's den. I remember the painting of Belshazzar looking on in terror as the hand of God wrote the words "*Mene, mene, tekel, upharsin*" on the wall of his palace. And, of course, I remember the picture of David in the Valley of Elah, as he swung the stone at the giant Goliath, and brought him to the ground.

You probably have some famous scenes from David's life burned into your imagination, as well! Everyone loves the stories of David. He was an amazing man, who was greatly blessed by God. God took him from being a shepherd in his father Jesse's fields, and made him a shepherd to His people, Israel. David was a mighty warrior, who slew thousands of Israel's enemies; yet, at the same time, he was a beautiful harpist and psalm writer, who expressed his deep love and trust in God in a way that still warms the hearts of believers all over the world. Who has not heard, in his own language, a translation of the words "*Jehovah ro'iy, lo echsar*"--"*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want*"?

There are several reasons why God mentioned David so prominently in Scripture; but probably the most important reason is that David is the king from whose royal line the Lord Jesus Christ was born. In the Gospel of **Matthew**, Matthew goes out of his way to show his Jewish readers that Jesus is "the son of David." This means that He is the Messiah, and the King of Israel. God has connected David's name to the Messiah so strongly, that you really cannot talk about the Messiah and His mission without also talking about David. David is not only an earthly *ancestor* of Jesus; he is also a powerful *type* of Jesus.

This morning, we will learn about three important people in the lineage of the Lord Jesus Christ. **David** is the first one. We will also learn about David's wife, **Bathsheba**, and about David and Bathsheba's son, **Solomon**. As we study these believers' lives, we will examine their godly character traits; and we will see how we can imitate those godly qualities in our lives. However, we will also see their great sins and failures; and we will see how we, like David, Bathsheba, and Solomon, can find cleansing through the blood of Christ. The title of this message is *Jesus, the Son of David*.

Read Matthew 1:1-6.

I. David—the Warrior King

In **verse 5**, we learned about Christ's ancestor, **Boaz**, and his Moabite wife, **Ruth**. We learned how their marriage is a beautiful picture of Christ, our Kinsman Redeemer, and of us, His redeemed bride (those of us who are *saved*, that is). We saw how Boaz and Ruth had a son

named **Obed**; and Obed had a son named **Jesse**; and Jesse had a son named **David**. These descendants of Boaz were all born and reared in their ancestral hometown of Bethlehem.

Now, you'll notice that Matthew calls David "**David the king**." This is important, because none of the other kings in this lineage have the title "king" placed in front of their names. Also, you'll notice that David is called "David *the* king." In the original Greek, this actually reads "*the* David *the* king." If this wording sound unusual to you, that's because it is. Even in Greek, it is awkward grammar to say "*the* David *the* king." Yet, the Lord led Matthew to "bend" this grammar rule. Why? Because God is going out of His way to stress that Jesus is from the royal line of none other than *King David*. It's not just *any* David we're talking about; this is *the* King David, from whose royal line God promised to send the Messiah.

You cannot separate the name of "Jesus" from the name of "David." In God's eyes, David and the Lord Jesus are linked together forever. In fact, in **Ezekiel 34:23**, the Messiah is simply called "David"! The LORD says that during the future Kingdom age, He will "**set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.**" Is God saying that the *actual* King David (the one who slew Goliath) will one day rule over Israel, and the whole world? No. He's saying that David's *Descendant*, the *Messiah*, will rule over Israel and the world. Jesus is called "David" because he is a flesh-and-blood descendant of King David, *and* the rightful, legal heir of his throne. Jesus Christ is the *ultimate* David—the One who will sit on David's throne forever.

Now, there are five important truths about David, which I would like to point out this morning. First, **David was from the town of Bethlehem**. Time and time again, God's Word emphasises that David was from Bethlehem. Why is this little town so important? Because it is this same town where the Messiah was to be born. Seven hundred years before Christ's birth, the prophet Micah prophesied, "**But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**"

There are many places where Jesus *could* have been born. After all, the Jews had been scattered out of their land by the Babylonians 600 years before Christ's birth. Most Jewish families never returned to their homeland after the captivity; and many of those who did return to the land did not return to the ancestral towns of their forefathers. Jesus' foster father Joseph, and his mother Mary, didn't live in their ancestral home of Bethlehem; they lived in Nazareth, in the north. Yet, God providentially allowed an empire-wide census and taxing to take place, so that Mary and Joseph would have to go back to their ancestral town of Bethlehem, just in time for Jesus' birth. Why? Because Jesus had to be born in Bethlehem! The name Bethlehem means "house of bread": and Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus said, "**I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**" Jesus is the King of Israel, from the House of Bread; and He gives the "bread" of spiritual life to all who will repent of their sin and believe on Him!

Now, why else is David so important? **Because David had a heart that was like God's heart**. God's holy, loving, faithful character was stamped on David's heart. Let's examine what God said about David when He sent Samuel to anoint him as the next king of Israel.

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

In what sense is David called "**a man after God's own heart**"? This certainly doesn't mean that David was sinless! Whenever David allowed fear or lust to enter into his heart, he failed

God, just as we all do. What this *does* mean is that David had a very close, personal relationship with God. He loved God intensely; and he learned to trust Him implicitly. In the long hours that he spent in the fields watching his father's flocks, he had learned how to *talk* with God. He had real communication with the LORD. He knew how to pour out his heart to God, and how to wait patiently for an answer. He also had a deep sensitivity to sin. When he realised that he had sinned, he was overcome with true, godly sorrow; and he repented with his whole heart. For example, when David realised that he had sinned by cutting off a small piece of Saul's robe, his heart "*smote him.*" That word "*smote*" is a strong one. It comes from the verb *nacah*, which means "to beat down, to blow, to strike to the ground." Often this word *nacah* implies killing, or slaughtering. *That* is how smitten David was with conviction! David's men couldn't understand how David could feel bad about such a "little" thing as cutting off a tiny piece of Saul's robe, when Saul had been trying to murder David for years! However, David's heart was not like the hearts of most other people around him. He knew that things could not be right between him and the Lord if he allowed a "little" anger, or bitterness, or feeling of vengeance toward Saul, to fester in any corner of his heart. *That is* why David wrote, "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear me.*" That is also why he wrote, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me; and lead me in the way everlasting.*"

Christian, do *you* have this kind of sensitivity to sin? Or do you try to justify your sin (even in the same breath that you're telling God "sorry")? If you try to justify your sin, God cannot use you, as He used David. There is only one David, of course, and no one else will ever have the unique tasks that he had; but God also has unique plans for *you*, if you will only let Him develop His holy character in you. If you will love God's word, as David did, and meditate in it day and night, Jesus' character will manifest itself more and more in your life. As you look into the "mirror" of God's Word, and behold the glory of the Lord, you will be changed into *His* image from one level of glory to another, as you allow His Spirit to mould you. You will develop the heart of your Good Shepherd. David had a deep love for people, just as he did for his father's sheep. Why? Because his heart had been moulded by the Son of God, the Shepherd of Israel. Christian, God wants you to have a heart like Christ's, too. Jesus laid down His life for His sheep; and we ought to lay down our lives for each other.

Now, what else do we need to know about David? We need to understand that **God made a very important covenant with David—an eternal, irrevocable covenant.** Let's examine it.

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17.

David sincerely desired to build a beautiful Temple for the LORD. He didn't desire to do this because he wanted to enhance his "public relations" with the people of Israel; he wanted to do this because he thought that *his God was worthy* of it! For nearly 500 years, since the days of Moses, God had manifested His presence in a small tent (the Tabernacle); but David wanted his God to have a beautiful temple of cedar, stone, brass, gold, and silver.

However, this was not God's will. As we will see shortly, God denied this privilege to David because he was a man of war, and had shed much blood. However, God *did* give David another privilege, which he could never have imagined. God made a *personal* covenant with David; and in this covenant, He promised that his son, Solomon, would build the Temple after his death. However, that wasn't all. God also promised that He would establish the throne of David's kingdom "*for ever.*" If any of David's royal descendants disobeyed God, God would chastise them for their sin, to correct them; nevertheless, God promised that He would *not* take the kingdom away from David's descendants entirely, as He had taken it away from Saul.

Now, as we will see, this promise met with some severe challenges as the years unfolded. First, the kingdom was broken into two pieces (and God Himself is the one who broke it)! Yet, David's descendants continued to rule over the southern Kingdom of Judah. At one point, a couple centuries after David, it *appeared* that David's royal line had been cut off by a wicked foreign queen, who had married into the family; yet, God preserved one of David's descendants, and put him on the throne. Then, David's royal family was removed from the throne completely, when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah, and drove the Jews from their land. God Himself told Jechonias (the last king in David's line) that none of his sons would sit upon the throne of Judah, because of his sin. How could God possibly keep his promise to David after making *that* statement? Well, as we will see in a later message, God *did* keep His promise, in an amazing way. (I'll give you a hint: it has to do with the *two* family lineages of Jesus—the line of Mary, and the line of Joseph, which both go back to King David!)

Now, there's something else that you need to understand about God's covenant with David. When God promised David that he would establish his throne "*for ever*," He was promising that from his lineage would spring the *Messiah*. This is stated clearly in **Psalm 89**. In that chapter, God promised that He will make David "*My firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth*." Now, think about that. David himself was never "*higher than the kings of the earth*." *David* never reigned over the whole world. What does God mean, then? He means that one day, one of David's descendants *will* reign over all the kings of the earth; and His kingdom will never end! That Man is Jesus. Isaiah prophesied of Jesus, "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.*"

To this day, the Jews understand that the Messiah is "the son of David." This is the way they understood it in Jesus' day; and it is the way they still understand it today. However, there is something vitally important about the Messiah that most Jewish people do *not* understand; and Jesus pointed it out one day as He was preaching. Let's take a look at what Jesus said.

Read Matthew 22:41-46.

As Jesus was preaching to the people, He quoted from **Psalm 110:1**. In this Scripture David said, "*The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*" Now, you'll notice that in this verse, "*the LORD*" ("Jehovah") is speaking to "*my Lord*" (Adonai—another name for God). God is speaking to God! Now, how can this be? There's only one way that this statement could make any sense: one Member of the Godhead (the Father) is speaking to another Member of the Godhead (the Son)!

Now, that, in itself, is fascinating; but there is another fascinating truth in this verse, which Jesus pointed out. The Pharisees rightly understood that the Messiah is the Son of David; yet, Jesus challenged them with a mind-boggling thought. He said, "How can the Messiah be David's Lord *and* his son at the same time?" The answer to this question is so obvious, that it practically slaps us in the face! The only way that the Messiah can be David's "Lord" and his "son" is that he is both *God* and *Man*. As God, Christ is David's "Lord"; but as Man, Christ is David's Descendant! That is why Jesus says, in **Revelation 22**, "*I am the root and the offspring of David.*" Jesus is the "Root" of David, because He is David's Creator—the one

who gave David life and breath. Yet, at the same time, He is the “offspring,” or descendant, of David, because He is David’s flesh-and-blood Descendant.

Now, what else is important about David? It is important to understand that **David was a man of war!** He was no *ordinary* man of war, either. Long before David became king, when he was still a shepherd boy, he was already known to the people in his region as “*a mighty valiant man, and a man of war.*” Before he was ever invited to Saul’s palace, David was already known for killing a lion and a bear with his bare hands! That is no ordinary feat, folks! You don’t mess with bears! An environmentalist named **Timothy Treadwell** thought that he could make friends with the Grizzly bears of Alaska; but on 5 October, 2003, he and his girlfriend found out differently, when they were mauled to death, and nearly completely eaten, by a bear. To this day, the world is still horrified by the recording of their awful screams, as they were being eaten alive. I doesn’t matter how strong you are: you can’t kill a lion or a bear without having a powerful weapon in hand! There is only one way that it is possible to kill a bear or a lion with your bare hands; and that is through supernatural power! The power of the Holy Spirit was strong upon David. That is why David wrote, “*Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight.*”

As a man of war, David is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Exodus 15:3** says, “*The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.*” Jesus is Jehovah, the great I AM; and as Jehovah, He is a Man of War. He came 2,000 years ago to be the harmless Lamb of God, to die for our sins; but when He returns to earth at the battle of Armageddon, He will come as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, to destroy the Antichrist, and all the Lord’s enemies. David himself prophesied of this future battle in many of his psalms. In **Psalms 21**, David wrote these words about the Messiah: “*The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD...He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever... Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee. Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.*” In **Psalms 118** David wrote, “*All nations compassed me about: but in the name of the LORD will I destroy them...They compassed me about like bees; they are quenched like the fire of the thorns: for in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.*” David wasn’t writing about himself here; he was writing about his Descendant, the Messiah—the Stone whom the builders rejected, who will become the Headstone of the corner. *David* was never surrounded in battle by “*all*” nations; but *Jesus* will be surrounded by all nations at the Battle of Armageddon. Yet, He will easily destroy them. They will be like dry chaff going up in flame! In **Psalms 110**, David prophesied of the Messiah, “*The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.*”

Now, there is one more important truth about David: **he was a redeemed and forgiven man.** The darkest sin of David’s life—his adultery with Bathsheba, and his murder of Bathsheba’s husband, Uriah—was forgiven and cleansed by God when David truly repented of his sin.

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-5 / 12:7-14.

David did not lose his salvation when he was living in sin for those nine months or so; but he certainly lost the joy of his salvation. That’s why, after David repented, he cried, “*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow...Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me...Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*” Think of that! How could David, after committing

such terrible sins as adultery and murder, ever again have the courage to teach “*sinners*” God’s ways? For that matter, how could *Bathsheba* ever have the courage to teach *women* how to be godly and virtuous? Yet, that is exactly what she did! **Proverbs 31**—that famous Scripture that has been read in countless weddings down through the centuries—was written by Bathsheba to her son, King Solomon. She said, “*It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.*” Not only did she warn Solomon against the sin of drinking alcohol: she also warned him about women. She said, “*Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.*” She then said, “*Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies*”; and from there, she went on to describe the character of a virtuous woman, so that her son would know what to look for in a woman. How could Bathsheba have the audacity to give out advice about “the virtuous woman,” when she had *not* been virtuous? Because she was a *redeemed* woman. She was saved by God’s amazing grace: and though, as a believer, she had greatly sinned, she was cleansed by the blood of her great Descendant, the Lord Jesus Christ, who would one day die for her sins.

Once again, God went out of His way, in the genealogy of His Son, to remind us of the terrible sin that two of Jesus’ ancestors committed. Why? Because He delights in using repentant sinners for His glory. Christian, don’t ever forget that you are redeemed. If you’ve fallen, get up, by God’s grace, and serve God again with your whole heart, just as David did!

II. Solomon—the King of Peace

(Read verse 6 again.) The next man in the lineage of Christ is **Solomon**. The name “Solomon” is based on the Hebrew word “*sh’lomo*,” which means “peaceable.” This wasn’t a name that David and Bathsheba picked out for their son because they thought it sounded nice; this was a name that *God* put in their mind to give to their son. Why? Because Solomon’s reign would be marked by *peace* with all the nations round about him. For forty long years, there was peace. **David** was a man of war, who was constantly fighting against enemy nations, which had tried to destroy Israel; and in this, David was a type of Christ, who will return to earth as a Man of War, to destroy all His enemies. However, **Solomon** was a man of peace; and in this, he, too, is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, who will establish a Kingdom of peace and righteousness *after* He destroys His enemies at Armageddon. For one thousand years, Jesus will sit on His throne in the holy place of the Temple, in Jerusalem; and all the world will come to worship Him. There will be *no* war between nations. There will not even be the manufacture of weapons of war. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah “*shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*” There will be 1,000 years of unparalleled peace and prosperity, because the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ, will be at the helm!

Read 1 Chronicles 22:6-10.

Now, there is another way that Solomon is a type of Christ; and that is that Solomon was the great Temple builder.

Read 2 Chronicles 3:1-2 / 5:1-3 / 5:12 – 6:7 / 6:18-20 / 7:1-3.

Solomon understood very well that God cannot “dwell” in any Temple, because the universe itself cannot contain Him. He is infinite! Yet, he also understood that the Temple would be the special place where God would manifest His presence among men. Therefore, he wanted

the Temple to be as beautiful as it could possibly be! God granted that desire to Solomon; and because Solomon's heart was tender and humble, like his father David's, God granted Solomon his desire of *wisdom* to rule His people, Israel.

By the way, this is yet another way in which Solomon is like Christ. Jesus is "the Wisdom of God." **Isaiah** prophesied of the Messiah, "***And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.***" In His wisdom, Christ has established a *spiritual* Temple called "the local church" during this current New Testament age; and through this wonderful thing called "the church," Christ is making His wisdom known to the world.

Read Ephesians 2:19-22 / 3:8-11.

Christian, don't ever undervalue the church. It is precious to God! It is His "golden candlestick." Apart from the bodies of individual believers, Christ's *church* is the only part of creation that He actually *indwells*. Whenever we meet together, He is here in our midst. If you are saved, but have not joined this church by way of baptism, please don't put it off any longer! This is the place of service and blessing; and God wants you to be part of His body.

Now, as I said, the church is, *in this age*, Christ's Temple; but another Temple is coming. When Christ returns to earth, He will build His Temple. Many Old Testament Scriptures prophesy that *all* the nations will come to help the Jews build the Temple; and Christ will oversee it. The magnificent Temple on Mount Zion will be the place where men will go to worship the King of Kings. However, I am here to warn you that if you have not been saved, you will not partake of that glorious Kingdom. Jesus warned His own people, the Jews, that although they were the people for whom the Kingdom is prepared, many of them will experience weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth *in hell*, because they would not repent and believe on Him. This is true no matter if you be Jew or Gentile. *You must be born again!*

Read Luke 13:23-30.

Now, if you know anything about Solomon's life, you know the sad story of the latter part of his life. Though Solomon was exceedingly wise, he became very foolish. He stopped trusting in God, and began to trust in riches. Instead of trusting God to keep his kingdom "peaceable," he married hundreds of wives (the daughters of foreign kings) in order to make "peace" treaties with those kingdoms. Because he married unbelievers, he was drawn into the worship of their false gods. Though he may not have *actively* worshipped them, he *passively* worshipped them, by building temples for his wives to worship them. His heart wandered far from God; and he was absolutely miserable. Just as God said He would do, He "***chastised***" Solomon "***with the stripes of the children of men.***" In the end of his life, Solomon finally got right with the Lord, and painfully drew near to God again; and after getting right with God, he warned his son, Rehoboam, "***Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them....Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.***" Christian, you have all God's wisdom at your disposal. It is all part of the riches of His grace. However, you must avail of it every day. Don't be foolish, as Solomon became. If you *think* you stand, take heed lest you fall. Don't rely on your own wisdom, or on the world's wisdom. Draw from *Christ's* wisdom every day. He is the King of Kings; and His wisdom is perfect! Only as you draw on His wisdom will you have the "***peace that passeth all understanding.***"

Conclusion: I've addressed believers; but as we close, I would ask, "Do you *know* this King?" Jesus is the King of Israel, and the King of Kings; yet, He humbled Himself, and died on a cross to pay for your sins. Have *you* humbled yourself before *Him*, and taken Him up on His offer of salvation? If not, you *must* do so, if you would enter into His Kingdom! Jesus says, "***He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.***"