

Old Testament Literature:

David: His Compassion, His Passion, and His Hatred of Evil

Author: Dr. Ted Hildebrandt | Session 24

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Abstract

In this lecture, Dr. Ted Hildebrandt explores the life and complex character of King David through a thematic examination of his compassion, spiritual passion, and moral failures. David's extraordinary compassion is demonstrated through his grief over Saul and Jonathan, his mercy toward Mephibosheth, and his intense sorrow during Absalom's rebellion. His spiritual passion is highlighted by his celebratory entrance with the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem and his desire to build a temple, which prompts God to establish the eternal Davidic Covenant. Ultimately, despite his severe sin involving Bathsheba and the orchestrated murder of Uriah, David is shown to be a man after God's own heart because of his profound capacity for genuine repentance when confronted by Nathan the prophet.

Outline

I. Course Administration and Quiz Preview

- A. Upcoming Prophet readings and syllabus verification
- B. Final quiz schedule and upcoming final examination study guide

II. Core Theme: David as a Person After God's Own Heart

- A. Thematic approach to 2 Samuel rather than strictly chronological
- B. Exploring the definition and characteristics of a heart devoted to God

III. David's Compassion

- A. Death of King Saul and the Amalekite
 - 1. Saul's critical injury on Mount Gilboa and suicide
 - 2. The Amalekite's narrative, claim of slaying Saul, and execution for touching the Lord's anointed
- B. Discussion on Suicide and Biblical Context
 - 1. Considerations of mental illness, severe suffering, and divine mercy
 - 2. Textual indicators regarding Samuel, Saul, and Jonathan in the afterlife
- C. Eulogy for Saul and Jonathan
 - 1. David's non-vindictive lament praising Saul's accomplishments

2. Deep covenantal friendship and intense grief over Jonathan

D. Compassion toward Ishbosheth and Abner

1. Political division between Israel under Ishbosheth (Ishbaal) and Judah under David
2. Confrontation at the Pool of Gibeon and Asahel's death by Abner
3. Abner's alliance with David and cold-blooded murder by Joab
4. David's public mourning, fasting, and lamentation for Abner

E. Grace to Mephibosheth

1. David's initiative to seek out and honor Saul's surviving lineage
2. Provision of permanent royal table fellowship for Jonathan's crippled son
3. Unmerited favor as a defining mark of godly character

F. Compassion and Family Tragedy with Absalom

1. Amnon's assault on Tamar and David's failure to administer paternal justice
2. Absalom's vengeance, flight, and return brokered by the wise woman of Tekoa
3. Consequences of partial forgiveness and Absalom's political rebellion in Hebron
4. David's flight from Jerusalem to avoid armed conflict with his son
5. Battle in the forest, Absalom's death by Joab, and David's overwhelming grief
6. Joab's rebuke and David's defining trait: loving those who hate him

IV. David's Passion

A. Bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem

1. Consolidation of political and religious authority in Jerusalem
2. Transportation error on a cart and Uzzah's fatal mistake
3. Joyful celebration, linen ephod dancing, and Michal's contemptuous reaction
4. David's resolve to remain humble and undignified before the Lord

B. Building a House for God and the Davidic Covenant

1. David's desire to construct a cedar temple for the Ark
2. Divine wordplay on house (beth): God promises an eternal dynasty
3. Messianic fulfillment in Jesus Christ as the Son of David

V. David's Hatred of Evil and Moral Failures

A. Hatred of Evil and Execution of Wrongdoers

B. Fall into Sin with Bathsheba

1. Neglect of royal military duty in the spring season
2. Visual temptation from the roof and the hazard of second looks
3. Seduction, adultery, and Bathsheba's resulting pregnancy

C. Cover-Up and Murder of Uriah the Hittite

1. Recall of Uriah and his unwavering covenantal integrity
2. Failed attempt to compromise Uriah through intoxication
3. Orchestrated death of Uriah on the front lines by Joab

D. Confrontation and Repentance

1. Nathan the prophet's parable of the poor man's lamb
2. Direct prophetic conviction ('You are the man') and David's genuine repentance