



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

Old Testament Survey
Lesson 21 – David’s Great Sin and Repentance
(Second Samuel 11-12; First Chronicles 20; various Psalms)

The Psalms of David’s Sincere Worship

When David moved the Ark of the Covenant from Kirjath-Jearim to Obedom’s house and then to Jerusalem three months later, there was a great celebration. David was then truly humble at this time. This was a high point in his life. The following five psalms probably come from this time:

Psalm 15 – *Against Hypocrisy in Worship*

“LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? ... He...who speaks the truth in his heart” (vv. 1-2).

Psalm 24 – *The Ark of the LORD Returns*

“Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in” (v. 9).

Psalm 101 – *David Vows to Be a Faithful King*

“Early I will destroy all the wicked of the land” (v. 8).

Psalm 131 – *David’s Childlike Humility*

“LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty” (v. 1).

Psalm 133 – *David’s United Kingdom and Central Worship*

“How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (v. 1).

Psalms Reflecting God’s Everlasting Kingdom to David (2 Samuel 7)

The LORD promised to give David an everlasting kingdom. The seed (the Son) of David is the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Christ, the LORD Himself. These psalms describe this coming Anointed One, our LORD **JESUS**, the Christ.

Read these Psalms along with the notes below. If you have any questions, ask them.

Psalm 2 – *David Prophesies of the Everlasting Victorious King*

This psalm was quoted by the early Christians (Acts 4:25-27) and Paul (Acts 13:33), referring to Jesus. See also Hebrews 1:5 and 5:5.

“The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.’” (v. 7).

Psalms 20 and 21 – *Prayers and Praise to God for His Anointed King*

“Now I know that the LORD saves His Anointed” (20:6).

“You gave...length of days forever and ever... Honor and majesty You have placed upon Him” (21:4-5).

Psalm 22 – *David Prophesies of the Suffering and Resurrection of the King*

Jesus quoted from this psalm on the cross. Its words fit Him in exact detail. He truly was forsaken

by God and despised by the people. His hands and feet were pierced. His clothing was distributed. But the end of this psalm indicates victory.

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (v. 1).

“They pierced My hands and My feet... They divide My garments among them” (vv. 16, 18).

“A posterity shall serve Him... They will come and declare His righteousness” (vv. 30-31).

Psalm 110 – *David Prophesies the Kingdom and Priesthood of Christ, David’s Son and LORD*

This psalm was quoted by Jesus in Holy Week (Matthew 22:44) to confound His enemies.

“You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek” (v. 4).

The letter to the Hebrews discusses this prophecy in detail.

Psalm 138 – *David Thanks God for the Promise of an Everlasting Kingdom*

“Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever” (v. 8).

Psalms Reflecting David’s Victorious War over the Heathen

God gave David victory over all Israel’s enemies: Philistines, Syrians, Moabites, Edomites, and Ammonites. The following psalms reflect these wars and victories.

Psalms 9 and 10 – *David Thanks God for His Victories and Asks for Further Help*

“The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made” (9:15).

“The LORD is King forever and ever; the nations have perished out of His land” (10:16).

Psalms 60 and 108 – *Prayers for Help from God against the Heathen Foes*

“Moab is My washpot; over Edom will I cast My shoe” (60:8, 108:9).

Psalm 68 – *The Great Hymn of War and Victory*

The apostle Paul quoted this psalm in Ephesians 4:8-10 with reference to Christ’s ascension.

“You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive” (v. 18).

Psalm 124 – *Thanksgiving to God after the Defeat of the Enemies*

“Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth” (v. 8).

David’s Great Sin

It was the high point of David’s career: the kingdom was united, God had give him the promise of an everlasting kingdom, and God was giving him victory over the last of all his enemies. It was just at this high point of his career that David fell into the most horrible sins: adultery with another man’s wife and the murder of her husband. Similarly, it often happens to us: when things are going well, we get proud – and pride comes before the fall.

For a whole year, until after the child of his adultery was born, David lived in this sin. Then God sent the prophet Nathan to David to denounce his sin. David then repented of his sin, and Nathan pronounced God’s forgiveness. Nevertheless, God said that David’s sin would result in continual trouble and sorrow for his house: he would face the death of the child and adultery and murder in his own family. The last part of David’s life (which we shall consider in the next lesson) was full of family troubles and rebellion.

Read Second Samuel chapters 11 and 12, and First Chronicles 20 along with the notes below.

2 Samuel 11 – *David’s Sin of Adultery and Murder*

David stays home during the battle against the Ammonites (v. 1).

David commits adultery with Uriah's wife, Bathsheba, and she becomes pregnant (vv. 2-5).

David summons Uriah home in order to cover up his adultery (vv. 6-13).

Note: David even gets Uriah drunk to try to get him to go home to his wife.

David tells Joab to cause Uriah to be killed in battle (vv. 14-25).

Bathsheba becomes David's wife and bears him a son (vv. 26-27).

2 Samuel 12 – *David's Repentance and Final Victory over the Ammonites* (1 Chronicles 20)

The prophet Nathan tells David a pointed story about a rich man and a poor man (vv. 1-6).

Nathan points out to David his horrible crime and God's judgment (vv. 7-12).

"You are the man! ...You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife... I will raise up adversity against you from your own house" (vv. 7, 9, 11).

David repents of his sin and receives God's forgiveness through Nathan (vv. 13-14).

David: **"I have sinned against the LORD"** (v. 13).

Nathan: **"The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die"** (v. 13).

The child becomes very sick (David mourns!) and dies (David stops mourning!) (vv. 15-23).

David: **"I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me"** (v. 23).

David's son Solomon is born to him and Bathsheba (vv. 24-25).

David defeats the Ammonites (vv. 26-31).

David's Psalms of Repentance

After David repented of his sin, he recorded his feelings of guilt and his joy in God's forgiveness in at least four psalms. These are called penitential psalms.

Read these Psalms along with the notes below. If you have any questions, ask them.

Psalm 38 – *David Prays that God's Wrath May Be Changed to Love*

"There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your anger, nor any health in my bones" (v. 3).

"I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin" (v. 18).

Psalm 51 – *God, Be Merciful to Me, a Sinner*

We use this psalm very often in our confessional services and in parts of our liturgy. It is a good psalm to read very often, especially when we are troubled by our sins.

"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me" (v. 5).

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (v. 10).

"O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise" (v. 15).

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart" (v. 17).

Psalm 32 – *The Blessedness of God's Forgiveness*

This psalm is quoted in Romans 4.

"Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity" (v. 2).

"I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, and You forgave the iniquity of my sin" (v. 5).

Psalm 143 – *David Prays for Forgiveness When God's Judgment Strikes*

"Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous" (v. 2).

Questions:

1. How do the psalms of David help us understand the history of his own time?
2. How can we be sure that Psalms 2, 22, and 110 refer to Jesus, David's Son?
3. Indicate how Psalm 22 foretells both Jesus' death and His resurrection.
4. How do David's earthly victories point ahead to His Son Jesus?
5. What are the steps in David's life that led up to the sin of murder?
6. How did Nathan show great wisdom when he confronted David about his sin?
7. What reasons did David give for his fasting when he son was sick and for the breaking of his fast?
8. What does Psalm 51 teach us about the reason for our sinning?
9. What did David determine to do after he knew his sin was forgiven?