

I started a series last month on the greatness of God in the Kings. I am scheduled to do a write-up on David this month. But David is so extensive I have had trouble with narrowing it down to a readable size. Great men of God have spent volumes on David's life. So, I backed away.

But after my first discourse on the Kings I did receive a question from a reader asking how I left king Solomon out as a good king. Yes, Solomon did some great things, wrote good books, set up Israel as a great country, made them rich, etc. But how could I leave him out but keep David in? Good question, so let me just list a few reasons:

1. He violated the four commands of God in Deuteronomy on kingship, with no repentance.
2. He set up and introduced pagan worship in the "high places" in Israel, with no repentance.
3. Set up Israel for national division upon his death.
4. Ecclesiastes is a book of cynicism about life. A good advisory for living but no great praise to God. Rather a write up on his mistakes. No evidence of contrition.

Whereas David was flawed, but always turning to God. In all his flaws, he repents and calls for God's help as best as I can see. In review, God was highly regarded by David.

Look at these verses on David

**1Ki 15:4** But for David's sake Jehovah his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem,

**1Ki 15:5** because David **did what was right** in the eyes of Jehovah and did not turn aside from all that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

**1Ki 15:11** And Asa did what was right in the eyes of Jehovah, as David his father did.

In thinking, one of the keys to David's relationship to God and his greatness was his repentant spirit. Below are excerpts from the great Psalm 51 written in response to the Bathsheba, (matter of Uriah the Hittite) event.

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

**Spa 51:2** Wash me completely from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

**Spa 51:3** For I confess my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me.

**Spa 51:4** Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done evil in Your sight; that You might be justified when You speak, and be clear when You judge.

**Spa 51:9** Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

**Spa 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**Psa 51:11** Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

**Psa 51:12** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**Psa 51:14** Deliver me from the guilt of shedding blood, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

**Psa 51:17** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

From this overview let us do a short study on repentance and check our own heart.

I am going to divert next month give you my thoughts on the grace movement. I think I will take two months off then I will return to the Kings.

Gayle