

Unfolding Unveiling: Studies of Christ Revealed in the Types of Joshua, David, and Solomon

Part Six: David

Chapter Eighteen: A Man after God's Heart

The Anointing of a King

How do we escape from the treadmill life and horrible darkness of the book of Judges? The whole point of the book was to show that deliverance from earthly bondage cannot make us free. Judges records the ministries of thirteen different judges over three to four centuries. If judges could have turned the tide of Israel's history, surely they would have done it by then! Not even a judge as in tune with the Lord as Samuel could change Israel's heart (cf. I Sam. 8:7). The only thing that could change Israel was a king. They did not need a deliverer; they needed a ruler. Israel was never going to change; the state of his heart was simply wrong. A deliverer freeing them from their outward problems was going to change that!

God did not even try to change Israel's heart. He brought in a king instead. He does not deal individually in that sense. He found one – David – in whom was a right heart. For Israel to identify with David was to identify with the ruler of God's choosing, with a right heart, with One, so that there were not many wrong hearts that needed changing. Instead, in God's eyes there was One right heart. That was the One to whom He related, and to all Israel through him.

God does not solve our individual problems. He does not come down into each person's carnal mind with all of its individual false concepts, high places, and selfish viewpoints to fix each little thing one at a time. He does not go there at all. Instead, He anoints King David, and rules through One. To Him, all of our "wrong-ness" is dead, so He goes on about His plan. He is not going to tinker with all of our problems, but He will lift up Jesus. He will anoint the king. That is how He deals with our problems that turn us away from Him.

God Sees In David

Throughout the book of the Judges, the Lord was both angry and grieved with His people over the turn they had taken away from Him (cf. Jud. 2:12, 2:14, 2:18, 2:20, 3:8, 10:7, & 10:16). They were not seeking Him but moving in ways that were against His covenant ("Why do ye not obey my voice?..."). We see the shift between anger and grief in the Lord all the way through the book. But when David rules, it never mentions the Lord being upset with His people

In ourselves, even in our seeking Him, we are not right with Him. Even in our comprehension, we may have a mix at times and be dwellings among the inhabitants. This kind of mix – this cohabitation – is displeasing to God. It grieves Him. We see that all the way through Judges that rebuking Israel did not work. Delivering them into the hands of the enemy – into the hands of the gods they served – did not change their hearts. Deliverance from their enemies did not make them turn their heart towards the Lord. So God just took them out of the picture completely by putting before His eyes a man after His own heart in the person of David (cf. I Sam. 13:14).

This is how the Father relates to us through the Son. Even as believers, we are displeasing to the Lord in our individual walks because though we may be in Christ, our knowledge – and therefore our lifestyle – may be greatly lacking. Our individual hearts may not be completely towards the Lord. If He were to judge us by what we have possessed, He would be gravely disappointed with us (cf. Josh. 13:1-3, Jud. 1:21-36). When He sees a bunch of people, He sees those who do not obey His voice, those who do not drive out the inhabitants, those who are content to live among the enemies of God. God does not try to change our hearts individually because that does not work. He tried to do that thirteen times with thirteen different judges in Israel. Finally, He decided to remove Israel. He took them out of His view altogether! When the Lord anoints David, from then on, God's dealing with Israel is not with them directly; His dealing with David, and Israel through him.

All during David's reign, there is not one mention of Israel falling short or God being displeased with them. Check the focus of the narrative all through Judges and the first part of I Samuel, and compare it with the narrative beginning with the anointing of David. The focus of the first section of Scripture is on the people and how they were always doing things wrong. The Lord was constantly striving and dealing with them. But the people of Israel move to the background when David comes to the forefront. God deals with David. God has finally found a man after His heart, and this man is Christ. The people (we) disappear from God's sight, and all He can see is the Son! He does not see our shortcomings, failures, and lack of knowing Him! He just sees this man (resurrected Son) that is after His heart! We do not look at us but look at Him only because the Father does not look at us, but looks at Him. We are not even in view! Praise the Lord!

Samuel was not like the other judges. Others delivered Israel from the bondage of their enemies round about. Samuel's deliverance was a final deliverance. He delivered Israel from themselves, and delivered them up into David. David is a type of Christ, the Anointed One. The Anointed One is the Father's beloved Son, in whom He is well pleased. This is the One the Father sees!

The reason why Saul's kingdom came to an end was because if God saw the nation of Israel in Saul, He would have to reject the whole nation. God did not need to see any more of man; He needed to see the One in Whom He was well pleased!

David: Gathering

I Samuel 13:14 says that the Lord sought Him a man after His own heart. This is not just one individual human, but the new man. To have a new man, there must be a gathering in. David is a type of that One in whom we are gathered. This verse is God's heart revealed: a corporate man, identified in One.

In David's mighty men we will see how self gives way to the Resurrected One. There are no individuals there, only the One and His many membered body. So Saul gives way to David. When this happens, the focus shifts again. Remember, in I Samuel, the focus shifts from the people to the king (Saul) because all are included in the king. Again, when Saul gives way to David, the mighty men also come into view. They are mentioned as a group or in part, in conjunction with almost every one of David's victories. Why is this so? Because wherever the resurrected One is, the corporate new man is. We appear when He does. Saul is mentioned on his own, but David's mighty men wrought victories in their own right, while they identified in David!