


You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
and my cup overflows

Psalms 23:5

I have set the LORD always  
before me. Because He is at my  
right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalms 16:8



A stone statue of a bearded king wearing a crown and holding a scepter, with text overlaid. The statue is set against a brick wall with a window in the background. The text is in orange and reads: "There 150 psalms. He wrote 70+".

There 150 psalms.  
He wrote 70+

# David – Who is he?

- As a unknown shepherd boy he killed the Philistine giant Goliath with just his slingshot. But no one had confidence in David when he volunteered to fight Goliath.
- In fact King Saul said, “You are **not able** to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are **only a young man**, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” 1 Samuel 17:33
- David’s reply – “**The LORD who rescued me** from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear **will rescue me** from the hand of this Philistine.” 1 Samuel 17:37

# David vs Goliath

- David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the **Name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel**, whom you have defied. 1 Samuel 17:45
- This day **the LORD will deliver** you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that **there is a God in Israel**. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the **battle is the LORD’s**, and **He will give** all of you into our hands.” 1 Samuel 17:46-47

# David's success story

- Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was **so successful** that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well. 1 Samuel 18:5
- In everything he did he had great success, because **the LORD was with him**. When Saul saw how **successful** he was, he was afraid of him. <sup>16</sup> But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns. 1 Samuel 18:14-16

# David's troubles

- Because of his success he became a fugitive, pursued by King Saul
- During these trying times his eyes were focused on the LORD
- Psalms 57:1 Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in You I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of Your wings until the disaster has passed.
- Psalms 18:4-6 The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From His temple He heard my voice; my cry came before Him, into His ears.



# David's troubles

- Psalms 34:6-7 This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them.
- Psalms 63:1 O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. v5 My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise You.
- Psalms 142:1-2 I cry aloud to the LORD; I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy. I pour out before Him my complaint; before Him I tell my trouble.

# Ziklag Encounter

- David and his men and their families spent 16 months as fugitives residing in Ziklag. It's a town in the kingdom of Gath provided by the Philistine king, Achish to David.
- 1 Samuel 30. When David and men were away from Ziklag, the Amalakites came, invaded the town, looted it, burned it and took captive women and children. When David and his men returned and saw the destruction, they wept aloud until they had no more strength to weep.
- 1Samuel 30:6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found **strength in the LORD his God**.
- And he sought the LORD

AND THEY  
LIVED...



Happily Ever After

# HAPPY ENDING

- David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. 2 Samuel 5:4-5

# David's failure

- Adultery with Bathsheba 2 Sam 11:2-5
- Orchestrated the murder of her husband Uriah
- When confronted he repented and ask for forgiveness.  
Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."  
Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die." 2 Samuel 12:13-14

# David's repentance

- David's prayer of repentance - Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight; so You are right in Your verdict and justified when You judge. Psalms 51:1-4
- Do not cast me from **Your presence** or take **Your Holy Spirit** from me. Restore to me the joy of **Your salvation** and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Psalms 51:11-12

# What God says of David....

- He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep He brought him to be the shepherd of His people Jacob, of Israel His inheritance. And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.  
Psalms 78:70-72
- After removing Saul, He made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, **a man after My own heart**; he will do everything I want him to do.' Acts 13:22
- David prayed "Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings". Psalms 17:8





**What sets David apart  
from the rest of us?**



I have set the LORD always  
before me. Because He is at my  
right hand, I will not be shaken.

Psalms 16:8

# I have set the LORD always before me

- The LORD is my focus, pre-eminent in my thoughts, words and deeds always.
- Always '*practising His presence*', always before my face – in my consciousness, night and day, public or private, in happiness and in sadness, good times or bad times.

# Brother Lawrence

- *... what I sought after, which was nothing but how to become wholly God's. This made me resolve to give the all for the All. After having given myself wholly to God, to make all the satisfaction I could for my sins, I renounced, for the love of Him, everything that was not He, and I began to live as if there was none but He and I in the world.*
- *Sometimes I considered myself before Him as a poor criminal at the feet of his judge. At other times I beheld Him in my heart as my Father, as my God. I worshipped Him the oftenest I could, keeping my mind in His holy presence and recalling it as often as I found it wandered from Him. **I made this my business, not only at the appointed times of prayer but all the time; every hour, every minute, even in the height of my work, I drove from my mind everything that interrupted my thoughts of God.***

# How do I set the LORD always before me?

- Read and meditate on His Word Psalms 1:1-3
- Pray always 1Thess 5:16
- God demonstrate His love for us in this: while we were still sinners....



Looking to Jesus  
the embodiment of  
the Father's love



2024

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION