

VOLUME 2

The LIFE of DAVID

CLARENCE SEXTON



CROWN
CHRISTIAN
PUBLICATIONS

Royal Reading

FAITHfortheFAMILY.com

The LIFE of
DAVID

CLARENCE SEXTON

FIRST EDITION
COPYRIGHT
SEPTEMBER 2010



CROWN
CHRISTIAN
PUBLICATIONS
Royal Reading

FAITHfortheFAMILY.com

Dedication

*To all the young men the Lord is
preparing for His work.*



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND
BIBLE TEACHING SERIES

The LIFE of DAVID, VOLUME 2

Copyright © 2010

Crown Christian Publications

Powell, Tennessee • 37849

CrownChristianPublications.com

FAITHfortheFAMILY.com

ISBN: 978-1-58981-576-6

Layout by Stephen Troell

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations embodied in critical articles or printed reviews, without the prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

Introduction

*T*here is an unconscious preparation for the work of God. It is a wonderful tapestry woven together by our Lord using the choices we have made, or at least, that we think we have made, along with the choices He has made for us. This preparation is most often unconscious to us, but our God is constantly preparing us for the work He has for us to do. The life of David provides a beautiful study of this preparation.

I trust you recognize the Lord at work in your life.

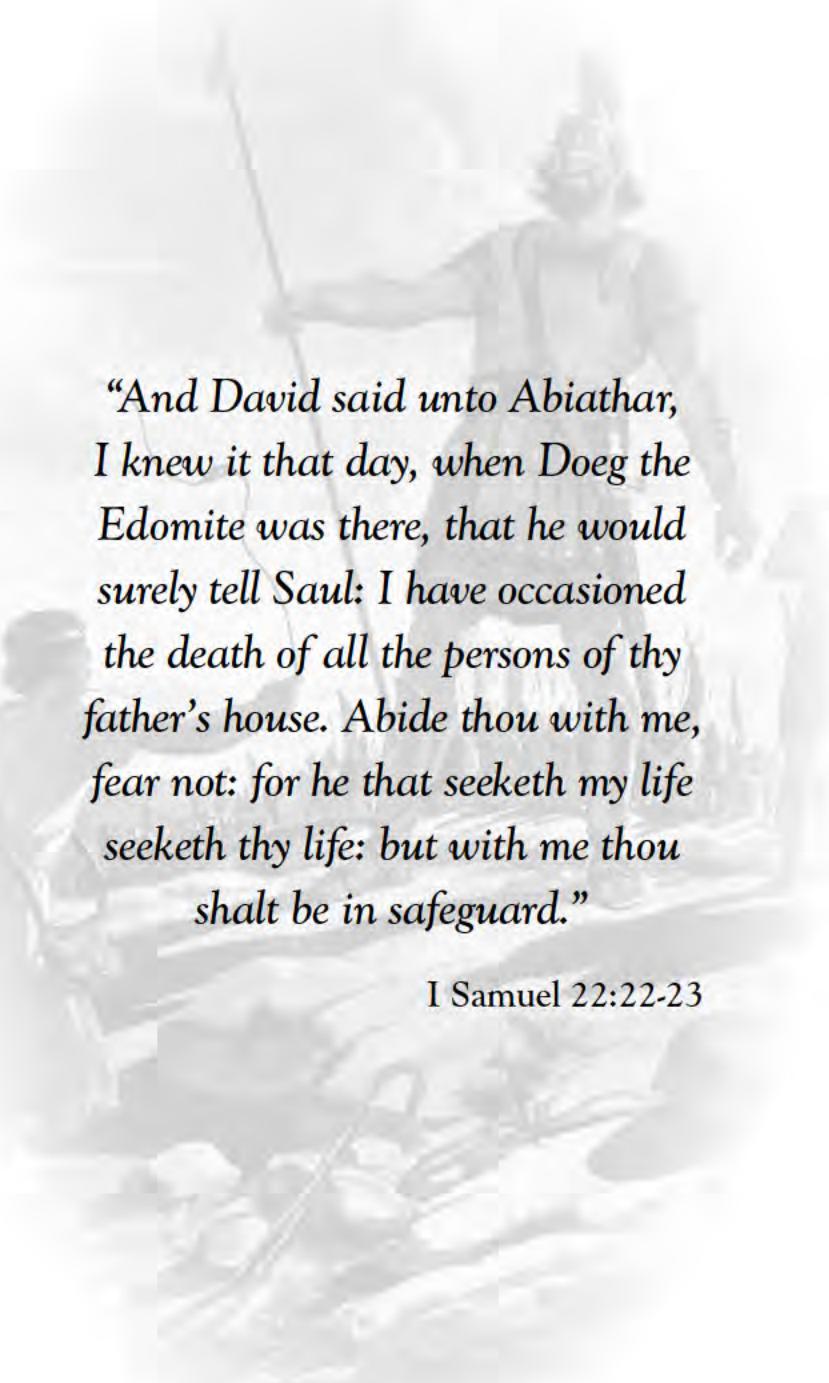
*Jaruee Astor
Act 5:42*

Contents

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| I | THE ENEMY WANTS BOTH <i>of Us</i> | 11 |
| II | ASK <i>the LORD</i> | 25 |
| III | HE STRENGTHENED HIS HAND <i>in GOD</i> | 39 |
| IV | A MESSENGER CAME..... | 53 |
| V | CHASING FLEAS | 67 |
| VI | WHEN GOD'S MAN IS GONE | 83 |
| VII | OUR DAY <i>of DEATH</i> | 99 |
| VIII | THE SADNESS <i>of UNBELIEF</i> | 113 |
| IX | THE LORD WOULD NOT ANSWER..... | 125 |
| X | THE PATH <i>of DISOBEDIENCE</i> | 141 |
| XI | THEY REMEMBERED DAVID'S SONG..... | 151 |
| XII | THE ROAD <i>to JERUSALEM</i> LEADS THROUGH ZIKLAG..... | 161 |
| XIII | STRIPPING <i>the SLAIN</i> | 177 |

CHAPTER ONE

THE ENEMY WANTS BOTH *of US*



“And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father’s house. Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.”

I Samuel 22:22-23



In life we are to place emphasis where God places emphasis. The Lord calls our attention to the life of David by placing such tremendous emphasis on David's life.

We continue with David on his journey to the throne. I remind you that David never lifted one finger to become the king of Israel, but God moved heaven and earth to place a man with a heart for Him on the throne of His chosen people. David's story is one of adventure, courage, and faith in God.

As we begin the second volume on the life of David, he is a man on the run. By whom are you being pursued? Look beyond the immediate and by faith see God's hand guiding you unto His presence. David was fleeing from the wrath of Saul. He was told by the prophet of God that he could leave the cave where he had been hiding, and move out into the land near where he grew up. Saul heard about what David was doing, and

The Life of David, Volume 2

discovered his whereabouts. The chief desire of King Saul's heart was to kill David.

Saul was in a rage. You can never explain the behavior of people who are in a rage. He was full of jealousy. He felt that his enemy was David, and he wanted to destroy him.

The story is given to us in I Samuel 22:6-23,

When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that were with him, (now Saul abode in Gibeath under a tree in Ramah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him;) then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds; that all of you have conspired against me, and there is none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.

The Enemy Wants Both of Us

And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord. And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day? Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house? Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house. And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD. And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men



*In life we
are to place
emphasis where
God places
emphasis.*

The Life of David, Volume 2

and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD's priests. And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house. Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

David said to Abiathar, “*He that seeketh my life seeketh thy life.*” The enemy wants both of us!

David had been anointed to be king over Israel. The only problem was that they already had a king; his name was Saul. Saul was afraid of David. The truth of the matter is that Saul should have feared God, but he did not. He was afraid of David taking his throne. To rid himself of this “threat” to the throne, his plan was to kill David. God used all of this to deal with David, preparing him to trust the Lord in order to bring him to the throne of Israel.

In this particular passage under consideration, we must remember that David, at one time, fled from Jerusalem to a place called Nob. Nob happened to be the city where the priests of the Lord lived. The high priest, Ahimelech, did not know that David was coming. However, when David arrived, he insisted that he be allowed to eat the shewbread that was dedicated to the Lord.

David also asked if there happened to be a weapon there. He wanted it made available to him. Ahimelech said, “You may go ahead and eat the shewbread, but there is only one weapon here.

The Enemy Wants Both of Us

It is the sword that you took the day you killed Goliath. You can have it, if you want it.”

When David made that visit to the priests, one of Saul’s servants was there. He was a herdsman for Saul, and was over a number of herdsmen. His name was Doeg. He was from the land of Edom, and he was called Doeg the Edomite. When David saw him, he knew that this man had no integrity, and that as soon as he saw Saul, he would stir the king’s wrath.

Doeg decided to wait for the right occasion to tell his secret. When Saul received word that David had left hiding and was out in the open, he stated publicly, “I’m going to kill him.” Saul sat under a tree with his spear in his hand. He will not relax for a moment. He had a spear in his hand because he wanted to kill David. Every time he gripped that spear in his hand he thought, “I would like to pierce his heart with this. I would like to kill him with this.” He was consumed with anger against David.

In anger, he turned to his servants and said, “You Benjamites, remember that I am of the tribe of Benjamin. You Benjamites, remember that I made you who you are. I made you captains. I gave you land. I have put you over people.” He continued, “David has never done anything for you. I have made you who you are, but you have betrayed me.”

About that time, when Saul was really heated up, Doeg said, “Let me tell you something else you might like to know. I happened to be up there where the priests live in Nob, and Ahimelech actually gave aid to your enemy. He gave David food.” Saul was already stirred up because he had heard that



Saul should have feared God, but he did not. He was afraid of David taking his throne.

The Life of David, Volume 2

David had hundreds of men with him. Doeg went on to say, "He gave him the sword of Goliath." He said it as if to say, "He gave him the sword of Goliath to kill you."

Saul, in a fit of anger, said, "Bring all those priests to me." When they came, he said, "Ahimelech, I have been told that you gave aid to David and that you gave him a sword." Ahimelech

tried to explain to the king that he knew nothing about their problems; he just helped David that day. He felt that David was a great friend and servant of Saul. Saul would hear none of it, and he said to his men standing by, "Fall on them and kill every one of them." His men feared God more than they feared Saul, and they would not move.

However, there is always one ungodly, loud mouth. There is always someone ready to do the Devil's work. There is always someone who will jump on those who are trying to serve God. May God help us never to be that someone.

Doeg said, "I will kill them for you." Can you believe that he massacred these priests? This one man killed eighty-five of them. He killed them, massacred them; but that was not enough to satisfy the rage of Saul. He went to the village of Nob and killed all their wives, all their children, all their babies, and all their animals. Only one man escaped—Abiathar.

This man, Abiathar, ran to David. He said, "David, they are all dead. Everyone is dead. My family is dead. I am the only one left."

David said, "It is my fault. The day I appeared there in Nob with Ahimelech and I saw that Doeg was there, I knew something awful would come of this."



We need to understand that the enemy, the Devil, wants both of us.

The Enemy Wants Both of Us

Abiathar was now running from Saul. David said to Abiathar, "You come and join with me, because the same enemy who wants to kill you wants to kill me. You will be safe with me."

This is an amazing story from which we can draw many lessons, but I want to make this application. Many of God's people are killing one another; we need to understand that the enemy, the Devil, wants both of us.

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 14:12-15 that the Devil rebelled against God. The Bible says,

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

The Devil was a beautiful angel, but he rebelled against God and tried to overthrow God; therefore, he was cast out of heaven. He not only wanted God; he wanted all of God's creation. He wanted every man, woman, boy, girl, and more than that, he wanted all of God's world to be his world.

I recall a time when I was going through a fit of rebellion in my youth. I regret that time and sought and received forgiveness from God and my mother for it. However, I remember my darling, little mother saying to me during that rebellious time, "Honey, the Devil does not want only your life; he wants to wreck our home too." She was right.

If the Devil is after one of your kids, or the Devil is after your husband, or the Devil is after your wife, the truth of the



The only way a church can stand and be as strong as it should be is if it stands together as brothers and sisters in the Lord, standing together to do battle with the Devil.

matter is the Devil wants every one of you. I never cease to be amazed at how people fall into Satan's trap and fall for the Devil's tricks, never giving much thought about how it is going to affect their children. Some stages in life seem more delicate than other stages. The adolescent, early teen years are very important because young people are trying to make such tremendous decisions. This is one of Satan's "target times."

Families must stand together to fight the Devil. It is the only way to fight him. This is why families should pray together.

If you have children in your home, you need to teach them that the Devil wants them, and that the Devil wants you, and that you are all going to stand united against the Devil. He is your common enemy. The one who seeks your life seeks their lives. We must stand together against the Devil, in the strength of the Lord. The Devil has taken many homes by getting in some weak member of the home, and thereby hurting the entire family. People work hard to bolt down every hatch, to lock every window, make sure every crack in the floor is covered and all the basement windows are locked; but they open the front door and let in the Devil. You may think, "I have all the bases covered," but when the Devil comes in the front door, you do not recognize him as the Devil. When you first let him in, you do not recognize him for who he is. But the next time you become aggravated with someone at church, or the next time you are troubled about some

brother or sister in the ministry, remember that the Devil wants both of you. The only way a church can stand and be as strong as it should be is if it stands together as brothers and sisters in the Lord, standing together to do battle with the Devil. The enemy wants both of us. "He that seeketh my life, seeketh thy life also."

WE MUST BE FREE FROM the LAW of SIN and DEATH

How do we defeat the Devil? The first way is to be free from the law of sin and death. The Bible says in Romans 8:1-2, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*"

If I am not free from the law of sin and death, I am an easy target. I am a part of what the Devil has. To defeat this enemy, we must be free from the law of sin and death.

Every one of us is a sinner. The Bible says that all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). It is not a bad habit, and it is not simply the wrong way of thinking. It is sin. The Bible says we have a sin nature; we are sinners.

Sin—that does not sound like a very intellectual word; it does not sound like a very educated thing to say. But the Bible says in Romans 3 that God has found the whole world guilty (Romans 3:19). We are all sinners, and we deserve punishment. Do you know what the punishment is? It is to die and go to hell forever. You may say, "I am not as bad as some people." You do not have to be as bad as some people; you just have to be a part of a sinful, human race. All sinners have to be punished. The punishment for all sinners is death and hell.

In ourselves, we are hopeless. In other words, if this is all we have, every one of us is going to die and go to hell. We are under the law, and the law says, “*The wages of sin is death.*” That is the law. What are we to do? I do not want to die and go to hell. Do you? I do not want to die without Jesus Christ and go to hell forever, but that is the law.



*Satan is a
roaring lion,
but he is a
defeated foe.*

God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”

Jesus Christ came to earth. He became a man without ceasing to be God. He lived a sinless life. He owed no sin debt. He did not have to die and pay our sin debt. He did not have to die and pay His own sin debt; he owed no debt. We all had to die, but He did not have to die; so He willingly said, “I will die and pay the debt that sinners owe.”

When Jesus Christ went to the cross, God took all our sins and laid them on Him, and He died for our sin. Jesus Christ died for our sin. He paid our sin debt. He was buried and He rose from the dead, alive forevermore. This is merely a great fact in history, unless that salvation has been made real to us by our own repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.

I have a few friends who have paid for their crimes by going to the penitentiary. One of them, after serving his time, gave his testimony, saying that he trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. That is wonderful. If you say to that man, “You owe a debt for your crime,” you are wrong. He does not owe a debt; he has paid his debt. It has been paid; he did his time. The only bad

thing about it is that, unfortunately, he still has a record. The debt has been paid, but he still has a record.

However, when we come to know that Jesus Christ has died for our sin, and paid our debt, and we ask Him to forgive our sin and He comes into our lives, God not only counts that our debt is paid, He removes our record. There is no record. I am free in Jesus Christ. His Spirit in me places me beyond Satan’s reach. He can never take my soul to hell. I am free from the penalty of that sin, and I do not have to live in fear. I can live for Christ because He has made me free from the law of sin and death.

If we are going to defeat the Devil, we must be free from the law of sin and death. Have you been set free?

WE MUST HAVE FORGIVENESS and CLEANSING in OUR DAILY WALK

The victory in the Christian life is found by living consciously in the presence of the Lord. The Bible says in I John 1:9, “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

Remember that the same one “*that seeketh thy life seeketh my life.*” The Devil wants all of us. If we could just remember which army we are in, we would be all right. If Christians would quit targeting other brethren, we would be much better off. It is Satan’s goal to bring his strongest temptation at our weakest moment. You can become angry about something in church, and the Devil says, “Oh boy! I have a place to work from now.” You can let the sun go down on your wrath toward your wife or children, and the Devil says, “I have a place to work from now.”

To defeat the Devil, we must have forgiveness and cleansing on a daily basis. If you let something go, the Devil will say, “That is all I need.” There are many places, many breaches, many breaks where the Devil attempts to enter in.

WE MUST BE FAITHFUL in OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

It is wonderful to worship God in spirit and in truth with other believers. The Word of God exhorts, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:25).

We are strengthened in the inner man through our worship and fellowship with God’s people.

David’s heart was broken, but he said, “Abiathar, don’t worry about it. You join up with us. Saul has been looking for me like a man chases after an animal to kill it. The truth is, he has his hand on his spear now just thinking about how good it would feel to drive it through my heart. He has a spear in his hand and murder in his heart.”

Beloved, we have a real enemy. He desires to devour us. Let us stand together in the strength of the Lord. Our vision of God is greater when He delivers us from all our foes. Satan is a roaring lion, but he is a defeated foe. Christ lives and we have victory in Him!

There is a Devil who is a roaring lion, who walks about seeking whom he may devour. He wants God and all of His creation. He wants you and all of your family. He wants every Christian and

everyone else standing with that Christian. If we are ever going to defeat him, we need to be free from the law of sin and death, we need to be forgiven and cleansed, and we need to be faithful in our fellowship with other believers in the local church.