

Character Study: David
Part 8 – David’s Final Days
II Samuel 23-I Kings 2

What’s happening?

- David took a census of the people to see how many men of battle he had. When the count was finished, David had 1,300,000 men fit for war. David had done this out of pride, however, and as a result a plague came upon Israel. (24:1-14)
- As his people began to die from the plague, David built an altar and offered sacrifices to the Lord on the threshing floor of a man named Araunah. Araunah offered to give David all he needed to make the sacrifices, but David insisted on paying for it, saying that he could not sacrifice to the Lord that which cost him nothing. Afterward, the plague ended. (24:15-25)
- As David neared his death, his son Adonijah tried to make himself king. But David intervened because he had promised Bathsheba that their son Solomon would be heir to the throne. He had Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint Solomon king, and then Solomon sat on David’s throne. Israel rejoiced over their new king. (I Kings 1)
- David gave a charge to Solomon, encouraging him to be faithful in following the Lord. Shortly later, around the age of seventy, David died. He had served forty years as king over Israel. (I Kings 2:1-12)

What’s God doing?

> God had given David a full life. His later years were characterized by the consequences of his sin, but God had set David’s son to reign in his place, allowing David to enjoy peace in his final days.

What’s to learn?

→ David understood the concept of sacrifice. He would not offer God anything that did not cost him something. He knew that a true sacrifice required sacrifice! When it comes to serving God, do you look to do things that are easy and that require no cost, or are you willing to give God things that require a sacrifice (your time, money, energy, etc.)?

→ David had sinned against God, but God still used Him. Just like David, we are not perfect, yet in God’s grace and mercy, He can do great things through our lives!

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