

A Eulogy for King David

The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people," 1Sa 13:14. [God] raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' Acts 13:22. For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers. Acts 13:36 [Question: what was God's purpose for David in his generation?]

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel:

"The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: 'When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.' For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away, for they cannot be taken with the hand; but the man who touches them arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear, and they shall be utterly consumed with fire." 2Sa 23:1-7

Using the Chronology of David's life, select 2 or 3 events or circumstances that you believe characterize David's life, and why they define him as a man after God's own heart. "Heart" can mean the strength or center of our spiritual or physical life, the will, character, passion, or even intellectual understanding we have. How might these events define David's relationship with God, and explain God's favor towards him? **Side issue: Did this characteristic elicit God's favor, or did God's favor produce this characteristic in David?**¹ *If there is another event or circumstance you prefer, but which is not listed in the chronology, please feel free to use it.*

1.

2.

3.

¹ 1Sam 18:18; 2Sam 7:18; 1Chr 17:16; 1Chr 29:14 – How is this issue related to the Gospel, and to our response to God?