

Old Testament 24
Create in Me a Clean Heart.
(2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51)
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(Here is material which will guide us in avoiding temptation. It will also **further** our understanding of how David's life bore witness of **Jesus Christ and of our works in the Latter-days**).

I. While we know David showed great strengths and virtues in his young age, we also know that he had a great fall.

A. It is obvious his sins began because he "lingered" at seeing, rather than "fleeing," from a woman, as Joseph did.

B. President Boyd K. Packer once compared temptations to birds flying through one's head. He pointed out that we can't always prevent them from entering, but we should never let them build a nest.

C. He also gave wise counsel in saying we should quickly replace any temptation which enters our minds with thoughts of a hymn, which will drive it away. Prepare beforehand of what hymn one might use.

II. One of the biggest sins of David was that he **chose to cover his first sin, and thus through deceit, eventually became guilty of a far worse one --- causing a death.**

A. Consider how often, for us, if we admit our mistakes or sins quickly, we are saved from far worse sins and complications later. Hiding sins only causes the hole to be dug ever deeper and deeper.

B. This death was particularly tragic because David had earlier shown great integrity. For although Saul hated him and sought his life, David never raised his hand against "the Lord's anointed," even though to do so was in his power more than once.

C. Thus we see how Satan tries to subtly lead even the best of men into sin, step by step.

III. We should recognize there are many elements, nevertheless, in David's life which are important prophecies of the future.

A. Remember, the virtues of David in his early life taught of Christ and of *His* virtues, of His meekness, of His guiding His people like a kind shepherd.

B. But David's later sins were actually prophetic of Israel's future sins, and they bore witness of why and how Jesus would be killed.

IV. David fell because of his sins with Bathsheba and against Uriah. In Christ's time, Israel would sin in a similar way.

A. **Like King David, the Judaic leaders in Christ's time, through covetousness, would lead their subjects into adultery. [This is verified by the JST. See # 2 below].**

1. The first great sin of the Judaic leaders was to break their covenant to love only God (who was Jehovah/Jesus), and to cause their people to do so as well.

2. Joseph Smith's NT translation shows rejecting Christ, with whom they had covenanted as Jehovah, was like adultery. "And they [Jewish leaders] said... We have the law, and the prophets; but as for this man we will not receive him to be

- our ruler, ... Then said Jesus ... The law and the prophets testify of me; yea, and all the prophets who have written, even until John, have foretold of these days. ... And why teach ye the law, and **deny that which is written; and condemn him whom the Father hath sent to fulfill the law ... *Ye take the children of the kingdom by force. Woe unto you, ye adulterers!*** (JST Luke 16:16, 17, 20, 21). (Emphasis added). Thus we can see Joseph's translation of the NT verified such parallels.
- B. The Judaic leaders, by crucifying Jesus, helped insure that the people in general would no longer believe that He was their expected Messiah and Bridegroom.
 - C. David also magnified his sin by delivering Uriah, the husband, into the hands of others (the Ammonites) --- to be killed.
 - 1. Likewise, the Judaic **leaders delivered Jehovah/Jesus [Israel's True Bridegroom] into the hands of the Romans to be crucified.**
- V. David is rebuked by the Lord's prophet, is punished, and repents (2 Sam 12:1-13).
- A. After causing him to recognize and admit his sin through a parable, Nathan tells him the sword would never depart from his house; that there would be rebellion against him from his own family; that his wives would be given to others; and that his first son by Bathsheba would not live (12:10-11,14).
 - B. Subsequently, the rest of David's life shows repentance.
 - 1. "David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself ... and came into the House of the Lord, and worshipped" (2 Samuel 12:20).
 - 2. The Psalms testify of David's faith in Christ's future atonement. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.... Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; **Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;**" (Psalm 51:7, 11-13).
 - C. David, through his psalms, **did** teach transgressors the ways of God.
 - 1. Indeed we must acknowledge that the beautiful Psalms have had a powerful influence on vast numbers of people. So he did as promised, and succeeded.
 - D. Particularly pertinent were his pleas for forgiveness, and that the Lord would "Create in me a new heart."
 - 1. Remember the Lord chose him as king because at first his heart was pure.
 - 2. David testified now that the only sacrifice which is truly pleasing to the Lord is: "...a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart..." (v. 17).
- VI. **His changed life prophesied that in the future Israel would also return to God.**
- A. Other prophets also used the imagery of a new heart coming to a later Israel (Ezekiel 11:19, "take the stony heart out... give them a new heart of flesh;" Also see Ezekiel 18:31).
 - 1. **This new heart would come to a "last days" Israel, and would come due to the atonement of the Savior, made more potent by revelation through new, clearer scriptures.**
 - 2. **A full understanding and humble acceptance of the Savior's atonement changes men's hearts, making them "broken and contrite."**

3. In addition to David's story, the scriptures as a whole testify that there would be a restored Israel in the last days. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is that restored Israel.

VII. One of the reasons David is so honored is because he unified all the separate tribes into one nation.

- A. Thus David bore witness of Christ, who will come, and in the Millennium **unify all of those who are of Israel, [including believing and adopted Gentiles], into His One Great Kingdom.**
- B. Remember Elder McConkie's statement. "David ... mighty, mighty David, the one king above all others to whom ancient Israel for a thousand long years looked as a symbol of Israelite triumph and glory... [was a] similitude for the very Messiah himself" (*Millennial Messiah*, p. 602).

VIII. Because David's final days and death are not recorded until 1 Kings, we often ignore them, but that is a mistake.

- A. David chose his son Solomon to succeed him, and taught him to obey the Lord.
 - 1. "...keep the charge of the Lord... to walk in his ways, to keep his commandments, and his judgments..." (1 Kings 2:3).
 - 2. He also helped lay plans for the temple.
 - 3. Therefore, David's final work was to prepare all things necessary for the One who would come after --- the great King of Wisdom. (Which was a prophecy of the Second Coming of Christ, and also that we, as the restored Latter-day Israel, would prepare for Jesus Christ and His Second Coming).

IX. David's beautiful last words as Psalmist reflect upon that coming reign of the True King --- Jesus the Christ.

A. "The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, ... He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, as the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; **as the tender grass springing out the earth by clear shining, after rain.**" [These phrases reflect on Christ's wonderful Rule after He has come forth in Glory following His Resurrection].

B. David next admits, reflectively, that his own reign did not meet these standards, but anticipates the reign of the True King, Jesus Christ. "Although my house *be* not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, ..." (2 Samuel 23:1).

1. While he failed as a righteous king, he knew of God's covenants to Israel, and that he will find some form of salvation under the True King in His covenanted Kingdom.

C. David's life then not only teaches of Christ, but also parallels the history of Israel: Moving from the time of its innocence, to its great sin of adultery and slaying the Bridegroom, and finally to its latter-day repentant return.

It is only by understanding these parallels that we can truly appreciate the Psalms. For David, and other psalmists, give voice to *all* those parts of Israel's history, as we will see next when we study the Psalms.