

## ***David Inquires of the Lord: Shall I Go Up?***

### **I. DAVID: A WITNESS AND MODEL FOR GOD’S PEOPLE**

- A. David is a picture of what God wants to release by the Spirit on the end-time church. He is a model for faith and obedience and for a Church that loves, worships, and wars in the Spirit.

***3“I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David. 4Indeed I have given him as a witness [model] to the people, a leader and commander for the people.” (Isa. 55:3-4)***

- B. David’s obedience and ministry is a “standard” of what God is seeking to establish in the earth.

***15“I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with...understanding.” (Jer. 3:15)***

***8“In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David.” (Zech. 12:8)***

- C. There are five main seasons to David’s life. Each season is seen through the city/region he lived in during the time. In each of these season the Lord has a purpose for David as the Lord establishes and refines His primary calling to be a lover of God.

### **II. FIVE SEASONS AND CITIES IN DAVID’S LIFE**

- A. ***Bethlehem:*** The Bethlehem years lasted from his childhood through his teen years (1 Sam. 16-17). *David’s commitment to love God as the primary goal of his life was tested by rejection and by being faithful in the mundane.* He found his identity in his relationship with God as he focused on understanding that God loved him and on cultivating his love for God. His sense of success was found in his relationship with God and in being faithful to God by being faithful in small things.

1. David had to overcome the rejection of his family in this season (1 Sam. 16:7-11) and the rejection of his family and friends throughout his life (Ps. 38:11-12; 69:7-10).

***10Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.” 11And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep”...12He sent and brought him in...the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!” (1 Sam. 16:10-12)***

*7 Because for Your sake I have borne reproach...8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children; 9 because zeal for Your house has eaten me up... 10When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. (Ps. 69:7-10)*

*10When my father and my mother forsake me...the LORD will take care of me. (Ps. 27:10)*

*11My loved ones and friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off. 12Those also who seek my life lay snares for me. (Ps. 38:11-12)*

2. He was faithful to serve behind the scenes in mundane ways. He was responsible with the small details of what was entrusted to him (1 Sam. 16:10-11; 17:22). Being faithful in small things is one of the main things Jesus will affirm in His people on the last day (Mt. 25:21).

*21“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.” (Mt. 25:21)*

- B. *Gibeah:*** The Gibeah years covered about age 18 to 22 in David's life (1 Sam. 18-20). *His commitment to loving God as the primary goal of his life was tested by early favor and temporary popularity.* After killing Goliath (1 Sam. 17), David was promoted to national prominence. Early promotion can be part of preparation for future destiny. In this season some become too busy with new opportunities and are distracted from their relationship with God.

*2 Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house... (1 Sam. 18:2)*

*21 ...but man is tested by the praise he receives. (Prov. 27:21)*

- C. *Adullam:*** The Adullam years covered about age 23 to 30 in David's life (1 Sam. 21-31). *David's commitment to loving God as the primary goal of his life was tested by adversity in the wilderness* for about seven years as King Saul and 3,000 soldiers sought to kill him.

*1 David...escaped to the cave of Adullam. (1 Sam. 22:1)*

1. **Leadership Lesson:** Endurance, with a long-term perspective, is essential in walking out one's full prophetic destiny and promises.
2. When God raises up His "Davids," He trains them in the "seminary of Saul," sometimes using a demonized leader who mistreats them, to help them grow deep in their relationship to God.

3. Nobody could hinder God’s will in David’s life—not Saul, nor the Philistines, nor any other. The only one who could stop David’s destiny was David—by responding in a wrong way.
4. When we feel the pain of mistreatment, disappointment, or delay, the darkest issues of our hearts come to the surface. Our pain in not receiving the recognition that we expect is often linked to our unperceived pride. This is the greatest enemy of our calling.

***12Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. (Ps. 19:12)***

- D. ***Hebron:*** The Hebron years covered age 30 to 37 in David’s life (2 Sam. 2-5). *David was tested by receiving only a partial fulfillment of the promises* for which he had long labored and waited. In Hebron, David was king over only one tribe—Judah. This was just one of the 12 tribes that God had promised him about *13 years earlier*.

***1 David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?” And the LORD said to him, “Go up.” David said, “Where shall I go up?” And He said, “To Hebron.” (2 Sam. 2:1)***

- E. ***Jerusalem:*** The Jerusalem years covered age 37 to 70 in David’s life (2 Sam. 6-24). *David was tested by the pressures related to walking in the fullness of the promises* and blessings he received. David’s season of greatest blessing was also his most dangerous season, spiritually speaking. Scripture records that his greatest failures, along with many pressures, occurred in this season. He had many pressures while in Jerusalem as the fullness of his destiny was being realized.

***11Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments... 12lest—when you have...built beautiful houses...13and your silver and your gold are multiplied ...14when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD. (Deut. 8:11-14)***

### III. DAVID INQUIRED OF THE LORD: THE HEBRON SEASON

- A. After Saul died in battle, *there were no obstacles to stop David from taking the throne of Israel*. The only rival to the throne was Saul’s youngest son, Ishbosheth, who was a fearful and weak leader. Saul’s death brought chaos to the leadership of Israel; *thus it was an opportune time for David to take advantage of the situation and take the throne*. But instead David inquired of the Lord as to what to do.

***1 It happened after this that David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I go up to any of the cities of Judah?” And the LORD said to him, “Go up.” David said, “Where shall I go up?” And He said, “To Hebron... 4 There they anointed David king over the house of Judah. (2 Sam. 2:1-4)***

- B.** ***Inquired of the Lord:*** After mourning for Saul, the first thing David did was to inquire of the Lord. (1 Sam. 23:2, 4, 11-12; 30:8-9; 2 Sam. 2:1-2; 5:19, 23; 21:1; Ps. 27:4). *David sought the Lord for clear direction* for his life this is seen in His prayer “*Shall I go up...?*”
- C.** ***Go up:*** the Lord told David to go up from Ziklag to Judah. Judah is a territory; Hebron is a city. The Lord did not initially specify a city *until David asked*. The Lord often gives us a general direction and then gives more details as we continue to ask for them. He does not make known His entire plan for us at one time, but keeps us in conversation with Him as He gives us more direction.
- D.** During David’s seven years in Hebron he was tested by receiving only a partial fulfillment of what God promised him. Here he was king over only one tribe—Judah—instead of all 12 tribes that God spoke to him about ruling. He was age 30 to 37 during his seven years in Hebron (2 Sam. 2-4).
- E.** *David’s inquiring of the Lord in each season is one of the things that sets David apart from other men.* After all, He is the anointed king and has the prophetic promise since the days of his youth. When Saul died, all signs shout, "David now is your moment, step into your prophetic destiny. The writing is on the wall and you have waited long enough. Seize the day." However, David is not concerned with the natural look of thing but is preoccupied with the will and purpose of God in conjunction with the perfect timing of God.
- F.** David was preoccupied with doing God’s will, not with being king. He saw himself first as who he was before God and second as who he was before men. David’s greatest desire was to love and obey the Lord, regardless of the changing circumstances and seasons of his life. His primary life goal was not to be king but to be obedient to God, to know His heart, and to behold His beauty. Being king was secondary to David; that is what made David so different from Saul.
- G.** Not all “green lights” or “open doors” in the natural are to be walked through.
- H.** The wisdom and timing of God far surpass the wisdom of the best men have to offer. The Lord works in multidimensional chess. Multi layered leadership using the free will of men and the rage of satan in bringing about His master plan.
- I.** *The perspective of David:* I believe David would say He was in the wilderness season because of the Lord’s leadership and timing rather than blaming Saul. If he was in the wilderness seasons because of the Lords leadership and timing then it would be the Lord’s leadership and timing to get him out of it and into the new season.
- J.** ***Leadership lesson:*** The *promise of God* and the *timing of God* are separate issues. We will never lose anything in God by responding with patience and humility. David was patient, but not passive.