

# "By faith..."

## 16. David

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**W**HEN LOOKING at the example of David, the fact that he was "a man after [God's] own heart" (Acts 13:22) is often the characteristic which is cited. He was a man 'in tune' with God in thought and action, with one notable exception. In order to be 'in tune' with a God Who has made promises concerning the future, faith is vital. Details of the grand plan of the ages were revealed first to Abraham, who was 'father of the faithful', and then expanded in revelation to David. David can thus be seen as standing alongside Abraham as an outstanding man of faith.

### Early days

David's faith is evident from early days. When Saul and the armies of Israel stood quaking in the face of the challenge from Goliath, David saw the situation in an entirely different light: "who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (1 Sam. 17:26). Here is righteous indignation; in David's eyes Goliath was as good as dead, for he had brought into question the ability of the God of Israel to vanquish his enemies. Consider what he said to Goliath:

"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, Whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" (vv. 45,46).

This incident is one of the few stories of Scripture well known in the secular world. It is often mentioned when a small party overcomes a large one. Through his faith David knew the reality of the situation. It was a mere mortal man against the armies of heaven: "The LORD That delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine" (v. 37). This is faith in action.

The faith of David, and his understanding of the Divine plan, is evident from his response in receiving the promises recorded in 2 Samuel 7: "but Thou hast spoken also of Thy servant's house for a great while to come". And then he adds: "And now, O LORD God, the word that Thou hast spoken concerning Thy servant, and concerning his house, establish it for ever, and do as Thou hast said. And let Thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel: and let the house of Thy servant David be established before Thee" (vv. 19,25,26).

### End of life

The same sentiments are echoed at the end of David's life:

"Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be Thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and Thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; and in Thine hand is power and might; and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name" (1 Chron. 29:10-13).

David was about to die when he spoke these words. 1 Chronicles 29 also records: "and David the king also rejoiced with great joy" (v. 9).

David knew that death was a sleep, and that when he awoke the kingdom would be the Lord's, but now over the whole earth, not just Israel. His faith concerning future glory was unshakeable, for he said earlier in his life:

"Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple" (Ps. 27:3,4).