


109 Worship—A Gigantic Leap Forward

God has a very special task in mind, a plan that will change the whole concept of worship for all time. For this job he needs a special type of personality and character. What kind of person is God looking for?

1 Samuel 13:14 *The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart* Hebrew  = a man with a heart similar to or like his own heart. In Acts 13:22 where it is quoted the Greek uses “kata” = like or resembling his own heart. God wanted a person who would be like-minded, who would have similar desires and inclinations. God looks over the land for such a person and finds him in a young shepherd boy, David, son of Jesse, in the wilderness of Judea.

1 Samuel 16:1-13 He has a strong sense of right and wrong, is extremely expressive of his feelings and musically inclined. How important is this young man in God’s plan? 62 chapters in the historical books of the OT cover his public life and 73 psalms exhibit his private life. However, David was still raw material that needed to be shaped and molded before God could use him for the great task ahead of him.

David’s Training

1] 1 Samuel 16:14-23 God moves him from the sheep folds to Saul’s court. Here he can learn the inner workings of politics and rulership. He also will expand and extend his relationships and friendships. He entered the court through his ability to use his music as a therapy for troubled souls.

2] 1 Samuel 19-31 For the next ten plus years David lives as a wandering fugitive fleeing Saul’s insane jealousy. During this time he learned what it means to be oppressed, discouraged and in constant danger. He could empathize with the down-trodden, societies’ rejects. He also discovered how to take all his complaints and frustrations directly to God himself and how to give thanks and praise in life’s worst circumstances. (45 of the 54 lament psalms are David’s.)

3] 2 Samuel His Years as Reigning King during Israel’s Golden Age

- A. He ordered his songs to be sung, recited, memorized by others (2 Samuel 1:17,18)
- B. He may have traveled around and performed publicly to teach even greater numbers
(He is called the ‘Sweet singer of Israel’--2 Samuel 23:1)
- C. He arranged for full-time musicians to minister in music in the worship of God
 - 1. He instituted choirs (1 Chron 6:31,32; 16:4-7,37,41,42)
 - 2. He organized orchestras (same verses as above)
- D. He may have developed instruments for better performance (2 Chron 29:26,27)
Amos 6:5 “Like David you have invented musical instruments” (NASV margin)

4] His Special Qualifications as the Originator of the Psalms

- A. He possessed a creative ability in both music and poetry
- B. High emotional level of awareness, highly sensitive and sensual, his ‘soft’ side
- C. Masculine toughness, his macho side, "A man among men"
- D. Little or no inhibition in expressing his feelings (2 Samuel 6:14,15)
- E. A well-developed sense of moral/ethical values
- F. An overwhelming devotion to God
- G. An unquenchable hunger and thirst for God and his fellowship

So how did the worship of God take a great leap forward?

David internalized worship. He interlinked and counterbalanced the objective facts of the Law of Moses with subjective personal experiences. Moses’ Law may no longer be that relevant today but the psalms are as pertinent 3000 years later as they were the day they were composed.