



A MESSAGE OF HUMILITY AND  
HOPE FROM THE LIFE OF PAUL

# THE *CHIEF* OF SINNERS

BAND OF BROTHERS / SPRING 2026

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SPRING SERIES 2026

## OUTLINE FOR THE SERIES

- **Out with the old, in with the new**

*Now king David was old and advanced in years. – 1 Kings 1:1 ESV*

- A long and, anything but boring, reign
  - David had enjoyed a long run  
*David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. – 2 Samuel 5:4 ESV*

Samuel describes David as...

...the son of Jesse  
...the man who was raised on high  
...the anointed of the God of Jacob  
...and the sweet psalmist of Israel

- He was a prolific poet and musician
  - He wrote as many as 75 psalms
  - Written during key life events
  - They are like personal journal entries
    - ~ They express his **fears**  
*O LORD, I have so many enemies;  
so many are against me. – Psalm 3:1 NLT*
    - ~ They convey his **frustrations**  
*O LORD, why do you stand so far away?  
Why do you hide when I am in trouble? – Psalm 10:1 NLT*  
*Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer.  
Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief. – Psalm 22:2 NLT*
    - ~ They contain his **confessions**  
*I confessed all my sins to you*

*and stopped trying to hide my guilt.  
I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD."  
And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. – Psalm 32:5 NLT*

*Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;  
I have done what is evil in your sight.  
You will be proved right in what you say,  
and your judgment against me is just. – Psalm 51:4 NLT*

- ~ They expose his desire for **deliverance**  
*Rescue me from my enemies, O God.  
Protect me from those who have come to destroy me. – Psalm 59:1 NLT*

*Save me, O God,  
for the floodwaters are up to my neck. – Psalm 69:1 NLT*

*Please, God, rescue me!  
Come quickly, LORD, and help me.  
May those who try to kill me  
be humiliated and put to shame. – Psalm 70:1-2 NLT*

- ~ They contain calls for **vengeance**  
*May his children become fatherless,  
and his wife a widow.  
May his children wander as beggars  
and be driven from their ruined homes. – Psalm 59:1 NLT*

- David could be overly impatient  
brutally honest  
vindictively vengeful  
and easily frustrated

"The psalms of David are nothing more than journals containing his thoughts about God and his honest reactions to the affairs of life. You will notice that David is extremely blunt and unafraid to share what he is thinking. But he is also respectful of God, always showing Him the reverence He is due...David helps us understand that our God is greater than our doubts. He is bigger than any feelings of frustrations we may experience or bouts of confusion we may face." – Ken Miller, *Shock and Awe: The Honest Reactions and Humble Reflections of a Sin-Prone Saint*

- ~ They testify to his **faith**  
*The LORD is my light and my salvation —  
so why should I be afraid? – Psalm 27:1 NLT*

*I lay down and slept, yet I woke up in safety,*

*for the LORD was watching over me. – Psalm 3:5 NLT*

*I know the LORD is always with me.*

*I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. – Psalm 16:8 NLT*

*Why am I discouraged?*

*Why is my heart so sad?*

*I will put my hope in God!*

*I will praise him again — my Savior and my God! – Psalm 43:5 NLT*

~ They record his **praise**

*I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;*

*I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done. – Psalm 9:1 NLT*

*Shout joyful praises to God, all the earth!*

*Sing about the glory of his name!*

*Tell the world how glorious he is. – Psalm 66:1-2 NLT*

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;*

*test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

*Point out anything in me that offends you,*

*and lead me along the path of everlasting life. – Psalm 139:23-24 NLT*

- **Back to 1 Kings**

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings



Originally one book

- Far from a storybook ending
  - The end of David's life
  - The beginning of Solomon's reign
  - All in keeping with God's covenant

*"...the LORD declares that he will make a house for you — a dynasty of kings! For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong. He is the one who will build a house — a temple — for my name. And I will secure his royal throne forever." – 2 Samuel 7:11-13 NLT*

- **Old enough to know better**

- David is nearly 70 years old
  - He's in poor health
  - His fighting days are behind him
  - But his battles are far from over

- Remember God's warning

*Now therefore **the sword shall never depart from your house**, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. – 2 Samuel 12:10 ESV*

- Here we go again

*About that time David's son Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, began boasting, "I will make myself king." – 1 Kings 1:5 NLT*

*These are the sons who were born to David in Hebron: The oldest was Amnon [dead]...*

*The second was Daniel [?]...*

*The third was Absalom [dead]...*

*The fourth was **Adonijah**...*

*– 2 Samuel 3:2-4 NLT*

*So he [Adonijah] provided himself with chariots and charioteers and recruited fifty men to run in front of him. – 1 Kings 1:5 NLT*

- He learned from the "best"
- A page right from Absalom's playbook

*...Absalom bought a chariot and horses, and he hired fifty bodyguards to run ahead of him. – 2 Samuel 15:1 NLT*

- He mimicked Absalom's **motives & methods**
- And was the product of **poor parenting**

*...his father, King David, **had never disciplined him at any time**, even by asking, "Why are you doing that?" – 1 Kings 1:6 NLT*

- **Older, but wiser**

- David has been here before
- But this time, it would be different
  - He would take action
    - assert his authority as king
    - protect Solomon's rule
    - preserve his dynasty
    - and fulfill God's will

- Bearers of bad news

- Bathsheba and Nathan tag-team David
- They inform him of Adonijah's coup
 

*"My lord, you made a vow before the LORD your God when you said to me, 'Your son Solomon will surely be the next king and will sit on my throne.' But instead, Adonijah*

*has made himself king, and my lord the king does not even know about it.” – 1 Kings 1:17-18 NLT*

- Bathsheba reminds him of God’s promise

- And David’s own vow to fulfill it

*“But you will have a son who will be a man of peace. I will give him peace with his enemies in all the surrounding lands. His name will be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel during his reign. He is the one who will build a Temple to honor my name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will secure the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.” – 2 Chronicles 22:9-10 NLT*

- Nathan confirms her words
- And they both call David to take action
- Because God had made a covenant with David

*“And now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.” – 1 Kings 1:20 NLT*

- Not the same “old” David

*“As surely as the LORD lives, who has rescued me from every danger, your son Solomon will be the next king and will sit on my throne this very day, just as I vowed to you before the LORD, the God of Israel.” – 1 Kings 1:29-30 NLT*

- **A changing of the guard**

- Solomon is crowned king
- Adonijah vows to show fealty
- And David delivers his final words
  - David’s last will and testament

- He was leaving Solomon a lot: Royal power and authority  
A vast and unified kingdom  
Great wealth and privilege  
But his greatest gift was priceless

- The lasting legacy of godliness

*“I am going where everyone on earth must someday go. **Take courage and be a man.**” – 1 Kings 2:2 NLT*

- The same words echoed by Paul

*Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. – 1 Corinthians 16:13 ESV*

- And David was far from done

*“**Observe** the requirements of the LORD your God, and **follow** all his ways. **Keep** the decrees, commands, regulations, and laws written in the Law of Moses so that you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go.” – 1 Kings 2:3 NLT*

**Observe the requirement**

*šāmar* (shaw-mar)

guard, preserve, keep, protect

like a watchman or guard  
*mišmeret* (mish-mer-reth) the charge, ordinance, obligation

### Follow all his ways

*yālak* (yaw-lak) walk, follow, live, conduct yourself  
*derek* (deh'-rek) the path, road, way, course of life

### Keep the decrees, commands, regulations, and laws

*šāmar* (shaw-mar) the path, road, way, course of life  
*huqqâ* (khook-kaw) statutes, decrees, ordinances

“David knew that obedience was preferable to discipline. It was far better to obey than to learn the difficult lessons that come as a result of God’s loving hand of discipline. David had lost three sons due to his own sins. He had watched as two of his sons attempted to take his kingdom from him. He had seen innocent people die because of his disobedience. And he knew that living in submission and obedience to the will of God was far better in the long run, and the true mark of a godly man. He also knew that obeying the Lord would require real strength. For Solomon to do what God commanded would take faith, trust, and a willingness to die to his own self-centered desires and wishes. Disobedience is the way of cowards.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Life of David*

- **Then David died...**

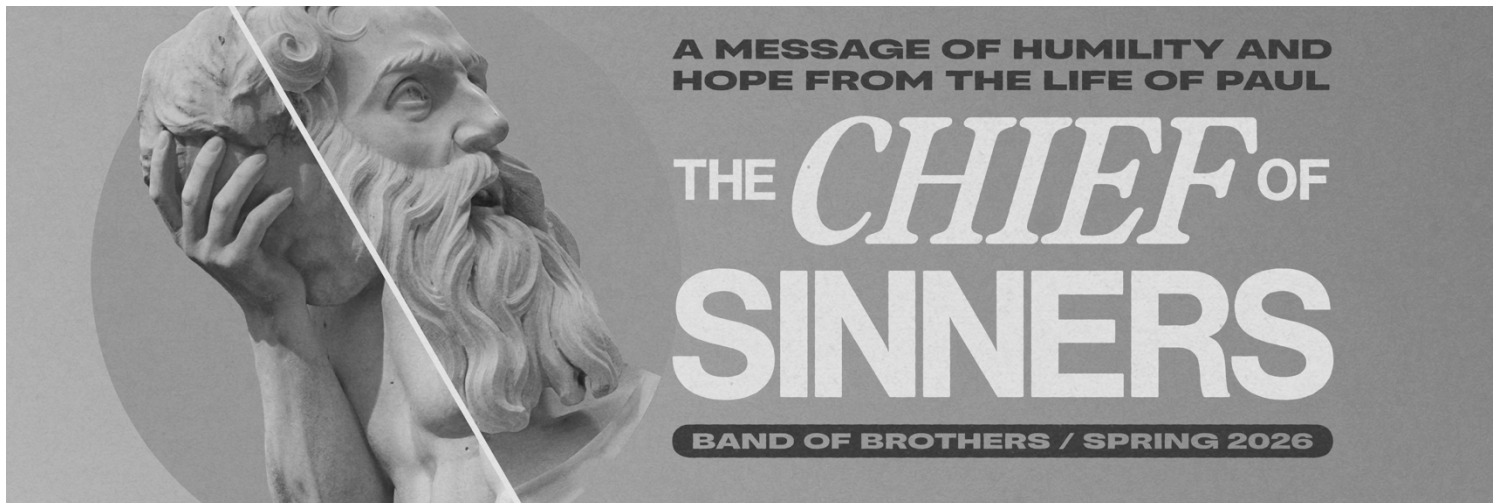
- The end of a life, but not the end of the story  
*“Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The **LORD God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.** And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”* – Luke 1:30-33 NLT

### Discussion Questions

What’s been the one takeaway from this study on the life of David? How has it changed your outlook?

If you were lying on your deathbed, what would your final words to your children or grandchildren be, and why?

As we approach Christmas, why is it vital that we recognize that God’s story is greater than David’s or our own?



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SPRING SERIES 2026 – WEEK 2 HOMEWORK

### WEEK 2 – Man On A Mission

In this lesson, we will examine Paul's background and former life as a Pharisee. We aim to establish the dispersion setting into which he was born and to provide a solid working understanding of the context in which he began his ministry.

- You should have received a PDF containing Ken's Devotionalary™ on the Book of Acts. If so, please read pages 7-48 sometime this week. They cover the section of Acts that we will be studying in week 2.
- Read Acts 6:8-7:53 to get a context of what was going on in the early days of the Church. How would you describe the environment in which Stephen and the rest of the leaders of the newly formed church in Jerusalem had to operate?

When you read Stephen's sermon, what are the main points he makes that jump out at you? What do you think he said that hit a nerve with the Jews in his audience?

- Read Acts 7:54-60. What was it that Stephen said that pushed the Jewish leaders over the edge?

What was their response?

What was Stephen's response?

- Read Acts 8:1-3. Saul was in the audience that day. What role did he play, and what does this tell you about his attitude toward Jesus and his followers?

Look at Acts 22:1-5. How does Paul recount his attitude toward Christians when he addressed the Jews who were trying to have him arrested?

Now look at Acts 26:9-11. Paul stands before King Agrippa and has the opportunity to present his defense. What does he say about his feelings toward Christ-followers in his earlier days?

Read Philippians 3:4-6. What does Paul say about himself and his former mission to eradicate the followers of the dead Rabbi, Jesus?

Read Galatians 3:13-14. Once again, how does Paul describe his former life as a persecutor of the disciples of Jesus?

- Why do you think God would consider using someone like Saul to spread the good news about Jesus Christ? What was it about his background that made Saul a wise and logical choice for God?