

We are in part 2 of our study on David in connection with our verse by verse study through the book of Hebrews. We are attempting to understand why this man was included in the famed Hall of Faith found in **Hebrews 11:32**.

Hebrews 11:32

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of **David** and Samuel and the prophets.

If you need to refresh your memory regarding part 1 of the study, please listen to the teaching on the website since a lot of tonight's study will be connected.

We learned so far that David was the youngest and kind of forgotten brother who was relegated to caring for the sheep until the day that the Prophet Samuel showed up and anointed him with oil, which meant one thing and one thing only, David was going to be the next king of Israel.

However, there was a problem; he was only a boy and the current king, Saul, was not about to give up his kingdom. Saul was a king that had been fashioned in the ways of kings, the ways of men; as such, he never submitted himself to the Lord's rule over his life. He was a man of his own will and intention and it really did not matter what God wanted; all that mattered is what Saul wanted. As a result, God told Saul that He was taking the kingdom from Him and giving it to one who was better than him. In addition, the Lord sent an evil spirit to Saul that would overtake him and cause him to rage like a bloody madman.

David had found his way into the King's palace where he played and sang to Saul whenever he was tormented by the spirit. David's songs seemed to be just the thing to bring relief to Saul's crazed mind. Eventually David became one of Saul's armor bearers, trusted advisors, generals, and was well thought of by Saul up until the time when the people started heralding David's many achievements.

You see having been trained in the ways of kings, the ways of men, Saul was not about to be outdone by another. He was the king not David and he was not going to let anyone threaten his glory. Saul became smitten with jealousy and paranoia and he did what any good king does who has been trained in the ways of kings, the ways of men, he turned on David, hunted him down, and tried to kill him. More than once he tried to pin him to the wall with a spear and David just dodged the blow and fled.

Saul was a madman and even though David had never done anything to harm or threaten him, Saul wanted him Dead. As a result, David had to flee the kingdom. He found refuge in the desert with a handful of rejects and malcontents. This was the time when David was enrolled in God's school of ministry known as Pain Central. Saul was the head master and Suffering and Sorrow were his main professors.

This school, this desert, this place of exile, rejection, and loneliness was going to be the place where David would learn not to walk in the ways of kings, the ways of men; but to trust that His God was so big, so gigundus, that he would take care of him and be his God even when everything in his life, from a practical perspective, totally sucked.

You see, the world had known enough kings like Saul and it was time for a new king, one who would be a man who lived after God's own heart. But for this to come to fruition, David had to learn about God's heart—hence, his enrollment in God's school of ministry where he would receive very personal instruction.

As we studied, David was a promising student at the top of his class. Twice he had the opportunity to kill Saul—it was as if God had just handed Saul over to David. Just one swing of the blade and David's suffering would be over; the kingdom would be David's just as God had said; and the people would be saved and protected from a madman. It all just made perfect sense.

But David had listened in class; therefore, he refused to take matters into his own hands and to stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed. David said:

1 Samuel 26:10

Surely the Lord will strike Saul down someday, or he will die in battle or of old age. But the Lord forbid that I should kill the one He has anointed!

He had decided that if God promised that he would be king, God would make it happen and it was not up to David to push forward God's agenda. He decided that God was in control of his life and that God was fully able to deal with Saul, protect David, and hand over the kingdom in His time according to the kind intention of His will. He decided that he would wait as long as was necessary for God to act on his behalf. He decided that God was his God and he did not need to pretend that he could fill that role.

You see, David's faith was becoming more than just a spiritual concept or ideal; it was becoming his faith, it was becoming tangible, it was becoming the anchor for his life and he would not quickly exchange it to obtain comfort, position, acclaim, power, authority, or security in this life. It was far too valuable to him.

As David entered into his senior year he found that even though it was still so uncomfortable living in the desert always on the run, the classes were actually getting a bit easier. This was a welcomed surprise for someone who had become used to nothing but hardship.

We will pick up in **1 Samuel 27:1-4**. David decided to once again get as far away from Saul as was possible and he fled to the Philistines (the arch enemies of Israel). He thought that since Saul was deathly afraid of the Philistines he would give up his hunt as long as David was with them. And it worked; Saul actually pulled back his men and went back to being a mad king.

During this time David took up residence in a Philistine village called Ziklag and, in effect, acted as a judge of Israel bringing God's judgment on those who were enemies of Israel. The Philistine king, Achish, really liked David and allowed him to live in Ziklag believing that David had truly defected and was helping the Philistines by launching attacks into southern Judah (which is what David told him). But David was actually using this time to wipe out some of the Canaanites in the land who were never completely conquered by Joshua or the prior Judges.

David exterminated the Geshurites, Girzites and the Amaelkites who lived near Shur along the road to Egypt. In fact, David did not leave one person alive in the villages he attacked so that way no one could report to King Achish what he was really up to. This happened again and again while he was living among the

Philistines. Achish totally believed David's story. He thought that the people of Israel must really hate David for what he was doing but it was all a ruse as David was merely biding his time in exile expanding his future kingdom.

Then the time came when the Philistines decided to launch another massive attack against Israel and King Achish asked David to join him and David said: "Very well. Now you will see for yourself what we can do" (**1 Samuel 28:2**). I believe that David was speaking the truth, but with a forked tongue. He would not lay his hands on the Lord's anointed (neither the king nor the people of Israel), so it is likely that David was planning on turning on the Philistines and showing everyone, including Achish, how he and his 600 men could fight like no others. Interestingly, David had so convinced Achish that he was a true defector that Achish asked David to be his personal body guard in this battle.

Meanwhile Saul was freaking out. The Philistines army was massive and God was not talking to him about what he should do; which if you think about it, Saul had a lot of nerve to expect God to speak to him after he totally rejected the Word of the Lord so many times before. Being a mad king, Saul even expected God to answer him in the ways that he wanted, by dreams or sacred lots.

But we never see Saul prostrate himself before the tabernacle or the Ark of the Covenant and in true repentance seek the Lord's will. Instead, when God does not do things the way he wants, Saul becomes so frantic with fear that this mad king actually seeks out a medium—which we would know as a spiritualist or a channeler of the "so called" dead.

Saul finds this medium and asks her to call up from the dead Samuel the Prophet who used to bring the Word of the Lord to Saul. When the woman did

her mystic stuff, to her absolute surprise, she saw Samuel and freaked. She screamed in fear; you see, she was used to playing in the realm of the demonic where the spirits she saw and heard were mere apparitions who were disguised as the dead; but in this case something was totally different. We have no idea why, but the Lord allowed Samuel to come from the dead and speak to Saul and this medium was scared to death.

She said that she saw one like a god coming from the earth and described him as an old man wrapped in a robe. Saul fell to the ground before him. The conversation went as follows:

1 Samuel 28:15-20

Why have you disturbed me by calling me back?" Samuel asked Saul. "Because I am in deep trouble," Saul replied. "The Philistines are at war with me, and God has left me and won't reply by prophets or dreams. So I have called for you to tell me what to do." But Samuel replied, "Why ask me, since the Lord has left you and has become your enemy? The Lord has done just as he said he would. He has torn the kingdom from you and given it to your rival, David.

The Lord has done this to you today because you refused to carry out his fierce anger against the Amalekites. What's more, the Lord will hand you and the army of Israel over to the Philistines tomorrow, and you and your sons will be here with me. The Lord will bring down the entire army of Israel in defeat." Saul fell full length on the ground, paralyzed with fright because of Samuel's words.

In one day God would fulfill His promise to Saul and lay the groundwork for fulfilling his promise to David. You see God will always do as He promises. It is often so hard for us to believe this because of 1) the passage of time, and 2) the ways we tend to think about the promises God makes to us.

You see, we usually have it all figured out “for God” in terms of how He is going to do things or how in our “mad-king” mindset we believe He should fulfill things. But that way of thinking always leads to massive disappointment, frustration, and doubt because 1) time seems to erode the faith of most men the way that water over time erodes even the most impermeable barriers, and 2) God’s thoughts are not our thoughts, His ways are not our ways (*Isaiah 55:8*), so His plans rarely if ever go according to our agenda. I have found that His ways are always so much better; as *Romans 12:2* says, they are good, pleasing and perfect!

You see that is why it is so important to know the character and nature of our God. He is good and all that He allows in our life (whether we understand it or not) is an expression of His great love for us. When we know and actually trust ourselves to the character and nature of our God, we are able to rest and wait for Him to do as He has promised—for He always does.

In this case, David waited somewhere between 10-15 years. Can you imagine wandering in the desert, exiled from your own people and family, running for your life as a fugitive who did nothing wrong; waiting and waiting for this seemingly intangible God to do what He said? Days turn into weeks which turn into months which turn into years and years and years.

And then in one day David’s mortal enemy is forever removed. One day reality looked one way, totally depressing as if things will never change, and the next it

would take on an entirely new dimension. Suddenly there would be hope that in his lifetime he would experience all that God promised. Suddenly everyone would know that the promises of God are not something that will just be fulfilled in the after-life but also in our present reality.

Sure enough the next day Saul and his son Jonathon died in battle just as the Lord had said. David actually did not get to fight in this war as the Philistine commanders did not nearly have as much trust for David as did King Achish and they made David leave the battlefield. So while Israel was battling the Philistines David was off fighting the Amalekites; which is a really cool story.

When David and his men left Ziklag to join the Philistine front lines the Amalekites made a raid and burned Ziklag to the ground and carried off the women, children, and everyone else without killing anyone. And when David and his men returned his men were furious with David. Remember, they were never to keen about David having not ended this whole fiasco at the cave when Saul was in his hands, and now all their wives and children were taken. They were enraged and wanted to stone David.

It is so interesting that this happened because right about now any normal soon to be king, who has been trained in the ways of kings, the ways of men, would start to have second guessed their decision to trust God. After all what good did it do? God had once again let him down. All that he loved was taken by the enemy; and, at this time, David had no idea if they were even alive. His home was burned down and now his men had turned on him and wanted him dead.

You could almost picture David saying: “Hello God, are you watching, are you listening? I trusted myself to you, I did what you wanted, and then you let this

happen. Why?” But that is how soon to be kings who have been trained in the ways of kings, the ways of men think, but that is not how it is with those who know their God and are soon to be graduates from Pain Central.

David’s first response in tragedy was to turn to the Lord not to turn away from Him, as so many of us tend to do. David calls for Abiathar the priest and has him bring the Ephod so he could inquire of the Lord. David does not ask the “why” question, he does not complain, he does not ask for protection from his men, he just asks, “Should I chase them? Will I catch them? Think about it, this is amazing. David knows that the Lord is in control of all things in his life and his trust is so deep that he is able to focus on the needs of his people and not himself.

The Lord told David, “Yes, go after them. You will surely recover everything that was taken from you” (**1 Samuel 30:8**)! So David and his 600 men head out after the Amalekites but 200 of his men were too exhausted to go any further (as their journey from the frontlines had taken 3-full days), so David proceeded with 400.

When they caught up with the Amalekites they found them dancing and partying enjoying the great plunder they had taken. David and his men rushed in among them and slaughtered them throughout that night and the entire next day until evening. This was a totally supernatural act. They were exhausted; yet, they fought for probably 20 hours straight and killed everyone except for 400 young men who escaped on camels. They retrieved everything the Amalekites had taken. “Nothing was missing: small or great, son or daughter, nor anything else that had been taken. David brought everything back” (**1 Samuel 30:18-19**).

Now David knew this amazing victory was totally the Lord and we see this displayed in his attitude toward the 200 who had stayed behind. David’s men had

gathered up all the flocks and herds belonging to the Amalekites and brought them back as a reward. But some of the 400 said that the 200 cannot have any of the plunder since they did not fight. But David said:

1 Samuel 30:23-25

"No, my brothers! Don't be selfish with what the Lord has given us. He has kept us safe and helped us defeat the band of raiders that attacked us. Who will listen when you talk like this? We share and share alike—those who go to battle and those who guard the equipment." From then on David made this a decree and regulation for Israel, and it is still followed today.

Unlike Saul who was always off making some memorial to himself so he can be honored by others, David was always interested in honoring others. This soon to be king knew that all that he had was a gift from the Lord and he lived as if this was his truth. He wanted others to also live in this manner. If God brought the victory they had no right acting as if they had done it; for without the Lord they just might all be dead. This was another important lesson that would prove to serve David later on in his life.

Back in Israel, the Philistines totally routed the Israel forces and Saul, three of his sons (including Jonathon), and his armor bearer were all killed. When David heard the report he and his men tore their clothes in sorrow. They mourned and wept and fasted all day because so many had died that day (***2 Samuel 1:11-12***).

I find this so fascinating. We don't read that anyone was rejoicing over Saul's death. You would think that, after what David's men had been through they would have been saying things like: "finally, that no good son of a Benjamite is dead and we can move back home." No, they mourned. This tells me that as a leader, David was able to influence the hearts and minds of his people. He turned their hearts from hate to hearts that actually cared. He led them not to just obey his wishes, but they seem to have actually adopted David's values.

Then David writes a song that totally praises his enemy. In it he sings:

2 Samuel 1:22-25

The bow of Jonathan was powerful, and the sword of Saul did its mighty work. They shed the blood of their enemies and pierced the bodies of mighty heroes. How beloved and gracious were Saul and Jonathan! They were together in life and in death. They were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions. O women of Israel, weep for Saul, for he dressed you in luxurious scarlet clothing, in garments decorated with gold. Oh, how the mighty heroes have fallen in battle!

This was such a critical time right after Saul died. David could have strategically used this moment to disparage Saul and ensure that the people would follow him and make him the next king. He could have said that if it was not for Saul's pride and insanity Israel would not have suffered such a defeat, for David and his men would have been there and would have routed them as they did the Amalekites. But David did no such thing.

Once again, David did not live as most soon to be kings lived; rather, he trusted the whole king thing to the Lord. He wanted the people to honor their king even though he had spent the last 10-15 years running from Saul. Surprisingly, the 600 malcontents did the same thing. Maybe this story is what Jesus was thinking about when He said: “But I say to you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous” (**Matthew 5:44-45**).

Soon after that Judah’s leaders came and crowned David as their king and David sent a message to the rest of the people of Israel and asked them to become his loyal subjects now that Saul was dead. Well to David’s surprise, this did not happen. The commander of Israel’s army took Saul’s son Ishbosheth and crowned him king over Israel. In fact, it would be another 7 and a half years before Israel would accept David as their king.

Again, let’s stop and get into the mind of a normal man who would likely be so bummed out thinking: “Wait a minute, you said king of Israel, not just Judah. They don’t want me, they chose their own king. How come it seems that everything with you has a catch and everything with you is never as represented? Why is there always more and more waiting? Have I not waited long enough? I thought I graduated. I never wanted to be in your dumb school of ministry in the first place; but then to have you take me up to the brink of the promise and then let it all fizzle right in front of my face seems far too cruel. I don’t understand.”

But David does not think like a normal man, David did not learn to walk in the ways of men, in the ways of kings; rather, he learned that there is no safer place

to be than smack dab center in the middle of the Lord's will for his life. And so he settled into his kingship over Judah and over time Judah became stronger and stronger and Israel became weaker and weaker until finally after a lot of intrigue, mishaps and murders, David was anointed king over all the tribes of Israel. They told him:

2 Samuel 5:1-3

We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, when Saul was our king, you were the one who really led the forces of Israel. And the Lord told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people Israel. You will be Israel's leader.'" So there at Hebron, King David made a covenant before the Lord with all the elders of Israel. And they anointed him king of Israel.

Finally, it happened just as the Lord said. David was only 30 years old when he became king of Judah and 37 when he was made king over all of Israel. It amazes me that through most of his time enrolled at Pain Central he was in his twenties and yet he showed an amazing amount of wisdom and understanding when it comes to the ways of the Lord. So why do you think he had such wisdom at such a young age?

I would like us to go back to a time where we don't have a lot of direct information but we do have a lot of indirect information and that is when David was just a boy out in the fields watching the sheep.

Psalm 78:70-72

He chose his servant David, calling him from the sheep pens. He took David from tending the ewes and lambs and made him the shepherd of Jacob's descendants—God's own people, Israel. He cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands.

First of all, you have to understand that the life of a shepherd was a very lonely job and you spent hours on end by yourself. So a smart kid like David had a lot of time to just think and evaluate his life and think deep things about God and so on. And somewhere along the road it all clicked and he realized that in the exact same way that he cared for the sheep, the Lord cared for him.

Maybe David recalled the old writings and stories passed down from his father where Joseph first called the Lord his shepherd in **Genesis 48:15**; or where Jacob called God the Shepherd, the stone of Israel (**Genesis 49:24**). Or maybe he had heard one of the songs of Asaph who coined such beautiful stanzas as in **Psalm 80:1**: “Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who are enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!” and in **Psalm 79:13**, “Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will thank you forever and ever, praising your greatness from generation to generation.”

We are not sure when, but David definitely made the connection. He considered all that he had to do and put up with when it came to his job and realized that in the eyes of God he was really no different than the sheep.

- 1) First of all David had to learn each sheep by name and know which ones belonged to him. For often shepherds would wind up in the same field and the sheep would be all mingled together; but since he knew his sheep and they knew his voice he was able to sift through the flock and with his rod mark each of his own and direct them, or separate them, so they will follow his lead.

In the same way, David knew that he was known by His God. He knew that he had been marked, he had been separated from all others and he knew that the Lord would speak to him and he would know to follow only His voice. He knew that he had passed under the Lord's rod of election and that he was special, unique, set apart belonging to the true Great Shepherd. This is why he said in ***Psalms 23:5*** "You have anointed my head with oil."

- 2) The Sheep were totally dependent upon David to lead them, to feed them, and to keep them safe. For the most part they were clueless about what David was up to or why; and, for the most part, they were ok with it. They did not stop and refuse to move demanding that David reveal the plans that he had for them. No, they just followed. They trusted that he would do his job and lead them either to cool streams of water or to green pastures with luscious sweet grass.

But sometimes they had to go through dry land without water or green grass to get to their desired haven. Sometimes the path David chose was a path of great risk and danger. Sometimes there was no other option and no other way to get to the green goodness.

In addition, the sheep were very prone to stray and kind of just tended to wander here and there; thus, David would use his shepherd's staff to gently correct his sheep and keep them going the direction that he needed them to go. Sometimes he would hook them by the neck and pull them back in line, other times he would gently strike them to get their attention. Still at other times if a sheep really refused to pay attention, he would use his rod and his staff to restrain the sheep to ensure that it did not go in to danger.

Accordingly, I believe David was able to understand that the Lord had to lead David through dry deserts (spiritually, emotionally, and practically) to get him to the place where he would be able to dwell in safety and peace and not live like a mad-king. He did not like the paths that the Lord chose for him, not at all; but still he trusted that his Shepherd knew what He was doing and so David was willing to follow. This is why he wrote in **Psalm 23:3** "He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

David also knew that just because it seemed like there was no provision it did not mean there was no provision; for no matter how bad things seemed, the Lord always led him to a place of safety and refuge. That is why David wrote in **Psalm 23:1** "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" and in **Psalm 23:5** "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...my cup overflows." The Lord was David's provision and He always satisfied.

In addition, David knew that the Lord had often hooked him and restrained his actions. With His rod and staff he kept David from doing things that he would ultimately regret. For example, God did not let David

go to war with the Philistines against Israel. He even made David go to places where he would find times of safety and refuge. For example, He led David to the house of the priest where he ate the bread and he directed King Achish to protect David. This is why David wrote in ***Psalm 23:2*** “He makes me lie down in green pastures and he leads me beside still waters.”

- 3) The sheep were dependent upon David to keep them safe from wild dogs, bears, lions, and other predators. This is why David became so good at the sling. He used it to keep back any animals that were even thinking about going for one of his lambs. And, as we studied in part 1, if a bear or a lion took a lamb, David would chase it down grab the bear or the lion by the beard, pull the lamb from its mouth, and beat the predator with his rod.

In ***Psalm 23:4***, David pulled from his own experiences and said: “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me. Your rod and your staff they comfort me.” You see, just knowing that his great Shepherd was with him and was well armed gave David great comfort. He knew that he would always be safe. This is why he was able to be so confident when it came to his encounters with Goliath, Saul, the Philistines, the Amalekites, etc. He knew his God was armed, watchful, and ready to leap into action. He knew that the Lord would always deliver him; thus, he did not have to take matters into his own hands.

- 4) The sheep were dependent upon David to care for their hurts. If a sheep was cut by some rocks, a branch, or some other animal, or were being attacked by some annoying insect, David would gently pour oil on to the wounds and then wrap them. He would then stay close to the injured sheep

and keep a special eye on it until it was fully recovered. He spent time with the sheep and was sensitive to their needs. He knew when they were healthy enough to drive them on and when to slow them down so that the young, weak, or injured sheep would not be left behind.

In the same way, David was hurt time after time by so many people. He was also annoyed by many insects (like Doeg and the other spies who told Saul where he was), but the Lord always kept a close eye on him. He cared for David when he was hurting and comforted his soul; which is why David could say in *Psalm 23:3*: “He restores my soul” and in *23:5* “You have anointed my head with oil.” The Lord provided a constant outpouring of the Spirit over David who not only sealed him as the future king but daily protected him from the gnats and other insects that would otherwise drive him nuts.

- 5) David often had to use his rod and his staff to discipline and correct his sheep. Sometimes I am sure from an outsider’s perspective it seemed as if David was being harsh or cruel, but he knew exactly what each sheep needed because he knew each of them so well. He knew the ones that would respond with just a word, with just a touch, or with a crook, and those who would have to have their legs broken by his rod.

You see if a lamb was prone to wander again and again and in so doing put the rest of the flock at risk because the shepherd was always distracted trying to reign in that one stubborn lamb, the Shepherd would use his rod to break one leg of that lamb and then he would literally carry around that lamb until his leg healed. During this time that the lamb would become so

emotionally, psychologically, and even spiritually (if that's possible) connected to the shepherd that it would never stray from his presence.

I believe that David realized that the Pain Central was necessary as the Lord had to literally break David's leg in order to effectively deal with his pride and sinful nature. Sure to us, as outsiders, it might have looked cruel and excessive, but the Lord who knows the hearts of men was actually being extremely merciful to root out all that would have corrupted David.

The Lord had big plans for David and He wanted to ensure that David would not be a king in the likes of Saul, a king in the likes of men, but would instead be a king who was after the Lord's own heart—a king who would not leave or stray from his Shepherd. You see, David's kingdom ended up being glorious and it was a type of Jesus' coming kingdom; so it was a big deal and required David to be fully prepared to handle such a responsibility.

Therefore, I believe that despite the pain and difficulty, the sorrow and suffering, David understood that if he was first broken that goodness and blessing awaited him when God would fulfill his promises to him. This is why David said in ***Psalms 23:6*** "Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

What an amazing man whose faith was forged in Pain Central. Every aspect of David's suffering was purposeful and was intended to teach him **why** He can trust himself to the Lord and practically **how** to trust himself to the Lord. Not a single aspect of his suffering was excessive, reckless, or wanton, but all of it was perfect.

I know that as I look at all my time in Pain Central, I also finally understand how it is all purposeful and completely necessary for God to accomplish what He desires to accomplish not just in me and for me but for you and for others. I have hated it for sure, but I am also so glad that He chose to enroll me in His special school of ministry and I am glad that He restrained me from ever dropping out.

I know that many of you do not understand all that God has allowed in your life as to you it seems excessive, reckless, and absolutely wanton—especially all those things that happened to you when you were just a child. I know that is how you feel and it is understandable but you do not know what God has planned for you.

You don't know how God intends on using you in the lives of others. You simply do not know. You don't know what glory awaits you in this life and in the life to come. If you could understand God's desires and plans for you I know that, like David, you would sing the Lord's praises; for you would understand that He has been more than merciful to you. You see He knows that only in breaking your pride and *Old Sinful Nature* will you be able to truly know Him, experience Him, and like David fully enjoy Him in this life.

I want you to mediate on this truth. God has made some of you, like me, very specific promises and He fully intends on fulfilling them. But He just needs to make you ready to receive the goodness that He has for you. And I want you to know that He has been preparing you to receive that goodness from the day that you were first brought into this life.

As we studied in ***Ephesians 1:4***, He has always known you, even before the foundations of the earth were made, He chose you to be holy and blameless in Him. And He has worked all things out according to the kind intention of His will

(*Ephesians 1:11*). So every part of your life has been a preparation; every part has been necessary.

That is why David could say in *Psalms 139:16*: “You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.” You see it has all been planned, it has all been necessary. Soon, you will understand; I am sure of it. And I know your pain and agony, when it completes its purposes in your life, will be turned into praise and rejoicing.

Next week we will pick up with King David.

Let's Pray.