

We are in part 6 of our study on David in connection with our verse by verse study through the book of Hebrews. We are studying David to understand why the Holy Spirit included him 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.

Tonight we are going to wrap up David's story with a couple of key final parts of his life. As we finished last week, David was restored to his throne and everything continued in the success and prosperity that he had enjoyed before his son, Absalom, went crazy and pulled a "Judas" on him.

I have a question for you? Did you ever wonder as to why David had originally picked up 5-stones when he went after Goliath? Well, Goliath had 4 relatives who were also Philistine giants and David was ready to take out the whole lot of them. The boy had faith; but, that great feat would be saved for a later day as David and his men finally killed them all. In fact, over the years, David continued to have many military victories against all the Philistines (**2 Samuel 21:15-22**).

Now as we get to one of the final stories in David's life, the issue of the census, we see that there was already a problem arising in the heart of the people. They were beginning to stray; and God used the ordeal with the census to purposefully bring about correction to the people of Israel. In this story we learn some very important lessons about the sovereignty of God, the role of Satan, our personal

responsibility in terms of choice, judgment for sin, and sacrifice. We are going to be studying from **2 Samuel 24** but there is a parallel passage in **1 Chronicles 21** which we will integrate in order to get the full story.

Now what we have learned so far is that the Lord deals with His sons on the basis of pity, mercy, great compassion and unfailing love. Let's remember that because this story does not give us a lot of the details as to why the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel; and, if we are not careful, I am sure that a few of us might just forget what we have learned and project all sorts of stuff on to God that He does not deserve.

2 Samuel 24:1-11, 15-17

Once again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he caused David to harm them by taking a census. [*Satan rose up against Israel and caused David to take a census of the people of Israel (1 Chronicles 21:1)*]. "Go and count the people of Israel and Judah," the Lord told him. So the king said to Joab and the commanders of the army, "Take a census of all the tribes of Israel—from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south—so I may know how many people there are." But Joab replied to the king, "May the Lord your God let you live to see a hundred times as many people as there are now! But why, my lord the king, do you want to do this?"

But the king insisted that they take the census, so Joab and the commanders of the army went out to count the people of Israel ... Having gone through the entire land for nine months and twenty days, they returned to Jerusalem. Joab

reported the number of people to the king. There were 800,000 capable warriors in Israel who could handle a sword, and 500,000 in Judah.

[God was very displeased with the census, and he punished Israel for it (1 Chronicles 21:7-8)]. But after he had taken the census, David's conscience began to bother him. And he said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly by taking this census. Please forgive my guilt, Lord, for doing this foolish thing." The next morning the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, who was David's seer. This was the message: "Go and say to David, 'This is what the Lord says: I will give you three choices. Choose one of these punishments, and I will inflict it on you.'"

[So Gad came to David and said, "These are the choices the Lord has given you. You may choose three years of famine, three months of destruction by the sword of your enemies, or three days of severe plague as the angel of the Lord brings devastation throughout the land of Israel. Decide what answer I should give the Lord who sent me." "I'm in a desperate situation!" David replied to Gad. "But let me fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is very great. Do not let me fall into human hands" (1 Chronicles 21:11-13)].

So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel that morning, and it lasted for three days. A total of 70,000 people died throughout the nation, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south. But as the angel was preparing to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord relented and said to the death angel, "Stop! That is enough!" At that moment the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. When David saw the angel, he said to the Lord, "I am the one who has

sinned and done wrong! But these people are as innocent as sheep—what have they done? Let your anger fall against me and my family."

So let's stop right there and talk a little bit about what happened. Clearly, the people of Israel were doing something that was very displeasing and it kindled the anger of the Lord against them. We have no idea what they were doing, but my guess is that they strayed in their hearts acting as if they really did not need the Lord but only "kind of" needed the Lord (which is always the beginning of idolatry). You know the mindset where you think you need God for some of the biggies in your life; but, for the most part, you think that you have it handled from there.

The Lord had brought peace in their land, the enemies had been subdued, and perhaps they were starting to forget that it was all because of the Lord's favor that had been given to them and it had nothing to do with their ability or even their worthiness.

Now, we know from **2 Samuel 21** that the Lord had brought a famine on the Land for the way they treated the Gibeonites to whom Joshua, way back when, had promised protection. But the Israelites ignored Joshua's vow before the Lord and were murdering the Gibeonites. So it seems that something very bad was happening in their hearts as evidenced by the fact that they could so easily ignore the ancient vows.

The other thing that leads me to think that they were straying in their heart is the form of temptation that was brought to David. David was incited to succumb to a form of national self-reliance. If the Lord had gone before them and fought all

their battles so that they were always victorious, regardless of the circumstances, what does it matter how many soldiers they had. It didn't. After all it was David who wrote:

Psalm 33:16-20

The best-equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior. Don't count on your warhorse to give you victory—for all its strength, it cannot save you. But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine. We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield.

So David knew the truth, David experienced the truth, but for some strange reason he started to drift from the truth and decided that he must know how big of an army he could muster up—as if it even mattered. I think this is a far too common phenomenon that happens to those who live under the “blessing” of the Lord. We need to really learn from this story so we do not make the same mistake when the Lord moves this body into our time of blessing; which I do believe is coming.

You see, when a person is in Pain Central or even CU, Conformation University, knowing ones dependence upon God comes quite easily (whether we accept it or not is a different matter). Usually our utter need for God is quite apparent as only He can get us out of the often terrible circumstances in which we find ourselves.

The point being is that God enrolls us into Pain Central to teach us that relying on our flesh will always wreak havoc in our lives and it is a much better choice to trust ourselves to God. And the point of His enrolling us in Conformation University is to dig deep into our souls and replace aspects of our character for those of the Lord so that way we look like Him and act like Him. Both of these programs, however, demand some form of pain—often extensive pain—in order to get us to consider God.

But when we live under the times of God’s grace and blessing it is quite easy to forget how dependent upon God we really are; which is likely why we saw David chilling on his roof top when he should have been at war. This is so troubling to me; I have seen it happen over and over again.

God takes us through so much difficulty in terms of our practical circumstances so we can know why we can trust him and how to trust ourselves to him ***all the time***; but when we have abundance, in terms of the physical things of this world, we seem to forget our dependence upon the Lord. We seem to forget that everything we have was given to us by Him and we even start to take a weird sort of ownership of our blessing; as if we had anything to do with it or as if we must protect it ourselves.

Perhaps you have seen this happen to someone whom the Lord allows to get their hands on a lot of money. Over time, they start to think it is their money; that they earned it and deserved it; and even worse they start to think that they have to guard it and protect it so others won’t take it from them. And slowly this mindset starts to pervert them and they begin to think that it is their money that provides their personal security and safety. We see this in ***Proverbs 18:11*** where

it is written: “The rich think of their wealth as a strong defense; they imagine it to be a high wall of safety.”

I think this is why Agur, an oracle who wrote **Proverbs 30**, said: “O God, I beg two favors from you before I die. First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, “Who is the Lord?” And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name” (**Proverbs 30:7-9**).

You see there is such a difference between enjoying your blessing and owning your blessing. I don’t care what that blessing is: friends, a spouse, a boyfriend or girlfriend, children, money, a job, a reputation, a house, a congregation, peace in the land, victory over your enemies, etc. Whatever it is, God wants us to enjoy His blessings while always keeping in mind that everything belongs to Him and it is not ours to control. He gives it and He takes it according to His own wisdom.

Furthermore, our blessings must never become the object of our worship and affection, which must be reserved for God alone. We cannot begin to love our blessing more than we love God. This is why Jesus said:

Matthew 10:37-39

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

We must keep this in mind. It is never wrong to enjoy your blessing but it is wrong to own it and give it a place in your life that is at time even above God. I say this because it seems that this is one of the greatest weaknesses we all share in our flesh. Take away our pain and before long we think that we can be our own provider, protector, comforter, care-taker, and so on. We must never succumb to this mindset—never! Jesus is, and always will be, our “I Am” and nothing can fill that role.

Unfortunately, David and the nation of Israel fell prey to this kind of thinking and it got them into a mess of trouble. In **2 Samuel** it implies that God incited David to take the census and in **1 Chronicles** it clearly says that Satan incited David to take the census. And, as we know, notwithstanding the source of the temptation, David made the choice to follow through with the census. Furthermore, it was the rebellion of the Israelites that aroused the anger of the Lord in the first place. So if this is the case, we have to ask, who is really responsible for the trouble brought on the nation?

The answer is: everyone! The Israelites rebelled against God. God lifted his finger of protection around David which allowed Satan to tempt David; and David succumbed to Satan’s temptation. So again, the answer is: everyone. But we must also never forget that the buck always stops with God. If God had not chosen to lift his finger of protection Satan would have had no access to David.

To me this is amazing. Too often we give way too much power and credit to Satan who in reality is just a tool that is used by the Father to carry out His purposes. Sure Satan always has his own agenda with regards to those who belong to God and that is to steal, kill, and destroy (**John 10:10**). However, he is

totally constrained by the agenda of the Lord. We see this truth in ***Job 1-2; 1 Kings 22:20-23; 1 Samuel 16:14; 18:10; and Isaiah 19:14.***

This should comfort each and every one of us. We do not have to be afraid of Satan and his minions. Let me say that again: we do not have to be afraid of Satan and his minions, for they are merely tools; instead, we must fear the Lord. Now I do not mean that we must be afraid of the Lord, but I mean that we must hate all that the Lord hates and love all that the Lord loves. This is God's desire for us.

So God allows all of this activity in order to get His point across to a nation that was beginning to grow blind to His presence and deaf to His voice. Finally, David makes the connection and he once again leaves his life in the hands of a merciful God.

Notice that the plague sent by God was measured; it had an appointed time—3 days. This was not just some random judgment meant to wipe out the people, but it was a limited correction which was given for the purpose of returning the hearts of the people back to the Lord; and it had its intended effect with David.

All of a sudden David takes full responsibility for the sin even though the census was just the tool used by God to incite this action; it was not the cause. Remember, the Lord's correction came because the Israelites first incited the anger of the Lord. David's sin was just the tool which, like Bathsheba, was used by the Lord to bring about another character attribute of the Messiah within David's soul.

As such, next we find that David interceded for the people and said: "Let your anger fall against me and my family" (***2 Samuel 24:17***). It's as if David snapped

back to reality and all that he learned from CU—Conformation University—came back to his mind and once again David takes on the appearance of his Messiah.

David asks the Lord to pour out His anger not upon the people but upon himself wanting God to spare the nation. In effect, David wanted to be the propitiation for the nation's sins. Now this idea of being the propitiation for our sins comes from **Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2, 4:10** where it is stated that Jesus was the propitiation for our sins. Therefore, through his intercession for the nation, David was once again emulating his Messiah.

This word “propitiation” is a strange word and not used very often because its roots comes from ancient pagan idolatry and was used in reference to adverting the wrath of the god's or satisfying their anger with the result of mercy being received by the servants of those gods. If there was a drought, a flood, or any kind of disaster, the ancients attributed it to their gods. They would then try and find ways to propitiate them (turn away their anger and gain favor) by various acts of service such as sacrifices, rituals, vows, dances, and even games.

Paul, John, and the writer of Hebrews draw on this common, but ancient, understanding and apply it to what happened between Jesus and the Father. In effect, Jesus said: “Let your anger fall against me and spare not just the nation but the world.” And that is exactly what happened. The Father said, “ok” and He poured out His anger for the sins of all of mankind on Jesus and the wrath of God was satisfied and appeased; resulting in mercy being given to those who believe in Jesus and accept that sacrifice.

You see the Levitical sacrifices never satisfied or appeased the Lord's wrath, for as it said in **Hebrews 10:4**, “It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take

away sin.” **Amos 5:21-27** and **Isaiah 1:12-17** also make this point. That is why the Father gave Jesus a physical body, so He, as a member of the Godhead, could be the perfect and holy offering for our sins (**Hebrews 10:5**). For, as we know, only God is truly good (**Matthew 19:17; Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19**); therefore, only God could meet the requirements of perfection in terms of an offering that would satisfy the Father’s wrath.

The reason being is that since only God is good, and we are not, mercy could never be earned or gained by our efforts; no matter how religious and “good” they may seem to us. Mercy is a gift from God (**Romans 3:24; 5:15-17; Ephesians 2:8, 4:7**) and mercy is not doled out because we are good (**Exodus 33:19; Romans 9:18**), but because He is good (**Psalms 51:1-2**) as great compassion and unfailing love are part and parcel with His character and nature.

Now when the Lord relented from this plague, right before the death angel destroyed Jerusalem, at that moment the angel of the Lord (which as we know is Jesus) was standing at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. Let’s pick up the story from there.

2 Samuel 24:18-25

That day Gad came to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." So David went up to do what the Lord had commanded him. When Araunah saw the king and his men coming toward him, he came and bowed before the king with his face to the ground. "Why have you come, my lord the king?" Araunah asked. David replied,

"I have come to buy your threshing floor and to build an altar to the Lord there, so that he will stop the plague."

"Take it, my lord the king, and use it as you wish," Araunah said to David. "Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and you can use the threshing boards and ox yokes for wood to build a fire on the altar. I will give it all to you, Your Majesty, and may the Lord your God accept your sacrifice." But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing." So David paid him fifty pieces of silver for the threshing floor and the oxen.

David built an altar there to the Lord and sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings. And the Lord answered his prayer for the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped. [**1 Chronicles 21:26-27**: *David built an altar there to the Lord and sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings. And when David prayed, the Lord answered him by sending fire from heaven to burn up the offering on the altar. Then the Lord spoke to the angel, who put the sword back into its sheath.*]

First of all, I should just tell you that it is believed that the threshing floor of Araunah was located at the same place where Cain killed Abel, where Abraham went to sacrifice his one and only son Isaac, and where Jesus was crucified. Thus this mountain is known as Mount Moriah, Golgatha, and the mountain where Solomon built the first temple. This is important as it adds so much more meaning to the events that took place there.

Second, I want you to note that the angel of Lord stopped at a threshing floor, which is also particularly interesting to me. A threshing floor is where the grain, for example wheat, would be taken and the threshing instrument (which was just slats of wood with metal and glass embedded in it) would be passed over the grain resulting in the separation of the fruit (what was good) from the stalk (what was worthless and good only to be thrown out or burned).

Years later, Jesus would return to this same threshing floor and from this place He would thresh. You see the cross operates as the most intense and exacting threshing instrument ever made. It separates the spirit from the flesh—what is valuable from what is absolutely worthless. It separates those who believe from those who refuse to believe—again what is valuable from what is worthless. And it continues to work until there is complete separation and no comingling between what is valuable and what is worthless.

That is the purpose of the cross and that is why the angel of the Lord stood on that very spot that day in front of David and his men.

Now, Araunah the Jebusite offered to give to David all that he needed for his sacrifice; but David would not give an offering that cost him nothing. This is remarkable. Remember, the Jebusites were the ones who occupied Jerusalem and mocked David saying that even the blind and lame could keep him out (**2 Samuel 5**). But even though they were a conquered people, David still respects them and does not just take the threshing floor and all the implements, but pays for it.

Again, David is giving us an example of the Father and Jesus that we must follow. The Father did not give an offering which cost Him nothing; in fact, it cost Him the life of His one and only Son (**John 3:16**). Likewise, Jesus did not offer up

to the Father a sacrifice that cost him nothing. He gave up His life; no one took it from Him, He freely gave it (**John 10:18**).

And in the same manner, since we are to follow God's example in all things (**Ephesians 5:1**), we also are to give no offering to God which cost us nothing. But in emulating our Messiah, the price we have to pay is not silver or gold; it is with our very lives. We are to freely surrender to the angel of the Lord and we are to let the threshing instrument of the cross have its perfect way with us. Like David we are to throw ourselves at the mercy of God even though it means that there will be certain death—death of our flesh.

Now, this starts when we give ourselves to Jesus and accept Him as our Lord and Savior, but it continues through the daily process of threshing. **Romans 6:11** tells us that we are to daily consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to Christ. We are to daily allow the cross to separate from our lives all that is worthless and only good to be thrown out and burned.

In other words, we are to choose to live according to our new life in the Holy Spirit. **Galatians 5:16-17** says, "So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions."

The truth is that our choices are never free from this conflict between the spirit and the flesh and that is why the threshing is necessary. But we do have a choice; and choice is the substance of our daily sacrifice. This choice is made by faith, by

our willingness to bet our lives on the character and nature of Christ believing that all that He has said about Himself is true.

It comes when we believe that He loves and adores us; that we are forgiven; that He deals with us not on the basis of sin but on the basis of pity, mercy, great compassion and unfailing love; that He has made us holy and pure; that He is faithful even when we are faithless; that He will never leave us nor abandon us; that He alone is good and all His ways in dealing with us are good, pleasing and perfect; that He is sovereign over our lives and He cares about every little detail (down to the number of hairs on our heads); that nothing can happen to us that He has not allowed; that even our times of suffering are metered out and are purposeful, that He is worthy of our praise, our worship, and our thanks; that Jesus is the one and only way to the Father as He is the way, the truth and the life; and that He is going to lead us in the steps that He desires for our lives. There is so much more I can list, but I think you get the point.

The good news is that when the cross has its way in the day-in-and-day-out affairs of our lives, when this separation or threshing occurs, our lives will produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (***Galatians 5:22-23***); and in so doing we will emulate our Messiah. For all that God produces through us is the good fruit that remains; all else is only good to be tossed aside and burned.

Third, notice that David offered both burnt offerings and peace offerings and the Lord sent fire from heaven to show that it was accepted. Jesus was both our burnt offering and our peace offering forever making peace and reconciliation between us and God (***Romans 5:1-11; Hebrews 10:19-22***). The Father showed the

world that Jesus' offering was accepted not by fire from heaven consuming the sacrifice, but by many other equally convincing signs which confirmed that it was finished and all that the Father had required of the Son had been accomplished.

Matthew 27:50-54

Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people. The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

And, in the same way that the plague on Israel was stopped by David's sacrifice, so too, through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, the plague of sin on mankind has been stopped. Now, I know this is hard to believe, especially if you have spent too much time in the "religion" of Christianity, but the issue of sin is no longer an issue of sin between God and man. How could it be? Jesus died for the sins of the world. "Yes, by God's grace Jesus tasted death for everyone in all the world" (***Hebrews 2:9***). See also: ***1 Timothy 2:4-6, 4:10***; and ***John 3:16***. In fact, Jesus forgave all your sins and every accusation that could ever be made against you was nailed to the cross (***Colossians 2:13-14***).

Sin was dealt with completely on the cross; now it all comes down to the issue of the Son—the issue of Jesus. Do you know Him? Have you received Him? Do you believe Him? Have you trusted yourself to Him? Are you willing to let Him be the Lord of your life and thereby direct the affairs of your life? Those are the questions that stand between mankind and the Father.

I want to continue with this idea of the plague that has been stopped. This idea again carries power beyond just our salvation, but it applies to our day-in-and-day-out life. Because of the cross, the power of sin over our lives has been stopped. No one who has accepted Jesus can every say that they had to sin or that they were forced to sin; sin is now a choice (***Romans 6-8; Galatians 5:16-25***).

The plague that once forced you to sin and live in rebellion to God, the plague that and forced you to follow your *Old Sinful Nature*, has been eradicated. The sacrifice has been accepted. You now have the freedom to serve God in spirit and in truth. You are no longer a slave to sin, but you were set free from the power that sin had to control you. “So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus” (***Romans 6:11***).

The plague has been stopped; we just need to choose to live according to the new life that that has been given to us in Christ Jesus. In this truth we have perfect freedom.

Galatians 5:24-25

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Now, I love the way this story ends. Once the sacrifice was accepted and the plague averted, David said, "This will be the location for the Temple of the Lord God and the place of the altar for Israel's burnt offerings" (**1 Chronicles 22:1**)! So we end with a prophetic view of Jesus Christ and the body of Christ. How fitting!

I think this wraps up our study on David and next week we will move on to Samuel, but before we close I want to turn to what we have recorded as David's last words. This is found in **2 Samuel 23**.

2 Samuel 23:1

These are the last words of David: "David, the son of Jesse, speaks—David, the man who was raised up so high, David, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, David, the sweet psalmist of Israel.

In this first verse it seems that David was enjoying his blessing. These are not words of ownership nor words of pride, but words of enjoyment.

2 Samuel 23:2-4

The Spirit of the Lord speaks through me; his words are upon my tongue. The God of Israel spoke. The Rock of Israel said to me: 'The one who rules righteously, who rules in the fear of God, is like the light of morning at sunrise, like a morning without clouds, like the gleaming of the sun on new grass after rain.'

David knows the presence of God in his life and how God worked through him. For all those of you who have ever doubted that God speaks to us and leads us in this life, David argues against you. God spoke to him and gave him instruction, very specific instruction, and he says that the one who fears the Lord, the one who hates what God hates and loves what God loves, is a wonderful blessing to others because others get to experience the blessing of God through them.

2 Samuel 23:5

Is it not my family God has chosen? Yes, he has made an everlasting covenant with me. His agreement is arranged and guaranteed in every detail. He will ensure my safety and success.

Here David reminds us that God is sovereign over our lives—over every detail of our lives. Maybe the Spirit brought Paul to this passage when he wrote ***Ephesians 1:11***, “In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.”

You see, like David, we have been chosen by God: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him” (***Ephesians 1:3-4***). And He has made an everlasting covenant with us: “In him you also, when you

heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory (***Ephesians 1:13-14***).

And since He has pre-destined and arranged every detail of our lives (***Psalms 139:16***), we can have confidence that He will ensure our safety and success (“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” ***Philippians 1:6-7***). We will make it through this life, in this we can rest and find great comfort. God ensures our safety and success; you just need to let Him be your God, just like David did.

2 Samuel 23:6-7

But the godless are like thorns to be thrown away, for they tear the hand that touches them. One must use iron tools to chop them down; they will be totally consumed by fire.

In contrast, all that is worthless will be stripped away from all that is good, whether we are talking about our *Old Sinful Nature* or those who simply do not know God. Either way, God will thresh and justice will prevail on the earth and His righteous rule will endure for all time. And we receive this inheritance from the promise that the Father made to David; it has been passed down to all, who by faith, are considered to be David’s sons; and that includes you, me, and all who have believed upon the Lord Jesus.

Let’s Pray.