

DAVID: BELOVED MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART OR MERE MORTAL?

Problem: David is a flawed hero...

So how was this hero of believers flawed:

- (1) David killed Goliath for some other than Godly reasons (i.e., because Goliath was making fun of Yahweh the God, God of Israel). Here are three—
 - a) Whoever took care of Goliath was promised a daughter of King Saul (although she was supposed to be Merhab, the King's oldest daughter (1st Samuel 18:17), a less prominent, younger Michal turned out to be wifely reward for David's win over Goliath (1st Samuel 18:20). Michal was in love with David, and the Hallmark moment came: Michal became David's first wife.
 - b) Whoever eliminated Goliath was promised that his family would never have to pay taxes (1st Samuel 17:26).
 - c) Whoever killed Goliath was also promised he would be "given great wealth" (1st Samuel 17:26).
- (2) War criminal? Since the King didn't like the attention and praise the beloved one was achieving, King Saul wanted David to be killed. He added a price to Michal's hand in marriage—100 Philistine foreskins⁸ (1st Samuel 18:25). David took some men and "captured" 200 foreskins; the King fulfilled his promise, but became even more jealous of David.



- (3) Idolater? When David was being hunted by Saul, we learned that David tolerated idols in his home. Michal used an idol (teraphim) with goat's hair to pose as David in bed, thus disguising the fact that David had already left. (1st Samuel 19:11-17)
- (4) Coward? David stayed home when the rest of the men were fighting for freedom; took walks in the Jerusalem evenings (2nd Samuel 11:1)
- (5) Adulterer? When David saw Uriah's wife Bathsheba bathing, as King he called her to report; when she did, he sexually assaulted her; she became pregnant. (2nd Samuel 11:2-5).
- (6) Murderer? Since Uriah would not spend time with his wife on leave and then hide David's assault, David had Uriah put on the front lines to mask David's assault on his wife (2nd Samuel 11:14)

⁸Be wary of commentaries & footnotes: 1st Samuel 17:26 says:

David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?" See also 1st Samuel 17:36.

Regardless, the commentary for a popular publication of the NIV regarding 1st Samuel 18:25-27 says:

"This bloody prize, something like the scalps that native Americans and white settlers collected in battles, proved that David's battle claims were not exaggerated. Foreskins would come from Philistines, since other tribes of the area, like Israel, practiced circumcision." –Compton's Interactive Bible NIV © 1996

So what? Use Scripture to interpret Scripture. People often have agenda, even D. Thomas Porter's whose commentary needs to be taken with a grain of salt, if not a truckload.

For the record, "scalp" collecting was borrowed from early white, Western invaders of the upper midwest; Native Americans unfortunately "borrowed" the practice, and for some native nations, it became a way of counting coup.

Solution: David is a flawed hero, but the Lord God Uses the Flawed... WHY?

So how was this hero of believers redeemed?

1. He confessed his sin—not to Uriah, nor to Bathsheba, nor to Nathan, actually. He realized he had sinned against the Lord God.

Listen to David's thoughts in Psalm 51:1-4—

*Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.*

2. He tried to live according the character of the Lord God... Read his psalms as inspired by Holy Spirit. For example consider Psalm 46:

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help
in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the
earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart
of the sea, ³though its waters roar and foam and the
mountains quake with their surging.*

*⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of
God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.*

*⁵God is within her, she will not fall; God will help
her at break of day. ⁶Nations are in uproar, kingdoms
fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*

*⁷The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is
our fortress. ⁸Come and see the works of the LORD,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.*

*⁹He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he
breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the
shields with fire. ¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted
in the earth." ¹¹The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

2ND SAMUEL 12:1-14

The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ²The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴"Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

⁵David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! ⁶He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

⁷Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

¹¹"This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. ¹²You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.' "

¹³Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. ¹⁴But because by doing this you have made the enemies of the LORD show utter contempt, the son born to you will die."