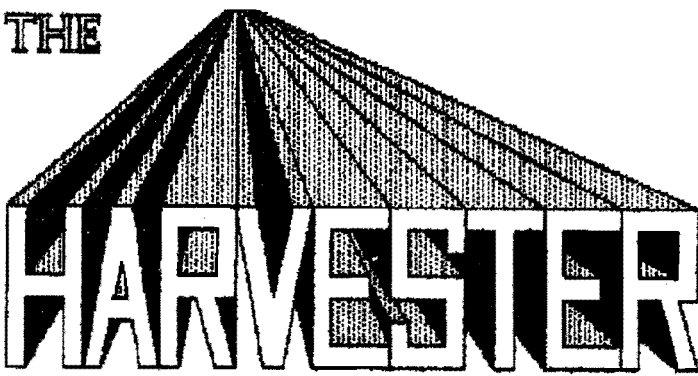


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*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

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## WHAT MADE DAVID GREAT

David was the second king of Israel and he was considered great. God stated that David was a "a man after mine own heart" (Acts 13:22). Truly no other higher commendation in the Bible has been paid to a mortal man. But what made David so great? What were his outstanding qualities? Although he had many, let us briefly review some of them now.

He was reared under the influence of a good home. Obviously his parents taught him about God and this trait he passed on to his son Solomon, who wrote: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth"

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(Eccl. 12:1). David was also taught the honor of work at an early age (1 Sam. 16:11) and to obey his father (1 Sam. 17:20). Thus, getting started on the right track began at home early in David's life.

David had great trust and faith in Jehovah. This was evident when he faced the giant Goliath with only a sling and "five smooth stones" yet knowing the Lord would deliver him "out of the hand of this Philistine" (1 Sam. 17:37). It was David who also expressed his trust in God with such stirring words as: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psa. 23:1) and "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" (Psa. 27:1). Truly David believed that God would take care of him at all times.

Part of David's greatness can also be attributed to the fact that he was a lover of good men. He appreciated others who were righteous and living a godly life. Note his close relationship with Jonathan (1 Sam. 18:1) and after his best friend died, note his concern for Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 9), Jonathan's lame son.

Overall David conducted himself properly. He knew people were always watching him and therefore he "behaved himself wisely in all his ways" (1 Sam. 18:14). He knew the principle of the Golden Rule. Toward his archrival Saul, David acted very good (1 Sam. 19:4). Even his enemies among the Philistines could not say a bad word against David's behavior (1 Sam. 29:6). His conduct was considered great.

He was a spiritual man. He prayed often (1 Sam. 23:10-12); he opposed graven images and idols (2 Sam. 5:21); he willingly sacrificed unto the Lord (2 Sam. 6:17); and he praised God often (2 Sam. 7:22). Surely this is part of what made David great.

David also had a respect for holy things. In two separate instances he refused to "destroy" another person because they were "the Lord's anointed" (1 Sam. 24:6 and 1 Sam. 26:9). Although the guilty ones may have deserved punishment, David regarded them as belonging to God and therefore, vengeance was not his to exact. He respected Jehovah immensely.

He desired to build a house for the Lord. David always envisioned great things for the cause of God and it was his idea to build a glorious temple (2 Sam. 7:1-3). He wanted to place the Lord in the center of his reign and in other people's lives. He longed for the day when the whole world would come and worship the one True God. It was this desire that made him stand above all men.

David was great because he was of a penitent heart. Recall in his lowest point how he sinned with Bathsheba and then schemed to have her husband murdered (2 Sam. 11). When Nathan the prophet pointed God's finger at David and pronounced "Thou art the man", David immediately repented (2 Sam. 12:7,13). Upon realizing his terrible transgression, he accepted responsibility for his actions. David acknowledged his sin and learned from his mistake.

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Finally, he was an obedient man. He obeyed God with all his heart. Several times in the course of battle, David would ask for instructions from God and he would perform them without question (1 Sam. 30:8 and 2 Sam. 5:19). Notice the following commendation from God about "my servant David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his heart, to do that only which was right in mine eyes" (1 Ki. 14:8).

These are just some of the many qualities that made David great, i.e., a man after God's own heart. Perhaps we could develop these characteristics in our own lives. If we did, we could also become "great" in the sight of God. Remember, **he** is the one whom we need to please (Gal. 1:10) and **he** is the one who will judge us in the last days (1 Tim. 4:1).

RAY McMANUS

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**DON'T WAIT FOR SOMETHING TO TURN  
 UP. GET A SHOVEL AND DIG FOR IT.**

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who was the father of Benammi and Moab?
2. Where did Jacob position himself in his caravan as he approached Esau for a reconciliation?
3. To what village were two disciples going on resurrection Sunday when they were joined by Jesus?
4. What did David say he panted for as the deer pants for water?
5. What two Biblical writers wrote from prison (or a dungeon)?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. What Old Testament prophet had an alias name of Belteshazzar? DANIEL (Dan. 1:7)
2. How many sheep did Nehemiah serve at his table each day? SIX (Neh. 5:18)
3. Who is the head of Christ? GOD (1 Cor. 11:3)
4. Who wrote the Scriptures and by what means? HOLY MEN OF GOD, AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY GHOST (2 Pet. 1:21)
5. As Joshua was defeating the northern kings of the promised land, what did he do to their chariots? BURNED THEM (Josh. 11:9)

## SOIL STEWARDSHIP

Mankind has always had a relation to the soil. It was from it he was created (Gen. 2:7), it is on it he finds a place of habitation (1:26-28), it is through it he derives his sustenance (1:29-30), and it is to the soil that his material body shall return when its purpose has been served (3:19). Although man has been allowed to construct vehicles in which he may descend into the dark, unfamiliar depths of the sea or ascend beyond our atmosphere and fulfill the dreams of his forefathers -- it is necessary that he eventually return home from his explorations. He continues to be tied to the soil.

Many in our urbanized society may feel removed from the soil since the plow and the hoe have no use in an air-conditioned office, a mechanized factory, or a tractor-trailer. But without the blessings which come through the soil, the lack of nourishment and comfort would quickly turn our affluent society into one of want and chaos. Try to imagine for a moment the beauty and fragrance of a rose, the whistle of a bob-white, the fluttering, irregular path of a butterfly, or a fresh, cool drink from a sparkling brook -- without the benefits which emerge either directly or indirectly from rich, productive soil. Something as essential as the soil surely should command our respect.

The early American realized the need to put a fish in the hill where he planted his seed corn. The native of Chile in

ages past determined that bird droppings supplied guano needed for productive crops. Surely with the knowledge our present age has been able to glean from the experiences of those who lived in centuries past, we can follow their example in being stewards of the soil. Surely with our knowledge and mechanical ability, even more is expected of us! Some are seeing the need and arising to it. The Dutch have in this century reclaimed land lost to the North Sea six hundred years ago. Under the direction of Musa Alami during the mid-century years, salty waste-land five miles north of the Dead Sea was converted into productive crop and pasture-land.

What would you do with a treasure placed at your disposal? Would you neglect it with unconcern and lack of appreciation, or would you handle it with the care and judgment due something of great value? Man was given the responsibility of stewardship when his Creator "put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it" (Gen. 2:15). Later outside the garden man was "to till the ground from whence he was taken" (Gen. 3:23). Soil is a valuable treasure which has been put at our disposal. Wise use of it can produce a continuing harvest of worth and beauty. Unconcerned stewardship can only waste a treasure which someday, but perhaps at a day too late, will be realized for what it really was.

Any place of beauty anywhere on this earth, whether it be a primeval wilderness or a field of tasseling corn,

(continued next page)

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
April 13 - 18	West Broad Street Wedowee, AL	Jim Pritchard (Shawnee, OK)
April 18-20	Fayetteville Road Atlanta, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
April 25-27	Fairview Church Oxford, AL	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)

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## THINGS THAT WILL NEVER PASS AWAY

1. The Bible (Matt. 24:35)
2. The soul (Matt. 10:28)
3. The church (Heb. 12:28)
4. Heaven (Matt. 25:46)
5. Hell (Matt. 25:46)

(continued from page 7)

is a place of beauty because of one of two reasons: either man has left it untouched and it has been allowed to function in harmony with God's natural order, or man has carefully tended it as a treasure to be appreciated.

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