

Chapter 6

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DAVID—After God's Own Heart

God revealed His private counsel to prophets who were so in tune with His thoughts that these men could deliver God's message to the rest of humanity. One of these people was a man named Samuel whose mother had dedicated him to the Lord even before he was born. (*1 Samuel 1:11-28*) Samuel was the Lord's prophet who when the Israelites demanded to have a king, went to God to arbitrate for them. Samuel's birth had been prophesied about to his mother who was barren when she asked another prophet to intercede on her behalf. Even as a child he was inclined to follow the Lord's will and his devotion continued as he grew up and matured. Therefore, God stayed with Samuel and established him as one of His spokesmen.

When Israel wanted to have a king like the surrounding nations did, the Lord was displeased that they no longer considered Him to be a sufficient leader for them. He granted their petition. He told Samuel to reveal to the people that although what they wanted was not in their best interests He had granted their petition anyway and had chosen a man named Saul to rule over them. At the beginning Saul was an excellent ruler because he followed what the Lord directed him to do. However, little by little, he began to sway and finally turned to conform to people and things that God did not approve of or sanction. After continually doing such and not repenting of his actions, the Lord took His favor off of Saul and chose another man to be the king of Israel--David.

God Chose David to Be the Second King of His People

"The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for (King) Saul seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided Myself a king among his sons.'

But Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears it he will kill me!'

But the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice and I will show you what you shall do. You shall anoint for Me the one I name to you.'

So Samuel did what the Lord aid and went to Bethlehem.

And, the elders of the town trembled at his coming and said, 'Do you come peaceably?'

And he said, 'Peaceably I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.'

Then, he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. So it was when they came, that (Samuel) looked at Elijah (Jesse's oldest son) and said, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him.'

But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature because I have refused him. For, the Lord does not see as a man sees, for a man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'

So Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.'

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by and he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.'

Thus, Jesse made seven of his children pass before Samuel.

And, Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all the young men here?'

Then he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, and there he is among the sheep.'

And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him, for we will sit down till he comes here.'

So he sent and brought him in.

Now, he was healthy, with bright eyes and good-looking and the Lord said (to Samuel), 'Arise, anoint him, for he is the one!'

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward." (I Samuel 16:1-13)

As He had with those before Samuel, when God wanted him to do something He told Samuel everything essential to carry out his mission as it became necessary for him to have the information. The Lord never revealed more of what Samuel had to know until he was in the situation that required it. God did not expressly tell Samuel to go and find a man named David. What He directed him to do was only a part of his role in finding Israel's new king. Each time Samuel was confronted with another decision to

make, God instructed him in that precise moment how to proceed. Therefore, when Samuel journeyed he, too, had to rely on his faith that God was indeed leading and protecting him until the end result was achieved.

Israel had a society wherein the first male child was his father's heir. Therefore, naturally Samuel assumed that God's choice would have to be Jesse's firstborn. When Samuel was about to anoint Elijah however, the Lord revealed something to him that is of great significance: God looks at the inner person, not the outward one. Therefore, just like invisible faith versus physical reality, the former is more important to Him than the latter and consequently a judgment of something or someone should not be based on appearance. Although the then present ruler, Saul, was quite tall and handsome, this was merely a coincidence. He indeed was outstanding among men, but he also was from the smallest of the twelve tribes of Israel, as well as from the least of its families. These things would not make him the obvious choice for Israel's first king, but God did choose him over every other man of those people to be their ruler.

When Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to accompany him to praise and make sacrifices to the Lord, Jesse did not know why the prophet especially wanted him and his sons to be present. Curiously, Jesse did not seem even to consider that his youngest son should be included in the group. Jesse already had sent David, instead of just servants alone, to watch over their flock because evidently he wanted at least one of his sons to help tend their sheep. When the Lord denied that any of Jesse's sons who had stood before Samuel was His choice for Israel's new king Samuel was confused because he knew that God had specified that the new ruler was one of these men.

Samuel had to inquire about the existence of another son; Jesse did not volunteer that information automatically. When he did so, however, Samuel asked that the young man be brought to him. As soon as David stood before Samuel, he considered him to be too young to be whom the Lord would call. However, the Lord commanded Samuel immediately to anoint David, which he instantly obeyed. From that moment, the Spirit of the Lord left Saul and rested upon David to rule as God's choice for a king to rule over the Israelites.

Note:

After this moment Saul became distressed and called his servants to bring him a man to play music in order to soothe his spirit. He did not seek the Lord's assistance or wisdom to comfort his mind and emotions; rather he looked for human, physical means to fill the void in his life. Someone in the king's household had heard of David being a master musician, courageous, handsome, witty, and dedicated to the Lord so Saul sent for him, oblivious to the events described above.

David went to Saul, became his armor bearer and was loved by the king. Being with David refreshed Saul and any distressing spirits would leave their presence. Although the Lord sent David to Saul to renew His fellowship with him, Saul never regained the complete reliance on God that he had sought previously. By this time, Saul had strayed too far away from God even to desire the same commitment and relationship that they had had in the past. Saul wanted relief from distress, and only chose to look for it in temporary, carnal avenues.

Meanwhile, a rival nation--the Philistines--rose up against the Israelites to wage war against them in order to conquer them and each army was camped on opposite

sides of the Valley of Elah. The Philistine champion, Goliath--who was a giant--went down into the valley twice a day for forty straight days to shout a challenge to the Israelites. His dare was to whomever the Israelites selected to be their ambassador of battle. Whoever won the combat would win the entire war, and all of the spoils of their opponent. Goliath's appearance and provocation greatly scared the entire Israelite army, even to king Saul who was himself taller than any of his subjects.

Before and during this time, David had been going back and forth to see the king while still tending his father's sheep when he was at home. However, his three older brothers were among the army encamped before the Philistines. One day, Jesse asked David to deliver some food to his brothers and see how they were faring. As he was visiting them, Goliath came to defy the Israelites, David heard his dare, and was astonished that the Israelites were afraid of this man. Those around him told David that King Saul had promised a great reward to anyone at all who would kill Goliath, yet no one accepted the challenge.

David Triumphed a Godless Opponent

"David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, 'What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For what is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?!"

And the people answered him in this manner, saying, 'So shall it be for the man who kills him,'

Now, Eliah, his oldest brother, heard when he spoke to the men and Eliah's anger was aroused against David and he said, 'Why did you come down here and to whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart for you have come down to see the battle!'

And David said, 'What have I done now? Is there not a cause?' Then, he turned from him toward another and said the same thing

And, these people answered him as the first ones did.

Now when the words that David had spoken were heard they reported them to Saul and he sent for him.

Then David said to Saul, 'Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.'

And Saul said to David, 'You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are a youth and he a man of war from his youth.'

Then David said to Saul, 'Your servant used to keep his father's sheep and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock I went out after it and struck it and delivered the lamb from its mouth. And, when it rose against me I caught it by its beard and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear, and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them seeing that he has defied the armies of the living God.' Moreover David said, 'The Lord Who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.'

And Saul said to David, 'Go, and the Lord be with you!'

So, Saul clothed David with his armor and he put a bronze helmet on his head, and he also clothed him with a coat of mail.

David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them.

And David said to Saul, 'I cannot walk with these for I have not tested them.'

So, David took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag in a pouch which he had and his sling in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

So the Philistine came and began drawing near to David and the man who bore the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about and saw David he distained him for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

So, the Philistine said to David, 'Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks?' and the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And, the Philistine said to David, 'Come to me and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!'

Then David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin; but I come to you in the Name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel Whom you have defiled! This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand and I will strike you and take your head from you. And, this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all the assembly shall the Lord does not save with the sword and spear, for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hands.'

So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David that David hurried and ran toward the army of the Philistines. Then David took in his hand his bag and took out a stone and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead so that the stone sank into his forehead and he fell on his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone and struck the Philistine and killed him, but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore, David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of his sheath and killed him, and cut odd his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead they fled." (I Samuel 17:26-51) (See also James 4:7)

Instead of cowering at the idea of fighting the giant Philistine champion as the rest of the Israelite army had been doing for 40 days, David wanted to know what the prize was for defeating him. This young man who never had been in a war before, much less seen the possible carnage from afar, was more interested in the reward he could get if he killed the enemy than the possible and severe attack he might have to endure in front of his nation's entire army. It was not innocence or idiocy that motivated David however, rather the inevitable victory that would result in facing off with a man he knew was not covenanted to God.

David's oldest brother became furious at what he considered to be none of his

youngest brother's affair. Eliah was a mature man and a trained warrior, whereas he saw David as merely a meddling braggart whose words were doing nothing but provoking the other men to feel like cowards, including himself. Additionally, we can see by David's reaction to his brother's criticism that he was used to the older man treating him like an inexperienced upstart when they were at home, too. Most likely, Eliah was a bit jealous of David because God had chosen him to be the next king, when Eliah felt that he was more qualified and deserving of the honor. There definitely already were emotions that had been festering within the older man other than having to contend with the younger's bravado.

Someone hearing the exchange obviously went and reported it to Saul, who curiously asked to have David brought before him. Saul, like David's brother, also considered David to be too young and inexperienced to fulfill the mission successfully. Besides, the only times he had had contact with David were in the palace as a musician, so it seemed peculiar that the head of the entire armed forces would take the time to speak to someone who appeared to be completely useless to solve the critical problem that the entire nation was facing.

Saul was a huge man himself, standing head and shoulders above the rest of his army. So, why hadn't he accepted Goliath's challenge? Obviously Saul was as intimidated by the idea of fighting the giant as was everyone else in the army. After 40 days that had to have been completely humiliating for him, the king evidently was desperate enough to listen to any solution, even one that could prove to be complete lunacy.

David convinced Saul to let him accept Goliath's challenge by stating that tending sheep was not just sitting around and guarding the flock so they did not stray. At times, hungry and vicious predators came to try to steal sheep and it was David's duty to fend them off, even if that meant putting his own life in peril. He had had to fight wild bears and lions, both of which were potentially more threatening than a man, especially one not covenanted to and in defiance of God.

After he agreed to allow David to challenge the Philistine giant, Saul gave the young man his personal armor to defend himself. Saul even may have done so because at a distance his armies might have thought that the king himself was the Israelite champion. However, since Saul was a very large man so his armor almost fell off of David, Saul's sword and protection hindered David instead of guarding him, so he took off the armor and chose arms that he already was comfortable using, weapon that always had served him before when he had to fight--a shepherd's staff, his own sling shot, and some rocks. David relied only on God to protect him,

When Goliath saw David coming to meet him in the valley he thought that the Israelite army was joking, maybe even making fun of him. The Philistine mocked and defied both David and his God. Goliath told David that he would finish him off quickly and give his carcass to the birds and animals to eat. Instead of becoming fearful at the insult, David got mad. He shouted to the giant that even though he would attack with powerful weapons, David would be the victor because he did not rely on tangible arms but was confronting him in the Name of the Lord. David did not back away, but rather ran toward his opponent.

As David was running toward the giant man he took out a single stone, put it in his sling and heaved it at Goliath's forehead. It struck him in a very vulnerable spot,

went into his brow and he immediately sank to the ground, dead. Their battle was over in only a few seconds. Then, to complete his task for the king, David ran further and took Goliath's own sword from his dead hand and cut his head off. Upon witnessing this completely unexpected turn of events, the entire Philistine army fled, knowing that a mere lad had vanquished them.

David's Reign

David became known throughout the land as the people's champion, which angered Saul greatly and he even became so afraid of David's popularity that Saul started to try to kill David. Saul sensed that the Lord's blessing and the people's loyalty had switched to the younger man. Instead of repenting of his evil thoughts and intentions, Saul furthered his division from God by natural, not spiritual means--attempting to get rid of whom he considered to be the cause of his problems, never looking within at his own heart, thoughts, and actions. Saul became so obsessed with the man he now considered to be a rival that persecuting David consumed his time and energy.

Eventually, David had to flee to the wilderness in order to escape Saul's wrath, all the time questioning what crime he had committed to merit such condemnation from the king, who then was also his father-in-law. However, Jonathan, the king's son knew what was happening, told David to hide himself, and went to his father to plead David's case. When Saul accused Jonathan of being in league with David, Jonathan actively began to help David remain safe.

Saul and his troops relentlessly pursued David and the men who followed him wherever he heard that they might be camped. However, David never retaliated against his former mentor. Even when he was hidden closely enough in a cave to cut off a piece of Saul's robe, David did not use the element of surprise to overcome or even try to kill the king, nor did he allow his men to rise up against Saul's soldiers. However, once the king and his army were out of the cave, David appeared at its entrance and called out to reveal what he might have done. Saul then recognized David's mercy towards them all and announced that he finally conceded that David was the Lord's choice to be the next king of Israel. David finally became king after another war with the Philistines in which both Saul and his sons were killed and a feud with Saul's other relatives for the throne. One of his first two acts was to bring the Ark of the Covenant that held the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments into Jerusalem.

God Told David that His Seed Would Arise from His Lineage

"It came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house and the Lord had given him rest from his enemies all around, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, 'See, now I dwell in a house of cedar but the ark of the Lord dwells inside a tent of curtains.'

Then Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.'

But, it happened that night that the word of the Lord came to Nathan saying, 'Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord, 'Would you go and build a

house for Me to dwell in for I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle? Wherever I have moved about with the children of Israel have I ever spoken a word to anyone from among the tribes of Israel whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?

Now, therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'I took you from the sheepfold from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel, and I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.

'Moreover, I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more. Nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel and have caused you to rest from your enemies.

'Also, the Lord tells you that He will make you a Royal dynasty when your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers. I will set up your Seed after you Who will come from your body and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build a house for My Name and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever.

'I will be His Father and He will be My Son. If He commits sin, I will chastise Him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But, My mercy shall not depart from Him, as I took it from Saul whom I removed from before you. And, your lineage and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.'

According to all these words and according to all this vision Nathan spoke to David." (II Samuel 7:1-17)

David ruled over the Israelites for some time and the land had been peaceful, without any wars or major problems. It occurred to him that he was living in a nicer house than the Lord, Who still was consigned to a tent. So, David told this to Nathan, a prophet after Samuel's death. That same night God Himself also spoke to Nathan and directed him to tell David that He, too, was aware of the discrepancy and asked the king to build Him a permanent place in which to dwell among His people. God also asked Nathan to remind David of all of the good things that He had done for him and the nation.

God revealed to David something that He never had specified to any of His previous followers. He was sending His Own Son to watch over the people and lead them to Himself. He even pledged that the Man would come from David's house--He would be his direct descendant. God spoke to David about the Seed that He had told Satan would defeat him, only moments after his treachery that turned the first human beings away from Him.

God's Son would set up a Kingdom that would never cease, as David's would when he died. And, interestingly, if God's Son ever sinned against Him as other people always did, He, too, would receive the repercussions of the Law. The Lord's Son would

receive no different treatment from His Father than any other people did when they disobeyed Him. However, God implied that His Son would indeed be successful at resisting Satan, because His Kingdom would never fail. This was a major prophecy for all of humanity.

David Succumbed to Sexual Lust

"It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel. And they destroyed the people of Aamon and besieged Rabbah, but David remained at Jerusalem.

Then it happened one evening, that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And, from the roof he saw a woman bathing and the woman was very beautiful to behold. So, David sent and inquired about the woman.

And, someone said, 'Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?'

Then David sent messengers and took her and she came to him and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity. And, she returned to her house.

And the woman conceived, so she sent and told David and said, 'I am with child.'

Then David sent to Joab, saying, 'Send me Uriah the Hittite.'

And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing, and how the war prospered.

And David said to Uriah, 'Go down to your home and wash your feet.'

So, Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food followed him. But, Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants and did not go down to his house.

So when they told David, saying, 'Uriah did not down to his house.'

David said to Uriah, 'Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?'

And Uriah said to David, 'The ark, and Israel, and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my house are encamped in the open fields. Shall I go to my house to eat and drink and to lie with my wife? As you live and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing.'

Then David said to Uriah, 'Wait here today also and tomorrow I will let you depart.'

So, Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. Now when David called him he ate and drank before him and he made drunk. And, at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

And he wrote in the letter saying, 'Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest

battle and retreat from him that he may be struck down and die.

So it was, while Joab besieged the city that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men. Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab and some of the people of the servants of David fell, and Uriah the Hittite died also." (II Samuel 11:1-17)

After winning many wars and securing the land, David sent his armies to war with another nation, while he stayed sheltered in his palace, probably for some needed rest. One night he must have been restless, so he went out onto the roof where he spied a beautiful woman bathing in a house next door. He asked about her and was informed that she was married, but this detail did not deter his lust for her.

David not only coveted the woman Bathsheba, he summoned her to his palace to get her to break her marriage vows and lie with him, and she became pregnant. She might have committed adultery anyway since David supposedly was very handsome. However, it is important to keep in mind that he was the king, and might have demanded that she do so. The behavior of both of them went against God's commandments, but his transgression not only violated the trust of God and her husband, but the entire nation he was chosen to rule. (II Samuel 8:15) His conduct should have been wiser because its consequences potentially had a much greater impact on the people.

When David learned about Bathsheba's condition, he sent for her husband, but not to inform him of the predicament, nor to ask his forgiveness. Rather, David hid the situation from Uriah. Instead of confessing everything to the man whom he had just betrayed, he asked him how the war was proceeding. The king very purposely maneuvered all conversation away from their personal lives, so Uriah never even suspected that something was wrong between them. Consequently, Uriah remained ever faithful to his sovereign. In fact, he never even visited his wife, but remained in the palace, ready to do David's bidding.

David sent Uriah back to the war without ever telling him that he was the victim of two people who did not control their lust, nor that his wife was pregnant with another man's child, namely his. Not only did David do this, he also sent a message to one of his commanders telling him to make sure that Uriah would be killed in battle. And, to top things off, that messenger was the victim himself. This was not one of David's finer moments. And, it proved that no matter how close a person had been to and relied on God, they still were susceptible to Satan's authority over the earth.

Note:

Then David married the grieving widow, which angered God, so much so that He even sent the prophet Nathan to him again for David to judge his own actions when he thought that he was condemning another man instead. As the penalty, David's kingdom no longer was immune from war and from then on he was in battle very often. Additionally due to sin, one of David's other sons committed incest. The young man lusted after, raped, completely rejected his sister, and was then killed by his brother to avenge her. It never was God's will for these bad things to happen; David brought these curses of the Law upon himself and his family by breaking it.

Just like anyone else, David breaking God's Law resulted in him receiving some

of it's curses, the first being the death of his first child with the other man's wife. However, when David remained faithful to God, he also received many blessings, among these was the birth of another son, Solomon, who was a great king after his father died. It was Solomon who finally built the permanent temple for God in Jerusalem.

Prophecies that Foretold a Covenant between God the Father and His Son

His Birth

"God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, ... I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her Seed. He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.' (Genesis 3:14-15)

*"Also, the Lord tells you that He will make you a Royal dynasty when your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers. I will set up your Seed after you Who will come from your body and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build a house for My Name and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever. I will be His Father and He will be My Son." (II Samuel 7:11b-14a)
(See above.)*

"Hear now, O house of David!... The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His Name Immanuel.... He may know how to refuse evil and choose the good...." (Isaiah 7:13-14)

"But you, Bethlehem, though you are little among thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come Forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel Whose goings forth are from old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2)

God's Child would be at odds with the kingdom and influence dominating the earth after the first couple rebelled against God and unknowingly transferred themselves under Satan's authority. God's Son would rule over Satan while he kept trying to raise himself above Him. His birth would be supernatural because His human mother would be a virgin; God's Holy Spirit, not a human male, would impregnate her. God's Seed would be born through the lineage of King David, who continued to believe in and follow the Lord's direction enough to sustain His influence on the earth. And, He would be born in a town called Bethlehem.

"There shall come a Shoot from the stem of Jesse (the Bethlemite), a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the awe of the Lord. His delight is in the awe of the Lord and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes (I Samuel 16:7, Matthew 9:4 and 13:25 & and John 2:24-25) nor decide by the hearing of His ears. But

with righteousness He shall judge the poor and decide equity for the meek of the earth. He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins and faithfulness the belt of His waist." (Isaiah 11:1-5)

His Preparation and Mission

"Behold My Servant Whom I uphold, My elect One in Whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him. He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break and dimly burning flax He will not break. He will bring forth justice for the truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged till He has established justice in the earth and the coastlands will wait for His law.' Thus says God the Lord Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it. Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk on it?

'I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness and will hold Your hand. I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles to open blind eyes (John 8:12), to bring out prisoners from the prison--those who sit in darkness from the prison house. I am the Lord, that is My Name, and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images. Behold, the former things have come to pass and new things I declare. Before they spring forth I tell you of them (Romans 4:17 & II Corinthians 4:13).'" (Isaiah 42:1-9)

"Behold, I send My Messenger and He will prepare the way before Me and the Lord Whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple, even the Messenger of the covenant in Whom you delight. Behold He is coming', says the Lord of hosts." (Malachi 3:1)

God's Son would come from the lineage of Jesse, King David's father and the Lord's Own Spirit would be upon Him. Therefore, He would possess certain attributes equal to His Father's: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, righteousness, and faithfulness. Also like His Father, He would not judge people by what He could see but by their inner beings, their thoughts and hearts. He would respect His Father and do whatever He was commanded to do. He would only speak the truth, but allow wicked people to be caught by their own lies and deceptions. And, He would show impartiality and justice for the poor and the humble.

This Man would act like a Servant to God, Who in return would take pleasure in His words and actions. God's Son would bring peace not only to the Jews but the Gentiles, or non-Jews. He would not call attention to Himself by being loud, nor would He ever be disheartened because He would not fail in His mission. The Lord would send Him to free people from whatever held them captive, both literally and figuratively. God Himself promised this not only to His Son and also to the people He would be dispatched to liberate.

Finally, God would accept only His Son to do this work for Him, not any other

being, ever. He would not tolerate man-made idols. When the Father sent His Son, He would establish a new and perfect covenant with mankind, one that no longer would be God to people based, but rather God (the Father) to God (the Son) established. Thus, this new covenant would be flawless and last throughout the rest of eternity.

His Suffering for All of Humanity

"He has no form or splendor and when we see Him there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men--a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and we hid our faces from Him. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Surely He has born our griefs and carried away our sorrows. Yet, we esteemed Him stricken ... by God, and afflicted. But, He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him; and by His stripes we are healed.

All we, like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned, every one, to his own way and the Lord has laid upon Him the chastisement of us all. He was oppresse, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And, as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

He was taken from prison, and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For, the transgressions of My people He was stricken and they made His grave with the wicked--but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth (Matthew 12:34-37). Yet, it pleased the Lord to bruise Him. He has put Him to grief when you make His soul an offering for sin.

He shall see His Seed. He shall prolong His days and the pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hands. He shall see the labor of His soul and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their sins." (Isaiah 53:2-11)

"I gave My back to those who struck Me and My cheeks to those who plucked out My beard. I did not hide My face from shame and spitting." (Isaiah 50:6)

"I am poured out like water and all My bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd and My tongue clings to My jaws. You have brought Me to the dust of death, for dogs have surrounded Me. The consciousness of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them and for My clothing they cast lots." (Psalm 22:14-18)

"He guards His bones, not one of them is broken." (Psalm 34:20)

God's Son would not be universally loved or accepted by people. Rather, He

would be more hated than loved and more ridiculed than respected. However, as the Messenger of God's new covenant with mankind, He would take away both mental as well as physical anguish, and He do it by suffering Himself in the place of all of humanity. When this took place people would think that God the Father was condemning Him, but that would not be the case. God's Son would have to be tormented as a replacement for each of our individual sins. He would have to endure our punishment as our stand in. In other words He would take all the curses of breaking the Law that we should suffer so that we could be redeemed to God by His sacrifice. He would exchange His torture in order to justify and heal us.

God the Son willingly presented Himself to be beaten and spat upon, from having His back whipped even to His beard literally ripped off of His face. He endured all oral condemnation as well without flinching or trying to turn away from it once He had come to terms (in the Garden of Eden) that His Father could think up no other way to redeem mankind out from under Satan's authority.

After being beaten severely, when the people saw God's Son on the cross He almost would be unrecognizable, even unsightly. He would not die after being tortured almost until He was dead, however, He still would have to undergo being crucified quite publicly along a main highway with people gawking and shouting insults at Him. God the Son was not to end up alone in a prison cell or be put to death quietly to keep Him from further spreading His message. He was to have to endure this all in front of every person who was traveling on one of the main roads to Jerusalem during the Passover festival.

Likewise, His death would be lingering and He would be quite conscious of everything that was being done to or around Him. It was evil and envious people who would make Him suffer in this way, not God. (Isaiah 53:4b, 54:15) As a final indignity, some of the soldiers guarding the cross would even gamble and divide up His clothing in front of Him. His death would be a real spectacle and He would be dishonored to the very last moment of His life.

Fortunately, God the Son would die quickly; and, although He would have to endure much torment He would not have to experience it on the cross for very long. This was quite unusual, for part of the punishment of being put to death in this manner was that it was a very slow and agonizing death, often lasting days. Part of the reason that a prisoner's feet were nailed together was to insure that he would try to push himself more upright to be able to breath better, thus making him suffer as long as possible. Whenever it was deemed that He should be put out of his misery, bones in either his feet or legs would be broken so that he could not be able to push himself up to grasp those breaths any longer and finally suffocate. God the Father prophesied that His Son would not have this happen to Him; He died when He freely relinquished His Spirit.