

PREPARER & PROVIDER

"For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed.

Acts 13:36 (NIV)

David served God in his generation, then prepared the way for the next generation to take over. John Maxwell, a leadership expert, says "There is no success without a successor." On this basis, David was certainly a success. We have seen that he had failed morally and reaped terrible consequences as a result, including the death of many of his own sons (note 2Samuel 13:30). Despite these appalling events in David's life as a result of his own sin, we observe that David never gave up on God and never thought that God had given up on him. His willingness to repent and pursue the presence of God after sinning and straying from God earned him the description a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22).

1. According to Psalm 78:72, how did David lead Israel?

2. How did he develop these qualities?

COMMON UPBRINGING

David came from a simple family of shepherds, not royalty. His humility, heart after God, openness to correction (from the prophets, note 2Samuel 12), and his consistent life as a worshiper, qualified him as *God's choice* for King of Israel. Because of David's faithfulness to God when he became the King, God gave him a marvellous promise.

3. What was the promise that David received from the Lord in Second Samuel 7:13, 16?

This came after David had a desire to something great for God. But we see a principle here that helps us to understand our own designated sphere and limits. It was well within David's capabilities to do what he wanted to do for God, but that wasn't the issue. The issue was call. God wanted David to do what He had called him to do.

4. What had David been called to do? (Note 2Samuel 7:8-9; 1Chron. 28:3)
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Interestingly after David expressed a desire to build a house for God, God declared to David that He was going to build a House for him! Even though David wanted to be a builder, and probably could have been one, God said that that wasn't what He had called David to be. Perhaps you have a desire to do something for God but have not received a direct call to do it. What we see from the life of David at this point serves as a fantastic example to those who feel this way.

5. How does First Chronicles 29:2-5 show how David was able to fulfil what was on his heart, without directly doing it himself, and thus violating God's call on his life?
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6. According to First Chronicles 29:6 what response did David's act have on others?
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Perhaps someone feels a burden for the unreached people of the world, yet God has not called this person to actually be a cross-cultural missionary. What is this person to do in order to fulfil what they feel God has put on their heart? One such person lives in Sydney, Australia. He felt a burden for the missions field and even went there. Upon arrival he soon realised that he didn't have what it took to be a cross-cultural missionary himself. Tragically about this time he failed morally and his marriage erupted into a break-up. He recommitted his life to Christ and decided to do all he could to fulfil what he felt God had put on his heart in regard to missions. He assessed his life and determined what he was good at and concluded that this must be what God had called him to be since there was obvious blessing on it. He then stepped out and committed himself to raising \$1,000,000 for missions to reach the unreached people he had on his heart. If he couldn't go, he would prepare and provide for others to go. Within a short few years he was engaged in a business that was putting millions of dollars into missions. King David did something very similar to this.

7. What do often feel burdened to be do or be involved with, yet simultaneously don't feel specifically called to do yourself? Employing the David principle of *preparing and providing*, how could you be involved instead? That is, what are you good at, that could be used to fulfil what's on your heart?
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Amen.