

CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE

The Bible is an instructional text consisting of divinely inspired authors spanning centuries, all coordinated by God to teach humanity how to live righteous lives acceptable to Him in order to eventually enable our eternal association with Him in His Kingdom on earth as resurrected, perfected spirit beings. As such, the Bible is replete with living examples of different lives lived for our edification. Some personages exhibited lives of great sacrifice—martyrs who lost their lives by adhering to a loving obedience to their Creator. Other lives in stark contrast, are also included to realistically exemplify all facets of humanity. These individuals, some notably famous personages, engaged in profligate living exhibiting total disregard of God’s mandated behavior. They fueled idols, were totally involved in achieving world priorities: annexing political power, amassing vast kingdoms, waging wars of conquest to accumulate incalculable wealth, while immersed in a cauldron of carnalities. Ahab and Jezebel’s actions depict evil in the extreme and its consequences with Ahab’s blood licked by dogs and Jezebel’s dismembered body feasted upon by dogs. Samson surrenders to carnality as exemplified in his fatal character descent that eventually, physically destroys him. Yet in death, in a triumph of heroism, Samson’s repentance in concert with God’s law redeems him.

The word “no” was first uttered to all of us at a very tender age—sufficiently, chronologically wise, well under the bar of comprehension. Yet that word was felt, either its volume, tone or both, regardless of however innocent our behavior was at the time. We were to immediately cease any verbal, usually crying or spontaneously inappropriate physical actions. Later negative commands, fully understood, directed us to abruptly STOP TALKING, STOP DOING THAT! With that reality of “no” fully imprinted, it was internally repudiated due to our innate emotional wiring—that is not liking it one bit of being told what to do or not to do. We are recalcitrant by nature while expressly made in God’s image all along. Why? I feel an answer may lie in God not desiring mere robotic responses that would have ensued from having perfect adherence to His ways. Who knows? I only speculate, but God does tell us to overcome sinning, to choose life, to fight the good fight, to persevere, pursue a life of obedience, flee death inherent in sinful living, all the while striving to be perfect in the process of becoming a new creation. Overcoming our sinful predilection to do what we want, with whom we want, where we want, for as long as we want remains our premiere battle led by our triune god, “me, myself and I!”

God, knowing the end from the beginning, structured His Plan of Salvation that involved the death of His only begotten Son, God. Yahshua’s life-blood spilled for us remains the atonement for the collective sin of the world. As such, His blood becomes the foundation for believers to petition for and achieve forgiveness for their sinning through genuinely initiated repentance, their acknowledgement of sin. That sin is then expunged through God’s forgiveness: the unmerited gift of grace given by God to cover that sin that has already, ultimately been paid for, “covered,” by Yahshua’s blood.

I chose Kings David, Saul and Solomon, three Bible “stars” widely known in scripture as exemplars of disobedience who, just like us, were respectively subjected to the consequences of their disobedience to God’s laws. These three men form a chronological unit of kingly rule in Israel because they succeed each other. Their chronology is also coupled by similar behaviors as young men through the early years of their reigns. But there were contrasts. Saul came from a modest background and acted humbly when being chosen king. Solomon, already well established having the charismatic King David as his father, was righteous in attitude by asking God for a wise discerning mind rather than wealth. David maintained great faith and obedience to God throughout his life but made one major egregious lapse of lust over obedience that profoundly affected his life. As young men they all first evidenced overt appreciation and obedience to God which unfortunately was followed by degrees of moral decline in each of their lives. David however remained loyal to God and was an exception to Saul’s and Solomon’s steep downhill amoral trend because David’s obedience to God proved more enduring being regarded by God as a man after His heart. (1Sam 13:14) David often corrected himself through genuine repentance, by his psalm writings of worship and appreciation that seemed sorely lacking in Saul and Solomon. These three men of the Bible having great privilege and rank were chosen by me out of literally dozens of others so their sinful actions would aid us, instill in us, a pattern of behavior correction to prevent us from the trap of catering to the self—our greatest enemy.

SAUL

God gave specific warning through Samuel to the Israelites about perspective king rulership as described in 1Samuel 8: 11-18. God was not pleased that the Israelites had rejected Him as their King.

“These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them for himself to his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots. He will appoint them for himself to be commanders over thousands and over fifties, and some to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his implements of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. He will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. He will take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys and use them for his work. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves shall be his servants. Then you will cry out on that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you on that day (because you have rejected Him as King).”

Regardless, Saul was chosen as king. Saul certainly looked the part for he was a head taller (1Sam10:23,24) than any other Israelite and was very handsome as described in 1 Sam 9:5. Saul also arose out of humble beginnings. At the time of his being chosen as king, Saul was tending his dad’s goats. In verses 9:5, 7, and 20, Saul’s good character, his consciousness in being responsible for caring and searching for his dad’s lost goats was in evidence. When Saul

became king, he was truly humble. In 1Sam 9:21 Saul replied, “Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? And is not my family the smallest of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken this way to me (as if I were very important)?” Thus, Saul before and now after his coronation started his reign on a high note.

But Samuel gave the Lord’s warning message both to Saul, now king, and the Israelites.

1Sam12:14-17 “If you will fear the Lord (with awe and profound reverence) and serve Him and listen to His voice and not rebel against His commandment, then both you and your king will follow the Lord your God (*and it will be well*). But if you do not listen to the Lord’s voice, but rebel against His command, then the hand of the Lord will be against you (*to punish you*), as it was against your fathers. So now, take your stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before your eyes. Is it not (*the beginning of the*) wheat harvest today? I will call to the Lord and He will send thunder and rain; then you will know (*without any doubt*), and see that your evil which you have done is great in the sight of the Lord by asking for yourselves a king.”

Although Saul was 40 when he began to reign (13:1), an important character flaw emerged: his impatience. After not waiting the full seven days appointed as specified by Samuel to receive help in fighting the Philistines, Saul initiated burned offerings to God in verses 13, 14. This action was the first act of disobedience having consequences that would doom his kingdom as stated by Samuel. Also stated in 1Samuel see Chapter 28: 17-19. Another incident of disobedience to the Lord’s command involved Saul’s refusal to totally annihilate the Amalekites including the young, old, man, woman, infant, suckling, ox, sheep, camel and donkey. Samuel upon hearing the bleating of sheep and lowing of the oxen in verse 22 sarcastically questions Saul regarding what could Samuel possibly be hearing, knowing he had not followed God’s directive. Samuel says in part “...Behold to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat or rams and in verse 23, For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as idolatry.”

Since the amazing killing of Goliath by David when an adolescent, David’s reputation was continually enhanced by his prowess on the battlefield. Damsels sung of his exploits compared to those of Saul. 1 Sam 18:7 “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.” Jealousy of David’s successes coupled with Saul’s totally unfounded paranoia over David conspiring to usurp his throne enhanced the downward spiral of his reign. For example, despite the fact that Saul had purged his kingdom of mediums and diviners, he desperately broke God’s prohibition over such a practice, and consulted one, even disguising himself in the process, all motivated by his fear upon seeing a massive Philistine build up. The result of that disobedience was disastrous in calling up Samuel who was not at all pleased! This entire event is described in 1Sam 28.

Saul became afraid of David, especially knowing that God was now with David. Samuel had then appointed David King.

1Sam 16:13, 14 “Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And

Samuel arose and went to Ramah. Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented and terrified him.”

Saul's obsession, having fully conquered him, tries on several occasions to murder David. Saul sets up David to be killed by the Philistines by using David's ardor to marry Saul's daughter Michal as described in 1Sam18:18-30 (portions).

“Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David; and when they told Saul, it pleased him. Saul said, I will give her to him so that she may become a snare (*bad influence, source of trouble*) to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” *So, Saul tried to manipulate and deceive David for a second time, “You shall be my son-in-law today.” Then Saul commanded his servants, “Speak to David secretly, saying, ‘Listen, the king delights in you, and all his servants love you; now then, become the king's son-in-law.’ ” So, Saul's servants spoke these words to David. But David with genuine humility replied, “Is it a trivial thing in your sight to become a king's son-in-law, seeing that I am a poor man and insignificant?” The servants of Saul told him what David said. Then Saul said, “This is what you shall say to David: ‘The king wants no dowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.’ ” Now Saul's intention was to obviously cause David's death at the hand of the Philistines, (not unlike David's motive for Uriah). When his servants told David these words, it pleased him to become the king's son-in-law. Before the time (for the marriage) arrived, David arose and went, he and his men, and killed two hundred Philistine men, and David brought their foreskins (as proof of death) and presented every one of them to the king, so that he might become the king's son-in-law. So, Saul gave him Michal, his (younger) daughter, as a wife. When Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal, his daughter, loved him, Saul was even more afraid of David; and Saul became David's constant enemy. In Chapter 19:1 Saul desperately told Jonathan, despite knowing his feelings for David, for all his servants to kill David. In the same Chapter, verse 10, Michal warns David to flee by putting a dummy in their bed. David fled telling Samuel about Saul's continued attempts to kill him without any just cause which perplexed David. Saul's hatred for David reached madness when Saul kills Ahimelech the high priest for befriending David by offering him both showbread, and Goliath's sword as secretly witnessed by one of Saul's men, an Edomite spy, who reported this to Saul resulting in Doeg slaughtering 85 priests.*

DAVID

As Saul tended goats, David tended sheep. Both were youthful shepherds. Both also were very handsome, physically gifted. Saul could be a contemporary professional basketball player or NFL quarter back being between 6' 8" to 6' 10" tall. David with his looks, athletic build, his singing, dancing ability, proficiency in playing the lyre, and writing talent could be today's movie star, rock star who really had it all. He also was a fierce fighting machine winning countless victories for the Israelites. The power in his teenage arms to sling a stone deep into the

head of a giant was remarkable. Elite athletes, rock and movie stars are revered in our society just as kings and those renowned in battle were revered in ancient Israel regardless of their morality. But David, as previously stressed, differed significantly from Saul and Solomon because David possessed the courage, conviction and actions of a deep faith shown in genuine repentance, sustained in loving obedience for God that He realized.

David believed in the sanctity of God's anointed as shown by not killing Saul in the cave as he was relieving himself as noted in 1Sam24:4-6. David's men said to him, "Behold, this is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold, I will hand over your enemy to you, and you shall do to him as seems good to you.' " Then David arose (in the darkness) and stealthily cut off the hem (edge) of Saul's robe. Afterward, David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the hem of Saul's robe. He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, since he is the anointed of the Lord." Also, David prevented Abishai from killing Saul in 1Sam 26:8, 9. Even in the death of Saul David killed the man whom Saul told to kill him as told in 2Sam 1:14-19. And famously, while all of the fully grown Israelite men, including tall Saul and David's older brothers cowered in the presence of Goliath, it was David, the teenager, who with fierce defiance stared into the eyes of the nearly 10' Goliath yelling that he would kill him, a Philistine, because the giant had defiled the Lord of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel. Plus, David was imbued with youthful confidence in his ability to have two prior kills of a bear and a lion in defending his flock of sheep. 1 Sam 17 relates this famous incident of courage and conviction.

David evidenced highly desirable aspects of his character that included caring for Jonathan's crippled son Mephibosheth along with his family, also his dozens of heartfelt psalms and prayers of humility and worship to God as exemplified in 2 Sam 7: 18-24.

"Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house (family), that You have brought me this far? Yet this was very insignificant in Your eyes, O Lord God, for You have spoken also of Your servant's house (royal dynasty) in the distant future. And this is the law and custom of man, O Lord God. What more can David say to You? For You know (acknowledge, choose) Your servant, O Lord God. Because of Your word (promise), and in accordance with Your own heart, You have done all these great and astounding things to let Your servant know (understand). Therefore, You are great, O Lord God; for there is none like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. What one nation on earth is like Your people Israel, whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people and to make a name for Himself, and to do great and awesome things for Yourself and for Your land, before Your people whom You have redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, from nations and their gods? You established for Yourself Your people Israel as Your people forever, and You, O Lord, have become their God.

Such a loving, heartfelt entreaty to God! But how many times has one fervently prayed to God and then found him or herself quickly mired in sin? Just like David spying upon a beautiful woman, then sinned grievously. And like all sin, the hydra of negative consequences spread out far and wide affecting his life into the present and future lives of others. His fornication with

Bathsheba became exponentially enhanced by David plotting the cover up murder of her patriotic husband Uriah. God used Nathan's perfect analogy of the wealthy tyrant killing a poor man's only animal, also a beloved pet, that concluded with Nathan's accusing finger pointed to David, "You're that man!" 2Samuel Chapters 11 and 12 describe the entire incident and its consequences, especially in Chapter 12:9-12: With the Lord accusing, "Why have you despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife. You have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' And now the consequences: Thus, says the Lord, 'Behold, I will stir up evil against you from your own household; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your companion, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and in broad daylight.' "

This sentence was fulfilled in the agony brought on by David by his lawless children: Ammon's scandalous behavior with his half-sister Tamar (13:14) and his consequent murder by his brother Absalom (13:28, 29); Absalom's escape to a foreign land (13:38) and his return after three years; Absalom without recognition by David for two more years (14:28); Absalom's deliberate, rebellious attempt to win the hearts of the people and supplant his father (15:6), David's flight from Jerusalem, with the mass of the people against him (15:4), the terrible battle in the forest of Ephraim, won by David's forces, with Absalom killed in flight (18:6ff), David's agony of heart is echoed repeatedly in the history of these tragedies (2Sam. 13:1-19:8) and in some of his psalms. Even when the great king was dying, his son Adonijah was attempting to usurp the throne, and was later executed as a traitor (2Kings 1:5; 2:25). (Footnote, p. 369 Amplified Bible, Zondervan Publishing House)

There were other sins with their consequences. In 2 Sam24 David insisted in counting all 1.3 million troops counter to God's command and the advice of his captain, Joab. In verse 10 David repents saying, "I have done very foolishly." Given a choice of three punishments as part of his repentance, David chose a pestilence killing 70,000! In verse 17, David, following the prophet Gad's words built an altar on the threshing floor of Araunah and insisted on paying for it and then offered burnt and peace offerings on the altar which ended the pestilence.

SOLOMON

Unlike Saul and David, Solomon was groomed for being king as predicted by Nathan speaking to David in 2 Samuel 7: 12-15 "When your days are fulfilled and you lie down (in death) with your fathers (ancestors), I will raise up your descendant after you, who shall be born to you, and I will establish his kingdom. He (is the one who) shall build a house for My Name and My Presence, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. When he commits iniquity (wrongdoing), I will discipline him with the rod of men and with

the strokes of the sons of man. But My lovingkindness and mercy will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.”

Like Saul, Solomon was at first humble and grateful that the Lord was with him.

1Kings 3:5-14 *In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, “Ask (Me) what I shall give you.” Then Solomon said, “You have shown Your servant David my father great lovingkindness, because he walked before You in faithfulness and righteousness and with uprightness of heart toward You; and You have kept for him this great lovingkindness, in that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is today. So now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king in place of David my father; and as for me, I am but a little boy (in wisdom and experience); I do not know how to go out or come in (that is, how to conduct business as a king). Your servant is among Your people whom You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. So, give Your servant an understanding mind and a hearing heart (with which) to judge Your people, so that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge and rule this great people of Yours?” Now it pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself a long life nor for wealth, nor for the lives of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to recognize justice, behold, I have done as you asked. I have given you a wise and discerning heart (mind), so that no one before you was your equal, nor shall anyone equal to you arise after you. I have also given you what you have not asked, both wealth and honor, so that there will not be anyone equal to you among the kings, for all your days. If you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as your father David did, then I will lengthen your days.” Solomon thus demonstrated His love for and obedience to God. But God in verse 14 gave His ominous warning, His “if as long as You obey” stipulation as a caveat governing how his days would be lengthened or shortened.*

Solomon’s empire was vast, his wealth incalculable, his wisdom (verse 30, Chapter 4) excelled the wisdom of the people of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt; a breadth of mind like the sand of the seashore (verse 29). With great material support from King Hiram of Tyre, who being promised cities later ascertained of dubious value, Solomon was enabled to complete his own house and the House of the Lord in 20 years.

Although given great wealth by God, presumably as a test to validate Solomon’s Godly petitioned “hearing heart of wisdom,” his reign succumbed to a morally corrupted treatment of his subjects, especially forced labor engaged in all his massive building projects.

Once on the throne Solomon became a thoroughgoing despot. All political power was taken out of the hands of the tribal sheiks...and placed in the hands of officers who were simply puppets of Solomon. The resources of the nation were expended not on works of public utility but on the personal aggrandizement of the monarch. In the means he took to gratify his passions he

showed himself to be little better than a savage (James Orr et al., eds., The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia). The division of the nations at Solomon's death with all the weaknesses and misery that it caused (idolatry, ignoring God, captivity, exile, the loss of the ten tribes) through the coming centuries was the direct outgrowth of Solomon's unholy self-indulgence (Amos R. Wells, Bible Miniatures). Because of his extensive building program and his extravagant expenditures in the maintenance of his luxurious court, he resorted to forced labor and heavy taxation. Bitter opposition to his rule thus engendered the division of the United Kingdom after his death (The Jewish Encyclopedia). (p.402, Amplified Bible, Zondervan)

Concurrent to the expansion of his realm along with massive building project, King Solomon was involved with many foreign women in direct defiance to God's strict warning set down in the earlier books of Moses. 1Kings 11: 1-9 "Now king Solomon (defiantly) loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the very nations of whom the Lord said to the Israelites, 'You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for the result will be that they will turn away your hearts to follow their gods.' Yet Solomon clung to these in love. He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away (from God). For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not completely devoted to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth, the (fertility) goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the horror (detestable idol) of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil (things) in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully, as his father David had done. Then Solomon built a high place for (worshiping) Chemosh the horror (detestable idol) of Moab, on the hill which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the horror (detestable idol) of the sons of Ammon. And he did the same for all of his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. So, the Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice."

"Thus, Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh out of the City of David into the house he had built for her, for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy to which the ark of the Lord has come." (2Chron. 8:11). God had given Solomon the name "Jedidiah (beloved of the Lord) (2Sam. 12:25), yet he chose to be the beloved of heathen women instead in defiance of God's covenant with him. (p. 404, Amplified Bible, Zondervan Publishing House)

If one were standing part of the throng of tens of thousands, amid the assembly of Israel hearing Solomon in the twentieth year of his reign begin an extended Prayer of Dedication to celebrate this incredible House of God, could one have imagined the possibility that a panoply of pagan urges had already stirred within the heart of one sounding so sincerely committed to God's ways?

His prayer in 1 Kings 8:24-66 is one of the longest extended prayers to God in the Bible. When Solomon finished offering this entire prayer and supplication to the Lord, he arose from before the Lord's altar, where he had knelt down with his hands stretched toward heaven. And he stood

and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, “Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, in accordance with everything that He promised. Not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He spoke through Moses His servant. May the Lord our God be with us as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us nor abandon us (to our enemies), that He may guide our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways (following Him) and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His precepts which He commanded our fathers. Let these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, so that He will maintain the cause and right of His servant and of His people Israel as each day requires, so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else. Therefore, your hearts are to be wholly devoted to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as (you are doing) today.”

There is no doubt that his dedication prayer included many reverent statements focusing on worshipful obedience to God. Solomon did include specific instances requiring God’s forgiveness to cover aspects of specific sins, maybe thinking of his own transgressions but I speculate. Yet for two decades Solomon despite this fervent prayer had been spending untold wealth devoted to his massive building projects as well as delving into all kinds of diverse perverse sexual pursuits. Thus, at this point had Solomon remained, pure, still a humble person possessing a genuine faith and love for God? Or was this prayer spoken for his vast audience in a manner not unlike the mega preachers of today in splendid temples exhorting tithing video followers numbering into millions. In 1 Kings 9: 3-9 relates God blessing Solomon for his beautiful heartfelt prayer and would establish his reign forever if his conduct matched the resolve of his prayer. But if not, then God’s stern warning, wrath, the consequences, would befall him as stated in verses 6 through 9.

6 “But if you turn away from following Me, you and your children, and will not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you but go and serve other gods and worship them 7 Then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them, and this house that I have hallowed for My name (*renowned*) I will cast from My sight. And Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all the peoples. 8 This house shall become a heap of ruins; every passerby shall be astonished and shall hiss (*with surprise*) and say, Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house? 9 Then they will answer, because they forsook the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have laid hold of other gods and have worshiped and served them; therefore, the Lord has brought on them all this evil.

Perhaps the truth within an older Solomon emerged in Ecclesiastes when he concluded that all material things done and accumulated in his life amounted to vanity...nothing. Solomon’s conclusion is our gift as to what is truly valuable, worth attaining, helping us avoid becoming trapped in materialism and the sin and consequences of disobedience often associated in achieving it.

*In the last verses of Ecclesiastes 12:13,14, Solomon writes: 13 All has been heard; the end of the matter is: Fear God (*revere and worship Him, knowing that He is*) and keep His commandments, for this is the whole of man (*the full original purpose of his creation, the object of God’s**

providence, the root of character, the foundation of happiness, the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and conditions under the sun) and the whole (duty) for every man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it is good or evil.

What do you think? Actions, actions, actions! For the truth of you is what you do!

SUMMARY: Saul, David, and Solomon were extremely blessed in their lives having God speak to them, actually enter their lives, plead with them directly or through specially chosen prophets, yet they all sinned. We are likewise extremely blessed having not only their lives and the consequences of their sins presented as hindsight but have been given the indescribable, priceless gift of Yahshua as our High Priest who paid the ultimate price for the collective sin of the world through his death. Additionally, most importantly, Yahshua gifted us His Word, the Good News that speaks of His loving protection for us throughout our lives. Still, we also become mired in sin. Hopefully, this admittedly extended study highlighted the dire consequences of disobedience to God's laws. To avoid his calamity, why shouldn't we instead direct our lives to receive the consequences of obedience! Turning our lives around, maintaining them in a loving obedience to God's ways. Up righted, positively affirming our lives, applauded by God, earning our eternal place in his Kingdom, fulfilled and completed as risen spirit beings, first fruits, beyond any comprehension of excellence that could ever be imagined!

All Scripture Amplified Bible unless otherwise noted

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