

DAVID'S PLACE WAS EMPTY

1Sam 20:25 *And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, even upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty.*

1Sam 20:27 *And it came to pass on the morrow, which was the second day of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day?*

No one loved the house of God and the fellowship of the people of God more than David. “[A Song of degrees of David.] I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD” (Psalm 122:1). In the scripture passage above, the occasion was a festival of the new moon. This was a holy day, quite similar to the Sabbath, when all were expected to participate, be ceremonially clean, and offer up sacrifices. “And in the beginnings of your months ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot” (Num 28:11). For all these reasons, no one expected the seat of David to be empty. An empty seat conveys a powerful message, especially when your name is David. Even the King, Saul, paid attention and was disturbed. May we serve the Lord Jesus so effectively that Kings and courtiers will take notice when our seats are empty. The tomb of Jesus was and is empty, and the entire world paid attention. It was the empty tomb that raised the question: who is Jesus and why did he die? The empty seat of David also raised many questions.

Saints of God, my main aim in this message today is to ask you to humbly consider the meaning of your seat in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Heb 10:25 *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

The day you received the revelation that Jesus is God manifested in the flesh (John 1:1,14), and fulfilled the plan of salvation in Acts 2:38, Jesus assigned you and me a seat in his Kingdom. Let us call it the seat of David. Let us simultaneously use the arrows of Jonathan as a metaphor for the direction of the Spirit of Jesus. “And I will shoot three arrows on the side thereof, as though I shot at a mark. And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows are on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for there is peace to thee, and no hurt; as the LORD liveth. But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows are beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away (I Samuel 20: 20-22). We need the arrows of God’s directionality in our lives if we

are to bring honor to our “seats of David”. The Lord Jesus said that the Pharisees sit in the seat of Moses, but they did not bring honor to the seat of Moses.

Mat 23:2 Saying, *The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:*

Mat 23:3 *All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.*

Mat 23:4 *For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.*

So how did David make use of his seat and how can we emulate the example of David? Before all other graces, David was a **worshipper** of God. No one, perhaps since or ever, has defined the ministry of worship like David. Whether he was happy, sad, lonely, honored, dishonored, surrounded by friends or betrayed, David always looked for a music instrument and worshipped the Lord. “[To the chief Musician upon Nehiloth, A Psalm of David.] Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple” (Psalm 5:1,7). We are called called to glorify Jesus through worship. Do not let your “seat of David” be empty in this grace.

1Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

Next, David was a **warrior** for God. He never hesitated to fight for the name of God and his truth. In fact, one reason God rejected King Saul was because he saved alive a sworn enemy of Israel, Agag, the King of the Amalekites. “And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed” (I Sam 15:18). But the Bible records that Saul disobeyed God and kept the King alive. “And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword” (I Sam 15:8). David never hesitated to engage with and destroy the enemies of the Lord – whether it was Goliath, the Philistines, Amorites, Jebusites etc., he knew it was the will of the Lord to fight and defeat them. We sit in the “seat of David” today, saints of God! Have you stopped engaging in the good fight? Our fight is against sin that works through the carnal nature, against Satan and against anything that is contrary to the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

***1Tim 6:12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

***Jude 1:3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

In fact, when David's seat was empty, it was also because he was fighting the battles of the Lord. Satan was in King Saul and wanted to kill David, and because David honored the scripture that says touch not mine anointed (Psalm 105:15), the best and wisest course of action was to leave his seat empty at that particular time. God did not call David or us to be pinned to the wall with Saul's javelin. Better to let the seat be empty temporarily – we will return to our “seat of David” rest assured in Jesus' name. There is a time that the arrows of God are shot above our heads and not beside us. The message will be clear: “And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, Is not the arrow beyond thee?” (I Sam 20:36,37).

Finally, David sought to **unite** the people of God. This is what the seat of David is for – as was mentioned previously, David would never abandon his seat unless it was necessary. In God's time, however, he returned to his seat and began the task of uniting Israel. “[A Song of degrees of David.]” “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments” (Psalm 133:1,2). Saints of God, us your “seat of David” for modelling and promoting unity. David was willing to suffer pain and humiliation at the hands of Absalom, Abner, Joab etc., for the sake of the greater unity of Israel. He was the only King who, through sheer ability, grace and love, united the 12 tribes of Israel. After him, it was all downhill.

In conclusion, use your “seat of David” to the best of your ability in this life. Soon it will be permanently empty. “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14). One day, King David could no longer sit on his seat, but was bedridden. His body was unable to keep him warm. His seat was crying out for a new occupant. Even right now, there are others who would wish to occupy our “seat of David”. “Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matt 21:43). God have mercy! Let us determine to occupy the seat of David and

emulate this great servant of God. Even when it is empty, let it be within the will of God; let it be directed by the arrows of Jesus.