

THE WRITINGS OF DAVID

Although Saul was the first king of Israel's "Golden Age", he wrote no literature to immortalize his reign. It was not until the reign of David, the second king, that the literature of the kingdom period began to be written. Most of David's writings are found in the book of Psalms, often called "the Hymnbook of Israel." As you study some of these writings, notice how each piece grew out of some personal experience of David's, and reflects his innermost thoughts and emotions at this time.

DAVID'S LESSONS FROM NATURE

Psalms 8 and 19

Although we are not sure at what time in David's life many of the Psalms were written, Psalms 8 and 19 seem definitely to have grown out of his outdoor experiences, possibly during his early life. Study them in this connection now:

A. David's Earliest Experiences: Read 1 Samuel 16

1. For what reason did God choose David to be king? 1 Samuel 16:7b and THINK!

2. What was David doing when he was called to be anointed as king? 1 Samuel 16:11

3. What happened to David as soon as he was anointed to be king? 1 Samuel 16:13b

4. For what ability was David noted during his early years? 1 Samuel 16:14-18

5. What was he chosen to do because of this ability? 1 Samuel 16:19-23

B. Psalm 8: Read in its entirety before answering these questions:

1. About Whom was David thinking as he wrote this Psalm? Psalm 8:1, 9

2. Where was he looking? Psalm 8:1b, 3

3. What time of day was it? Psalm 8:3 and THINK!

4. What question came into his mind as he continued looking in this direction? Psalm 8:3-4

5. How do you think he felt in comparison with all he saw? Psalm 8:3-4

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Book 2 Israel's Golden Age Under David and Solomon

6. Yet, what position had been given to him (and all mankind) by God? Psalm 8:5

7. From Whom had David received the right to be a shepherd? Psalm 8:6-8

8. To Whom must he give glory again as he concluded this Psalm? Psalm 8:9

C. Psalm 19: Read this Psalm in its entirety before answering these questions:

1. Where was David looking as he wrote this Psalm? Psalm 19:1 (Look up the word “firmament” in a dictionary)

2. How far could the glories of the heavens be seen? Psalm 19:3-4a

3. Can you tell what time of the day it was? Psalm 19:4b

4. To what two things did David compare the sun? Psalm 19:5-6

5. As David looked at God's perfect works in nature, of what other perfect thing did it remind him? Psalm 19:7

6. Notice the many similar thoughts which describe God's law: Psalm 19:7-11

7. When David thought of God's perfect works and words, of what did it remind him? Psalm 19:12a

7. What did he do as a result? Psalm 19:12b-14

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What was the main lesson that David learned from nature? See Romans 1:19-20

2. Have I developed the habit of thinking about the things I see, and of learning lessons from them?
