

DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
GOD'S HEART, GOD'S MAN, GOD'S WAYS  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES



### The Heart of the Matter

“A man after God’s own heart” can only refer to one person in Scripture: David. The youngest son of Jesse. The shepherd lad of Bethlehem. The giant-killer. The teenaged king-elect. The composer of psalms. Saul’s personal musician. The friend of Jonathan. The hunted fugitive. The king of Israel. The father of Solomon. The champion in battle. The aged, troubled monarch. In verbal panorama, such was God’s choice servant. A man of glorious triumph and great tragedy. Uniquely gifted but human to the core. Strong in battle but weak at home. On and on we could go, but first, let’s focus on God’s working and preparation behind the scenes.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. A Principle Worth Remembering (1 Corinthians 1:26–29)

God’s choice of a person for His purposes is contrary to human reason.

#### 2. The Jews’ Historical Backdrop (1 Samuel 8:1–5, 9, 19–22)

While the people had chosen a king who lived according to their lifestyle of compromise and lethargy, God chose David for his spirituality, humility, and integrity.

#### 3. The Lord’s Method of Training

God used four specific methods to train David: solitude, obscurity, monotony, and reality.

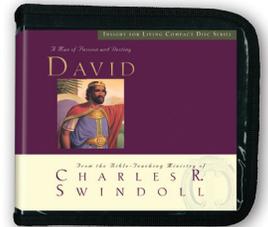


### Starting Your Journey

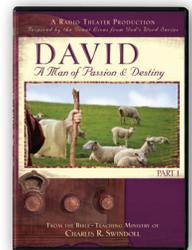
God’s preparation of David reminds us of two principles. First, it is in the little things that we prove ourselves capable for big things. Second, when God develops our inner qualities He is never in a hurry.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
A NOBODY, NOBODY NOTICED  
1 SAMUEL 15:24–16:13



### The Heart of the Matter

Solitude. Obscurity. Monotony. Reality. These were the tools God used to prepare His servant, David, for the throne. For many years a shepherd, David distinguished himself as a faithful man. Small wonder that the Lord, while searching the earth for a man after His heart, landed on Jesse's youngest son. David showed himself strong in the little things . . . so God selected him for big things. Let's take a look at how that selection transpired.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Man Panics . . . God Provides (1 Samuel 15:24–16:3)

Saul's failure as king led the people to panic, so God protected Samuel from the fallen king.

#### 2. Man Chooses . . . God Corrects (1 Samuel 16:4–10)

The "kingly" candidates paraded before Samuel, but God chose His man based on internal qualities of good character and integrity.

#### 3. Man Forgets . . . God Remembers (1 Samuel 16:11–13)

While Jesse never intended to call in his youngest son, David, Samuel recognized God's choice of the boy by anointing him as he entered the house.

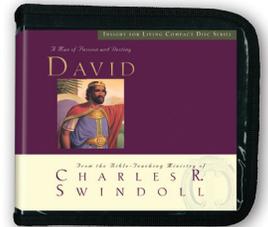


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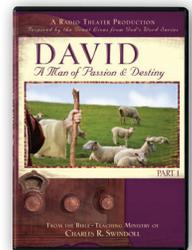
As we apply this story, it helps to keep three things in mind: God's promotions are usually sudden and surprising; God's solutions are often strange and simple; and God's selections are always sovereign and sure.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
SOFT MUSIC FOR A HARD HEART  
1 SAMUEL 16:14–23



### The Heart of the Matter

Few things comfort us more than music. Our anxieties, when enveloped in the moving strains of a song, seem far less severe. Most of us have piles of music that bring harmony to our hearts and satisfaction to our souls when we are hurting. The therapeutic value of music is nothing new. The Bible's earliest genealogical table includes "those who play the lyre and pipe" (Genesis 4:21). So it was with David, the youthful king-elect, who was more than a faithful shepherd and a man of valor. He was first known as a skillful musician, a talent that brought him face-to-face with his predecessor, King Saul.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Saul's Strange Malady (1 Samuel 16:14–15)

The Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, making way for an evil spirit to terrorize him in his final days as king.

#### 2. David's Unique Ability (1 Samuel 16:16–23)

David's skill with the lyre allowed him into Saul's presence so that the music might soothe Saul's spiritual torment.

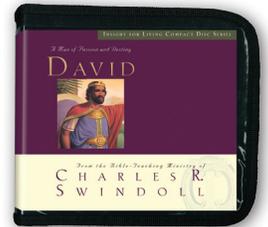


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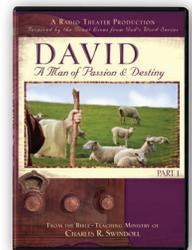
When David left Saul, the king was refreshed and relieved. Do the things you expose yourself to make that kind of positive impact on you? Or do they encourage and foster the frustration and anger already within you?



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# DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY

## DAVID AND THE DWARF

1 SAMUEL 17:1–54



### The Heart of the Matter

All of us are much more familiar with the names of believers in the Scripture than unbelievers . . . with one exception: Goliath. Hands down, Goliath is doubtlessly the most famous heathen in the entire Bible. Christians and non-Christians alike are able to relate the story that transpired centuries ago in the valley of Elah. But there is so much more than a shepherd lad who killed a giant. Between the lines of the account in 1 Samuel 17 are timeless, relevant, usable principles that apply to us as we face the “giants” of our own world—giants that are dwarflike when compared to the One who empowers us.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Goliath: Front and Center (1 Samuel 17:1–11)

In a valley west of Jerusalem, with a slowly unraveling king, Israel faced the Philistines and their imposing champion, Goliath.

#### 2. Enter: David “The Giant” (1 Samuel 17:12–39)

David came from Bethlehem to bring food to his soldiering brothers, and in the process volunteered himself to fight the giant, Goliath.

#### 3. Exit: Goliath “The Dwarf” (1 Samuel 17:40–54)

David’s unwavering faith in the Lord carried Him onto the battlefield with courage, where he won the battle and paved the way for Israel to win the battle over the Philistines.

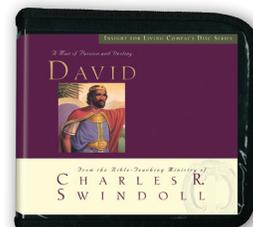


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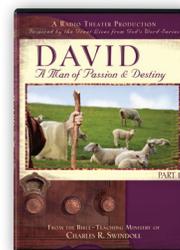
We all have “giants” that we must face. Here are four principles to keep in mind as you enter into battle: facing giants is an intimidating experience, doing battle is a lonely experience, trusting God is a stabilizing experience, and winning victories is a memorable experience.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
AFTERMATH OF A GIANT-KILLING  
1 SAMUEL 17:55–18:9



## The Heart of the Matter

If the old proverb is correct, “The darkest hour is just before the dawn,” then we might also say, “The toughest trial is just after victory.” David found this to be true. Following his battle with Goliath, in the backwash of that great victory, David stepped into an arena which was almost more than he could take. Knowing it was coming, God graciously provided him with a close, understanding friend. His name was Jonathan. Let’s take a look at what followed on the heels of David’s victory—and see how much it reflects our experience today.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Review: A Giant Slain

David had just completed a remarkable achievement—a fresh-faced, teenaged boy defeating the battle-hardened giant, Goliath. This yielded David instant popularity throughout the land.

### 2. Relationships: Four Different Experiences (1 Samuel 17:55–18:9)

David’s victory created four different relationship experiences: submission to Saul, affection for Jonathan, exaltation over Israel, and opposition from Saul.

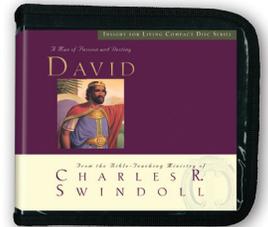


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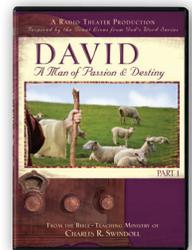
The aftermath of this victory reminds us that not knowing the future forces us to trust one day at a time, that having a friend helps us face whatever comes our way, and that being positive and wise is the best reaction to an enemy.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
EVERY CRUTCH REMOVED  
1 SAMUEL 18–21



## The Heart of the Matter

All of us are “leaners.” Not learners, *l-e-a-n-e-r-s*. We prefer not to stand alone, facing the icy blast of life without someone or something to lean on, to support us. These self-styled crutches become our securities. To some, the crutch is finances; to others, it’s employment—a certain position at work. Many lean on their reputation or children or friends or some unique ability. Whatever, they are *crutches*. Human, ego-satisfying, and emotionally supportive crutches. Then God moves in and begins an internal reconstruction process that rips away everything but Himself. The process is painful, but the result is beautiful. David too went through this process, just like we do.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Truth about Our Crutches

Crutches become substitutes for the Lord, they keep our focus horizontal, and they offer only temporary relief.

### 2. Removal of David’s Crutches

Once David won the victory over Goliath, God began to remove David’s crutches one after another—his position, his wife, his mentor, his friend, and finally, his self-respect.

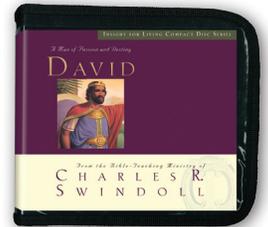


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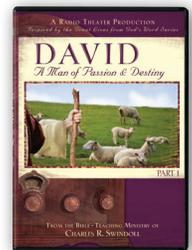
We too can learn from David’s experience. Nothing is wrong with leaning if you’re leaning on the Lord, and being stripped of all substitutes is the most painful experience on earth.



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# DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY

FOR CAVE DWELLERS ONLY

1 SAMUEL 22:1-2; SELECTED PSALMS



## The Heart of the Matter

At the bottom of his life, all crutches removed, David crawled into a cave in the Judean wilderness. He was disillusioned, hurt, lonely, and afraid. It was, up to that time, the lowest moment of his entire life. But God had a whole new direction for him to take. How it transpired is a mixture of surprise and challenge. As a result, however, David regained his confidence and became a leader over a completely different kind of people . . . heading for a unique role that ultimately fitted him for a unique rule as king in the years ahead.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. The Cave: How It Happened (1 Samuel 22:1)

David ended up virtually alone in a cave because he had no crutches, no comfort, and no hope.

### 2. The Challenge: What It Involved (1 Samuel 22:1-2)

David had to adjust to both his family and a band of strangers following him, to perceive the needs of his small group of followers, and to accept the responsibility of a leadership role over them.

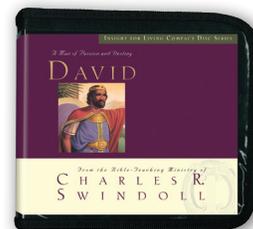


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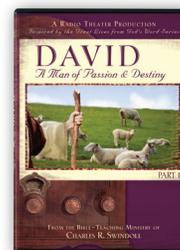
As we learn from David, we must remember that his experience changed him because he was hurt enough to admit his need, honest enough to cry for help, and humble enough to learn from God.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
LIFE'S MOST SUBTLE TEMPTATION  
1 SAMUEL 24



### The Heart of the Matter

We've all had to struggle through the desire to "get even." In fact, we've all acted on it at one time or another, allowing our hurt or pain to dictate our response to the words or actions of another. Too often we focus on our perceived "rights" more than we think about the well-being of others or what the right act might be. David had his own opportunity for vengeance. After being pursued by Saul all over southern Israel and with the opportunity to take his vengeance, David resisted and offered us a glimpse of what it looks like to turn the other cheek.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Hard Facts about Revenge

We often refer to carrying out vengeance as within our rights, but it is usually motivated by our pain and vulnerability.

#### 2. A Biblical Case Study: David and Saul (1 Samuel 24)

David encountered Saul in a cave and had an opportunity to exact revenge. But he refrained, submitting himself once again to Saul's authority.

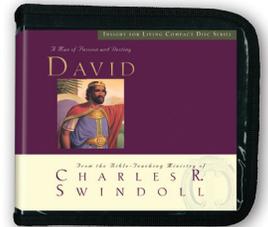


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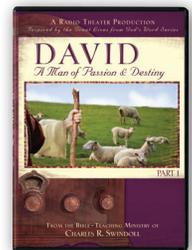
We can derive three tough principles from David's experience: first, because people are deprived, expect to be mistreated. Second, because mistreatment is inevitable, anticipate feelings of revenge. And third, because revenge is predictable, refuse to fight in the flesh.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
WHAT TO FEED AN ANGRY MAN  
1 SAMUEL 25



## The Heart of the Matter

Many Old Testament scholars believe that David was redheaded . . . as they interpret the verse that says “he was ruddy” (1 Samuel 16:12). Perhaps he was. Whether that contributed to his passionate style of life is uncertain, but we do know that he had a temper. On more than one occasion he was prompted to retaliate in anger rather than remain cool, calm, and collected. The story contained in 1 Samuel 25 is a good case in point. It is extremely practical, showing us the humanity of this great man of God and illustrating the power of a woman who knew how to use her culinary art with wisdom.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Background Information

Having protected the sheep of Nabal, David and his men expected that Nabal would share some of the profit for their service.

### 2. Main Characters

Nabal, Abigail, and David each played crucial roles in starting, extending, and calming the argument over the proper payment for service.

### 3. Natural Conflicts (1 Samuel 25:1–17)

We find in this passage conflicts between both husband and wife and employer and employee.

### 4. Supernatural Solutions (1 Samuel 25:18–42)

The wisdom and discernment of Abigail prevented David from carrying out a foolish act.

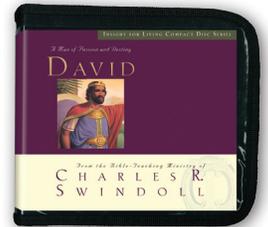


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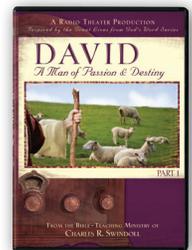
It's important to remember that whatever you do, when conflicts arise, be wise. And when you finally realize there's nothing you can do, just wait on the power of God to work out His will.



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# DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY

CLOUDY DAYS . . . DARK NIGHTS

1 SAMUEL 27:1–30:6



## The Heart of the Matter

Low tides. We all have them. Occasionally, they linger for an extended period of time, bringing overwhelming feelings of depression. The sun rays of purpose and hope become blocked by the clouds of disillusionment, doubt, and a host of accompanying enemies of faith. So it happened with David. He succumbed to such feelings as darts of fear and pessimism punctured his trust in God. The results? He played into the hands of Israel's enemy and, in fact, began to support *their* cause! Several lessons emerge from this account as we learn from David's cloudy days and dark nights.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Clouds and Darkness Come (1 Samuel 27:1–7)

It's important to see the causes, the extent, and the consequences of the darkness that seeps into our lives.

### 2. Winds and Storms Increase (1 Samuel 27:8–11)

David dealt with three internal conflicts during this time of his life: duplicity, vagueness, and secrecy.

### 3. Injury and Devastation Occur (1 Samuel 27:12)

David suffered four personal setbacks as a result of his response to the storms: a displaced identity, the onset of disillusionment, distrust from others, and great personal distress.

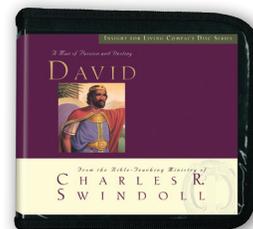


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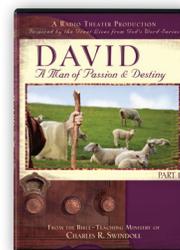
When the clouds billow up and the storms roll in, remember that these dark days call for right thinking and focus on the Lord.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
TWO DEATHS . . . A STUDY IN CONTRAST  
1 SAMUEL 31



### The Heart of the Matter

Death is unpleasant. It is unattractive to see and painful to ponder. But the Bible does not ignore its inevitability or veil its reality. In fact, it is through a death (Christ's) that we find hope in God, promise of peace, and purpose for our lives. In our study of David, we have come to the crossroads in his pilgrimage from the sheep to the throne . . . from an Israelite fugitive to the highest office in the land. And it is a death that altered David's direction—the death of King Saul. Let's examine the events that led up to the death as well as what followed, unpleasant though it was.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Saul's Demise: Pathetic Tragedy (1 Samuel 31:1–6)

Saul entered into a raging battle with the Philistines, a battle which ended for him in death—his suicide.

#### 2. Philistines' Response: Sadistic Brutality (1 Samuel 31:7–13)

The Philistines invaded the cities that were once occupied by the Israelite army, exploited their victory by brutalizing Saul's body, then lost Saul's body when a few of Israel's men sneaked into the city to bring it home.

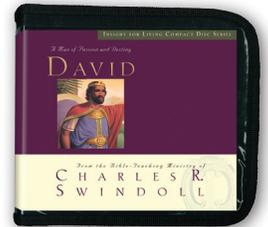


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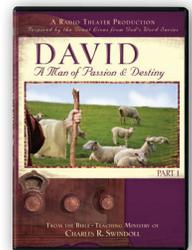
Several analogies exist between the death of Saul and the death of Christ. Both deaths appeared to be the end of all hope: Saul's ended national hope and Christ's ended spiritual hope. Both deaths seemed as though the enemy had won the final victory. Both paved the way for a new plan of operation. Both opened the throne room: Saul to David and Christ to believing sinners. And, finally, both deaths ended an era of dissatisfaction and failure.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
NEW KING, NEW THRONE, SAME LORD  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES



### The Heart of the Matter

Most of us have known the experience of being given a raise or a promotion in our employment. We've also known the experiences connected with starting a new job—one we *never* thought we would have. But no one reading these words has ever known the experience of being promoted from a fugitive to a king overnight. Think of it! One day, you're on the bottom—the next, on the top. It happened only once in Scripture—to David. With wisdom and humility, the new king took over a new throne because he had the same Lord.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Panoramic View of David's Life (Psalm 78:70–72)

David began his life as a lowly village shepherd, experienced an anointing by Samuel, and went on the run as a fugitive—all before becoming king over Israel.

#### 2. From Fugitive to Monarch (2 Samuel 5:4–5)

With his reign starting humbly in Hebron, David eventually gained power over all Israel, ruling from Jerusalem, with accomplishments and disappointments along the way.

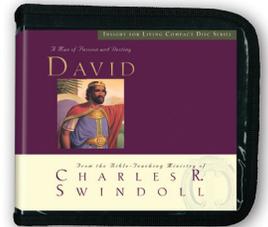


### Starting Your Journey

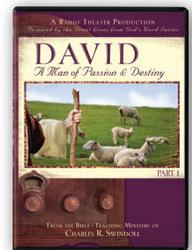
Two truths we can all hang on to from this bird's-eye view of David's life: no personal pursuit is more important than the cultivation of godliness, and no character trait needs more attention than genuine integrity.



### Tools for Digging Deeper



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**DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY**  
NEW KING, NEW THRONE, SAME LORD

<b>DAVID'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY</b>	
<b>Children Born to David in Hebron, Age 30–37</b> <i>(2 Samuel 3:2–5, 13–14; 13:1; 1 Chronicles 3:1–4)</i>	
<i>Wives</i>	<i>Children</i>
Ahinoam →	Ammon
Abigail →	Chileab (Daniel)
Maacah →	Absalom and Tamar
Haggith →	Adonijah
Abital →	Shephetiah
Eglah →	Ithream
Michal	
<b>Children Born to David in Jerusalem, Age 37–70</b> <i>(2 Samuel 5:14–16; 12:25; 1 Chronicles 3:5–8; 14:4–7; 2 Chronicles 11:18)</i>	
<i>Wives</i>	<i>Children</i>
Bathsheba →	Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon (Jedidah)
Other wives →	Ibhar, Elishua (Elishama), Eliphelet, Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada (Beeliada), Eliphelet, Jerimoth

The total size of David's immediate family was twenty sons and one daughter (1 Chronicles 3:9). This excludes concubines and their offspring, who are not named in Scripture; see 2 Samuel 5:13; 15:16; 1 Chronicles 3:9.

Adapted from Insight for Living, *David: A Man of Passion & Destiny Bible Study Guide* (Plano, Tex.: Insight for Living, 1997), 9.

# DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY

## DAVID AND THE ARK

### 2 SAMUEL 6



### The Heart of the Matter

Once David became the king of Israel, he desired to reestablish the name and worship of Jehovah in the conscience of the nation. Under Saul, the Jews had become negligent in their spiritual walk. Because the favor and protection of Jehovah were inseparably linked with certain tangibles (burnt offerings, observing the Sabbath, and revering tabernacle furniture), the king determined to secure the ark of the covenant and reinstate the significance of the tabernacle . . . placing the ark in the midst of the people in Jerusalem. This chapter of Scripture involves all that transpired in moving the ark to the capital city and David's response to its presence.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Description of David . . . and Why (Acts 13:22)

God refers to David as "a man after My heart" because David took the Lord seriously, desiring to have his life in sync with God's desires.

#### 2. Transportation of the Ark . . . and What (2 Samuel 6:1–19)

The ark was the place where the Lord met with His people, and moving it had to be undertaken with care. All of God's precepts had to be followed.

#### 3. Celebration of the Lord . . . and How (2 Samuel 6:20–23)

David celebrated before the Lord as he had finally brought the ark to Jerusalem.

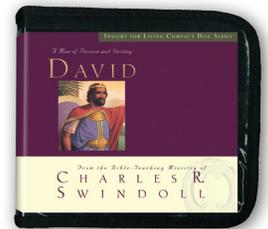


### Starting Your Journey

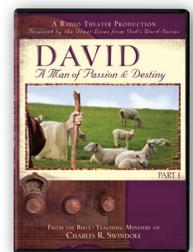
Two lessons emerge from this text: first, the better you know where you stand with the Lord, the freer you can be. And second, the freer you are before the Lord, the more confident you will be.



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# DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY

## THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

### Scripture

Exodus 25:10–22. Original Hebrew term is used 195 times in the Old Testament.

### Name

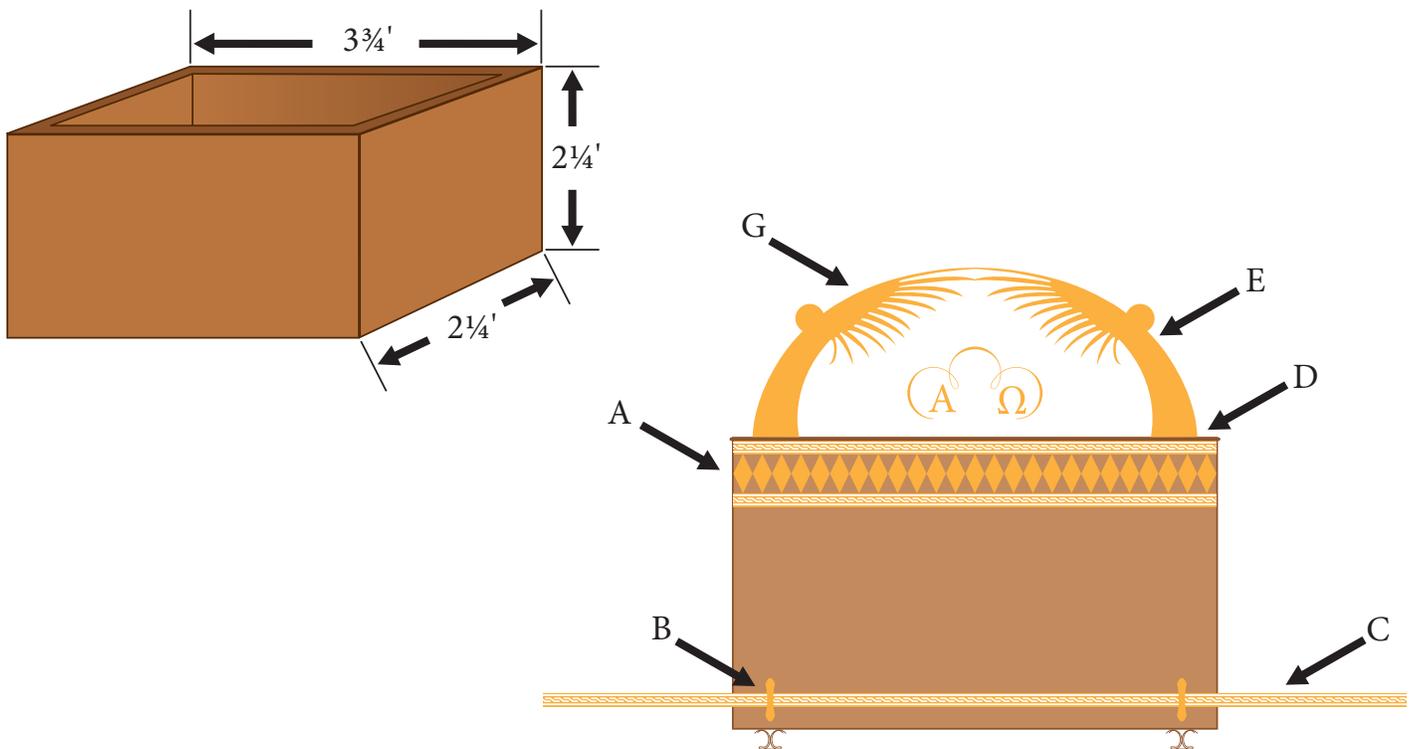
The Hebrew word translated *ark* means, literally, “box” or “chest,” suggesting its primary function as a container.

### Specifications

The ark’s pattern, as revealed to Moses at Mt. Sinai, was to be comprised of a *body* (made of acacia wood) rectangular in shape, gold-plated inside and out with a gold molding (border) around it, forming a rim (A). Its dimensions were  $3\frac{3}{4}$  feet long,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  feet wide, and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  feet high. Another significant part of the ark was its *cover*, called a “mercy seat” (D). This was a covering plate of pure gold that matched the dimensions of the chest ( $3\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$  feet). At either end of this cover was a hammered gold cherub (E, G) with wings outstretched over the plate. Beneath this plate, within the container, were three objects, according to Hebrews 9:4—a golden jar holding manna, Aaron’s rod, and the tables of the covenant. Jehovah promised He would meet with the people above the mercy seat (A Ω).

### Moving

At the base of each of the four corners there was a fixed ring of gold (B). Through these rings were slipped gold-plated poles (C) by which the entire chest was to be carried. Numbers 3:31, 4:15, and 7:9 clearly state that handling the tabernacle furniture was to be done by the Levites . . . on their shoulders.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
WHEN GOD SAYS NO  
2 SAMUEL 7



### The Heart of the Matter

Some experiences in the Christian life are best described as times of misery. Failure, mixed with disobedience and discouragement, is hard to bear. Some experiences are times of ministry, where the Lord gives special measures of strength and encouragement — where you are used in fruitful ways — and it's a downhill slide. Some experiences are times of mystery. Nothing is necessarily wrong or missing in your walk with the Lord, but for some unexplainable reason He places a definite restraint on you. His denial can lead to disillusionment or be used as a cause for continued growth in obedience. David experienced that mysterious “no” at a crucial juncture in his life. Let's see how he handled it.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. A Peaceful Interlude (2 Samuel 7:1–3)

David's kingdom experienced peace with other nations and within Israel, prompting David's plan to build a temple for the ark of the covenant.

#### 2. A Divine Response (2 Samuel 7:4–17)

God denied David's request to build the temple but made a covenant with David, promising that his kingdom would endure forever.

#### 3. A Triumphant Prayer (2 Samuel 7:18–29)

David sat before the Lord and prayed thankfully to his God.

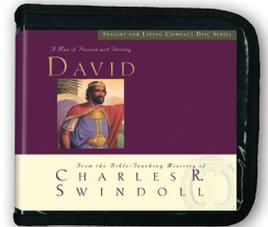


### Starting Your Journey

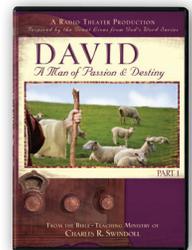
When God says no, He has a better way ahead for us. Our best reaction is cooperation with Him and support of His decision.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
GRACE IN A BARREN PLACE  
2 SAMUEL 9



### The Heart of the Matter

Looking at 2 Samuel 7, we found David enjoying a brief time of relief from the demands of his role as king . . . an interlude of quietness. Now we find him in a similar context. He was thinking back over his past. Naturally, his thoughts returned to his relationships with Saul and Jonathan and his promise to both. Reflecting on those things, he was determined in his heart to carry out his promise, regardless. This chapter conveys how he kept his promise, forming a beautiful and rich analogy of what God, in grace, has done for us.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Grace: Understanding the Truth of It

Grace is acceptance, God's positive action on our behalf, and an action that is unearned and undeserved.

#### 2. Grace: Seeing an Example of It (2 Samuel 9:1–6)

David had made a promise to protect the descendants of his friend Jonathan, so he sought out Jonathan's last living son, Mephibosheth.

#### 3. Grace: Knowing the Result of It (2 Samuel 9:7–13)

David took Mephibosheth from his home of desolation and sat him at the king's table, a place of honor and plenty.

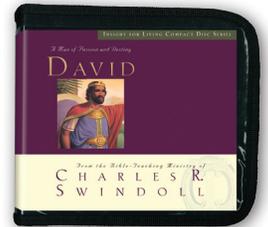


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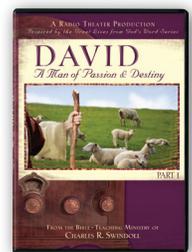
Just as David sought out Mephibosheth and cared for him, so too does God seek us out, accepting us in His grace.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
THE CASE OF THE OPEN WINDOW SHADE  
2 SAMUEL 11



### The Heart of the Matter

Those of us looking at David's life may use different words to say the same thing about his fatal experience with Bathsheba. We might call it the most distressing episode of David's life; some will see it as an exceedingly dark day; others will lament how the mighty have fallen. However we describe it, the encounter with Bathsheba and subsequent acts of sin stand as a never-to-be-forgotten illustration of the New Testament warning: "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12).



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. A Black Backdrop (2 Samuel 11:1)

David had already practiced polygamy, found himself in an especially vulnerable position of success, and he indulged himself.

#### 2. A Sensual Scene (2 Samuel 11:2–5)

David found himself caught up with lurid thoughts that led to a lustful act with lingering results.

#### 3. A Panic Plan (2 Samuel 11:6–21)

Now that he had sinned, David first planned to cover his act through deception. When that didn't work, he had Bathsheba's husband murdered.

#### 4. A Complete Cover-Up (2 Samuel 11:22–27)

David covered up his act before the troops and the nation.

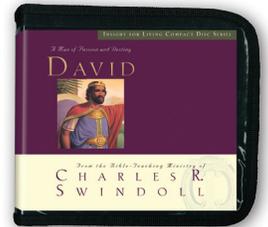


### Starting Your Journey

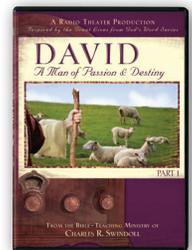
We may think that God knowingly winks at our evil deeds, but we must remember that He will always settle His accounts.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
CONFRONTATION!  
2 SAMUEL 12:1–15



### The Heart of the Matter

The deed was done. Whispers of a scandalous nature buzzed around David's palace, but no one dared say a word to the king. His bride of a few months was obviously pregnant . . . bringing a mute reminder of that fateful spring night when adultery stained the record of the king's reign. And murder. And hypocrisy. And *continued* deception. And a silent cover-up. David revealed the way the guilt took its toll on the monarch, even though he kept silent about his sin and refused to repent (Psalm 32:1–4). That is, he refused until a man of incredible courage and bold honesty stood eyeball-to-eyeball with David and exposed the truth of his deeds and deception. Let's honor that man—the prophet Nathan.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Twelve Months in Retrospect (2 Samuel 11; Psalm 32:1–4; 51:1–13)

While David bore the guilt of adultery, murder, and hypocrisy, he lived in constant awareness of his sin and lost the joy of his salvation.

#### 2. One Moment of Truth (2 Samuel 12:1–15)

The Lord sent Nathan into David's room to deliver a message in the form of a parable, a message that led to the king's repentance and restoration.

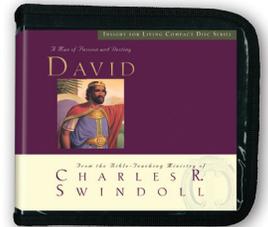


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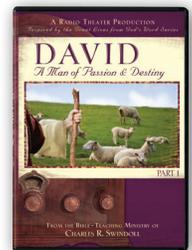
For confrontation to be effective, we must be armed with absolute truth, right timing, wise words, and fearless courage. For repentance to be recognized, we must make an open, unguarded admission, desire to make a complete break, possess a broken and humble spirit, and claim forgiveness and reinstatement.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
TROUBLE AT HOME  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES



### The Heart of the Matter

No pain is harder to bear than domestic difficulty. We can bounce back from the blows at work or recover fairly rapidly from problems at school. Even physical infirmities or emotional battles—as hurting as they may be—can hardly be compared to the devastating impact brought on by trouble at home. Family feuds, wayward kids, parent-child clashes, husband-wife disagreements, and other in-house pressures have a way of breaking our spirits and stealing our joy. And no one is immune who compromises God’s standard. Not even a king . . . like David. Witness the monarch’s misery as the sword of consequences fell on David and his family. As we watch it happen, let’s take heed!



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Sowing and Reaping (Galatians 6:7–8)

The ill-fated consequences that came upon David, his family, and his kingdom stand as a result of this principle from Galatians: we reap what we sow.

#### 2. Problems in the Palace (2 Samuel 12–18)

David’s multiple sins led to multiple grief-stricken results: marital unfaithfulness, the loss of a baby, a son disgracing his sister, inter-sibling rivalry, murder, and rebellion.

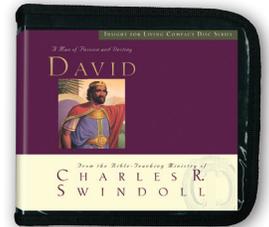


### Starting Your Journey

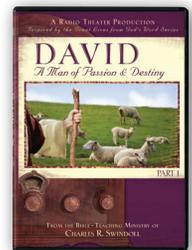
When we harbor sin in our lives, we can be sure that consequences will follow. Our response? Say no to sin.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
RIDING OUT THE STORM  
2 SAMUEL 12:15–25



## The Heart of the Matter

An ancient prophet of God wrote: “The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, / And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. / In whirlwind and storm is His way” (Nahum 1:3). Strong words of warning! Our holy God of glory in no way winks at sin among His children. With power He has His way “in whirlwind and storm” as He disciplines us when we stray. We have traced David’s tragic steps downward as the consequences of his disobedience were visited upon him. Now, let’s learn to ride out the whirlwind and the storm when we go through similar times of judgment under the smarting rod of God.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. A Review of the Principle

The “reap what you sow” principle finds support throughout Scripture, in both the Old and New Testaments.

### 2. David’s Experience and Example (2 Samuel 12:15–25)

David acknowledged his sin, prayed for strength to endure, faced the consequences head on, claimed truth from Scripture, and refused to give up on the journey of restoration.

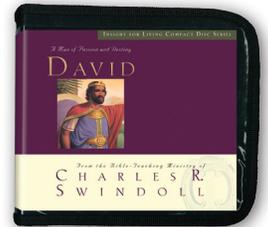


## Starting Your Journey

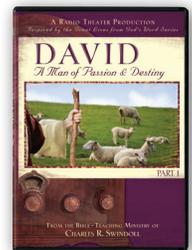
Remember, riding out the storm is a lonely experience, a learning experience, a temporary experience, and a humbling experience.



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# DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY

## FRIENDS IN NEED

2 SAMUEL 15; 17:27–29; 19:1–8



### The Heart of the Matter

Our recent times with David have been rather dismal and bleak. We've watched him fall into compromise and sin . . . then witnessed his family begin to crumble under the load of sin's consequences. Going from bad to worse, the king must have felt crushed beneath the weight of overwhelming loneliness and guilt. In times like that, a person needs a friend. Not a preacher or a professional counselor. Not a physician or an attorney. Just a friend—someone to be near and listen, to reassure and understand. Coming out of the woodwork were several individuals who surrounded the discouraged monarch with support.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. The Truth about Friends

Friends are essential, not optional; they must be cultivated, not automated; they impact our lives, rather than remain neutral; and they come in many stripes, not just one.

#### 2. The Needs in David's Life (2 Samuel 15)

David struggled with personal, domestic, and political needs in his life at this time, needing friendship in all areas.

#### 3. The People Who Stood Near (2 Samuel 15; 17:27–29; 19:1–8)

Several stood near David in support of their king during this trying time: Ittai, Zadok and Abiathar, Hushai, Shobi, Machir, Barzillai, and the commander of David's army, Joab.

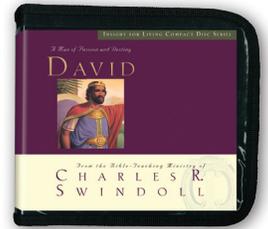


### Starting Your Journey

As you consider the importance of friendship in all areas of your life, make a point to befriend someone in your areas of life: in the neighborhood, in your church, and in the workplace.

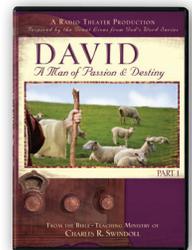


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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
BEING BIG ENOUGH TO FORGIVE  
2 SAMUEL 16:5-13; 19:16-23



### The Heart of the Matter

We all know that forgiveness is costly. So much of the hurt we experience in our lives would be on the way to healing if we would choose the simple but difficult road toward forgiveness. As always in matters of forgiveness, the offended—the forgiver—must pay the cost in full. That takes an awfully big person to pull off. As we shall see, David filled those shoes. Can you? Ask yourself that question as we take a look at another remarkable moment in David's life.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Some Initial Thoughts on Forgiveness

We often try to get away without offering our full forgiveness, and when we resist like that, we can expect to see a downward plunge in our relationship with the offender.

#### 2. An Example of Complete Forgiveness (2 Samuel 16:5-13; 19:16-23)

David stood in the midst of a storm resulting from the consequences of his sin with Bathsheba when a veritable nobody in the kingdom insulted David publicly. However, David treated the offender with grace and respect and refused to take the man's life.

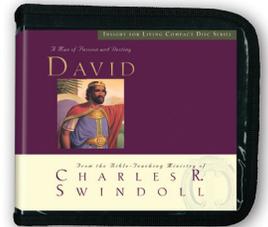


### Starting Your Journey

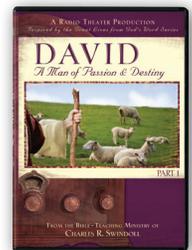
As you seek to improve in the area of offering forgiveness, cultivate a thicker layer of skin, try to understand where the offender is coming from, recall times in your life when you have needed forgiveness, and verbalize your forgiveness.



### Tools for Digging Deeper



**David: A Man of Passion & Destiny**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
compact disc series



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
A SONG OF TRIUMPH  
2 SAMUEL 22



### The Heart of the Matter

Pressure. We all respond differently to it. Some people do their best work under pressure. Others go into shut-down mode and wait for the intensity to pass. When David found the pressures of life weighing heavily on his shoulders, he often expressed his prayers to the Lord through song. Nearing the end of his life, with the pressures almost more than he could handle, David penned one of his greatest works, a song of triumph in the Lord's strength and provision.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Nearing the End of Life

David had been through much in his life, seeing both the good times and the bad times. In spite of the struggles, he continued in faithfulness to the Lord even as he neared the end of his life.

#### 2. David's Song of Triumph (2 Samuel 22)

David's song affirms that the Lord is our only security in tough times, our only light in dark days, our only power when our resolve is weak, and our only hope for a hazy future.

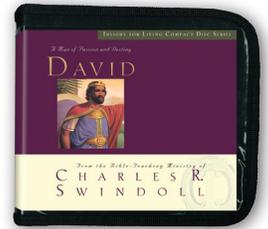


### Starting Your Journey

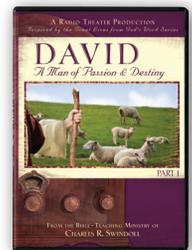
As you read David's song, remember that in spite of the difficulties that life brings, the Lord can see you through.



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DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY  
WHEN THE GODLY ARE FOOLISH  
2 SAMUEL 24; 1 CHRONICLES 21



### The Heart of the Matter

Sadly, we do not reach perfection by growing older. Age alone does not guarantee maturity or freedom from error. As Elihu said to Job, “The abundant in years may not be wise” (Job 32:9). So true. Sometimes the aged saints among us act downright foolish! When these saints are also leaders, the consequences are usually greater. Consider the aged and otherwise godly David—a father of many, a courageous warrior in battle, a king for nearly four decades, and a sensitive man of God. In spite of these achievements and experiences, he made a foolish decision based on pride and fell into Satan’s trap. From his error, we can all learn valuable lessons.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Analysis of Decision (2 Samuel 24:1–4; 1 Chronicles 21:1–6)

At some point late in David’s reign, he decided to take a census, an action independent of the Lord and ultimately for David’s selfish interests.

#### 2. Consequences of Disobedience

David declared his wrongdoing, endured the guilt of his poor choice, and confessed his care for those suffering as a result of his actions.

#### 3. Altar of Deliverance

God commanded David to build a monument to mark the event, so David bought a plot of land from Araunah and built an altar to the Lord.

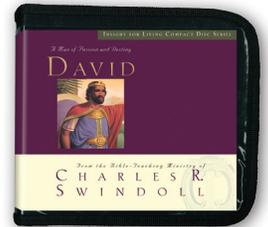


### Starting Your Journey

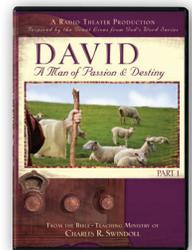
What can we learn from David’s failure? Living an unaccountable life is to flirt with danger, ignoring sin’s consequences is to reject God’s truth, and failing to take God seriously is to deny His lordship.



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# DAVID: A MAN OF PASSION & DESTINY

THE END OF AN ERA

1 CHRONICLES 28–29



## The Heart of the Matter

For forty significant years David reigned as king over God's people. Although checkered with failure and periodic lapses into carnality, David's rule was marked mainly by godliness and strength. Now at the end of his life, we find David old and perhaps physically stooped. He was facing that inevitable hour through which all must pass. Surrounded by his son, the king-elect Solomon, and an assembly of loyal followers, King David dreamed, rejoiced, gave advice, prayed, and finally died—ending an era that would never again be duplicated in the annals of history.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Reflecting on the Temple: An Unfulfilled Desire (1 Chronicles 28:1–8)

While God did not allow David to build Him a temple in Jerusalem, David focused on what God did give him.

### 2. Speaking to the Son: An Untried Ruler (1 Chronicles 28:9–19)

David encouraged his son Solomon to embrace godliness, to build the temple, and to rule with strength and courage.

### 3. Praying Before the Lord: An Unchanging Father (1 Chronicles 29:10–19)

David praised God for carrying out His plan, gave thanks for God's provision, and asked God to keep the people faithful to Him.

### 4. Rejoicing of the Assembly: An Undivided People (1 Chronicles 29:20–25)

Addressing the whole assembly of Israel, David encouraged them to bless the Lord and honor the king.

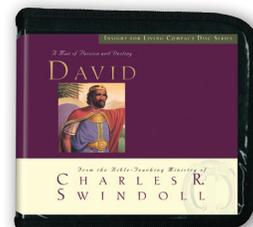


## Starting Your Journey

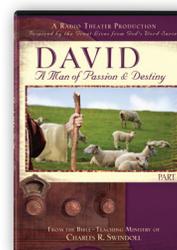
Will we end as well as David, still faithful even after all the long years of service, of failures, and of triumphs?



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INSIGHT FOR LIVING

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