



THE RISE OF KING DAVID

SHEPHERD

POET

WARRIOR

FRIEND

KING



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LET'S START!



Introduction

The life of King David is an amazing example of both suffering and success, as Yahweh mentors a mere shepherd boy to become the greatest King of Israel in history. As we explore the story of King David, there are many life lessons hidden in the text that we can apply today. David's life consisted of a series of events that tested, molded, and prepared him for future success. This was the central thesis in Dr. Ronald Cottle's Bible course called "Training for Reigning". According to Dr. Cottle, as New Testament believers, we must all train in the church if we will ever reign in the Kingdom. ¹

David had many lessons to learn at major stages of his life until he was ready to sit on the Throne of Israel. Consequently, he spent approximately 7 years (7 represents completion) at each stage in his development. David spent 7 years in **Bethlehem**, learning the life lessons needed to carry the "anointing" he received from Samuel. Afterwards, he spent 7 years hiding in **Adullam** from King Saul, as he learned the art of waiting and suffering. Finally, David spent 7 more years in **Hebron** where he experienced his "appointing" as the King of Judah, learning how to govern over a nation.

It was only after fully completing all 3 stages of his "training for reigning", that David received the fullness of the prophetic promise made by Samuel, when he was finally both "appointed" and "anointed" to be King of Israel.

Bethlehem

1. Calling
2. Anointing
3. Beginning

Adullam

1. Suffering
2. Learning
3. Growing

Hebron

1. Commitment
2. Relationship
3. Promotion



¹ Dr Ronald Cottle. Training for Reigning. Christian Life School of Theology 2021

Life Lessons



In our journey through this study, we will explore some of the life lessons that are essential for all developing young leaders. As we track through the life of King David, we will discover the necessary life lessons that prepared him to become the King of Israel. David was **anointed** to be the King at a very young age, however, he was not **appointed** to be the King, until he matured and had the knowledge and understanding gained from his experiences, as a benchmark for successfully executing his royal duties. Along the way, David needed **"training for reigning"** to reach his full potential.

Each specific lesson was essential to his future development, and his ongoing progress towards the next level of spiritual authority. As we understand the power of each specific lesson, we can apply them to our own lives as we develop into the new generation of leaders, God wants us to be.

The 14 Essential Life Lessons of King David

- (1) The Lesson Of Starting Small
- (2) The Lesson Of Fighting Fear
- (3) The Lesson Of Killing Giants
- (4) The Lesson Of Confession
- (5) The Lesson Of Friendship
- (6) The Lesson Of Prayer
- (7) The Lesson Of Character
- (8) The Lesson Of Compassion
- (9) The Lesson Of Anger
- (10) The Lesson Of Suffering
- (11) The Lesson Of Association
- (12) The Lesson Of Failure
- (13) The Lesson Of Forgiveness
- (14) The Lesson Of Success
- (15) The Lesson Of Idleness



David Anointed as King

16 Now the Lord said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. (1 Samuel 16)

God will never allow His work to die with the death or failure of a man. If it is God's work, it goes beyond any man. Perhaps Samuel was paralyzed with mourning because of Saul's tragic rebellion, but God was not paralyzed.²

Great things happen in Bethlehem! The town Bethlehem

(Beth-leck-hem) is named after 2 Hebrew words. "Beth" meaning house and "lehem" meaning bread. Bethlehem means the house of bread. For David, Bethlehem was a place of small beginning where he learned to serve and develop the "anointing" Samuel deposited in his life. At this developmental stage of his journey, David first learned to serve the sheep until he was eventually promoted to the service of King Saul.

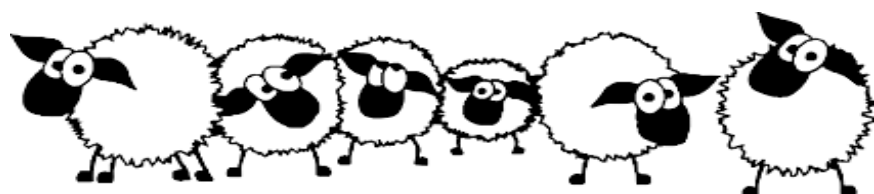
If David did not fully learn the spiritual lesson of devoted service, he would have never graduated to the higher stages of spiritual development. David would spend 7 years maturing in his calling at the "Bethlehem" stage of his spiritual development, until he was ready to graduate to bigger and better things.

Spiritual authority must be both learned and earned at the same time. A famous Bible scholar named Watchman Nee once wrote: "*There is no one who is fit to be God's delegated authority, unless he himself first knows how to be under authority*".³ This was true of King David and is also true of anyone with a legitimate "anointing" on their life. We must all start from a place of humble beginnings, learning to serve the authority Yahweh places above us. For David, his journey to the throne of Israel led him back to the sheepfold where he learned the skills of courage, self sacrifice, and dedication among the "few sheep". Paradoxically, it was also among the sheep that David gathered the courage to trust in the "anointing" which rested upon his life, when he singlehandedly killed both a lion and a bear.

The Story
BEHIND
The Story

² David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 16

³ Watchman Nee. Spiritual Authority (p.115)



Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king."

The context of this statement is amazing. Many years ago, Samuel lamented over Israel's decision to ask Yahweh for a king. In Samuel's mind, Israel had rejected the rule of Yahweh and adopted a lower form of government that was greatly inferior to the "Theocracy" Yahweh originally envisioned. Saul was chosen by the people because he looked like a warrior and had a kingly presence. However, his outward appearance disguised a prideful and rebellious heart. Now, Yahweh would personally select another king after His own heart. This new king would be completely unlike Saul on the outside, but he possessed a royal heart on the inside.



¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to Samuel's warning. "Even so, we still want a king," they said. ²⁰ "We want to be like the nations around us. Our king will judge us and lead us into battle."

²¹ So Samuel repeated to the Lord what the people had said, ²² and the Lord replied, "Do as they say, and give them a king." (1 Samuel 8)

In the selection of King Saul, Israel desperately wanted to be like every other nation in the world. This was a carnal request from the "worldly" people of Yahweh. The purpose of Israel was to be radically unlike all the other heathen nations. They were supposed to be the people of God, having Yahweh live in their midst. Yahweh intended to govern His people personally from the heart of the Tabernacle. He would be their King, living, moving, and reigning in the midst/heart of His people. By selecting Saul, the citizens of Israel indirectly rejected Yahweh and selected a carnal king in "their own image". They sadly received exactly what they looked for. They were motivated by worldly desires, and they received the worldly king they wanted. Nevertheless, the vision of Yahweh would not die. When Yahweh selected David, a man after His own heart, He was placing His king on the throne of Israel. Through King David, the plan of Yahweh would ultimately come to pass. Like Abraham, the blessing that rested upon him also rested upon his seed. The blessing of Abraham was generational and traveled down the family line, until the "seed of Abraham" was fully manifested in the person of the Messiah. Connected with this

YOU SHALL KNOW THE
TRUTH

How can Jesus be the Son of David?

"THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD"?

promise, David, as a descendant of Abraham, would also participate in the generational blessing. Incredibly, the Messiah would forever be known as both the "seed of David" and "the Son of David". Through the prophetically promised seed of King David, Yahweh would achieve His ultimate desire. He would live, move, and rule among His people forever in the person of Yahshua the "Anointed One". Therefore, the Messianic prophecy would be finally fulfilled through the House of King David, because a descendant of David would sit on the throne of Israel forever.

4 "As for you, if you will follow me with integrity and godliness, as David your father did, obeying all my commands, decrees, and regulations, 5 then I will establish the throne of your dynasty over Israel forever. For I made this promise to your father, David: 'One of your descendants will always sit on the throne of Israel.'
(1 Kings 9)

King David could never fully comprehend the gravity of this prophetic promise. Perhaps he assumed that one of his natural descendants would rule Israel forever.

However, he could never guess that his physical "descendant" would be Almighty Yahweh. This mystery was hidden from

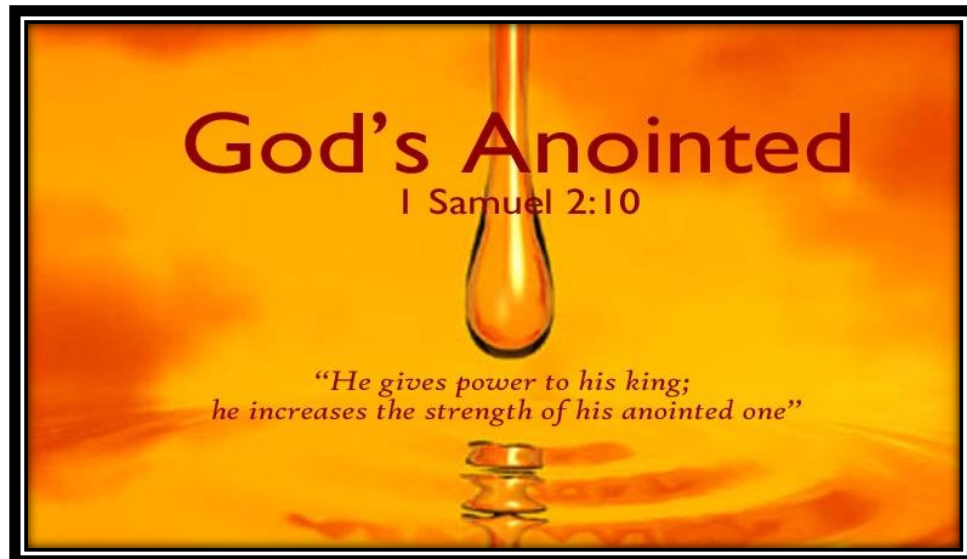
mere humans, until it was revealed in the person of Yahshua. It was impossible according to human understanding for Yahweh to be born into the family line of David, but it was necessary for the prophetic writings to come to pass. Yahshua said...

41 Then, surrounded by the Pharisees, Jesus asked them a question: 42 "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

They replied, "He is the son of David."

43 Jesus responded, "Then why does David, speaking under the inspiration of the Spirit, call the Messiah 'my Lord'? For David said,

***44 'The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit in the place of honor at my right hand
until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.'***



ANNOINTING

45 Since David called the Messiah 'my Lord,' how can the Messiah be his son?"

46 No one could answer him. And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions. (Matthew 22)

The Lord of King David was Yahweh! How could the Lord/God of David also be the son of David unless Yahweh Almighty became flesh? This was a hidden mystery the Pharisees could not grasp because it can only be spiritually discerned. The idea that Yahweh would be born as a child was ridiculous to the natural mind, but always hidden in the prophetic Scriptures from the beginning.

*6 For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.*

The government will rest on his shoulders.

*And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*7 His government and its peace
will never end.*

*He will rule with fairness and justice from the
throne of his ancestor David
for all eternity.*

*The passionate commitment of the Lord of
Heaven's Armies*

will make this happen! (Isaiah 9)



2 But Samuel asked, "How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

"Take a heifer with you," the Lord replied, "and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me."

Notice the future king, who would emerge from the house of Jesse, would be the **anointed one** chosen by Yahweh. He would not be democratically elected



by the will of the people like King Saul. He would be “appointed and anointed” by Yahweh to fulfill the destiny he was created to accomplish.

⁴ So Samuel did as the Lord instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. “What’s wrong?” they asked. “Do you come in peace?”

Samuel, like the original Old Testament prophets, was not afraid to strictly enforce the Word of God. He skillfully used his butchering knife in the service of Yahweh to accomplish His divine will. Samuel was equally comfortable cutting up a sacrificial animal as he was executing an enemy king, with his sharp, trusty blade.

³² Then Samuel said, “Bring King Agag to me.” Agag arrived full of hope, for he thought, “Surely the worst is over, and I have been spared!”³³ But Samuel said, “As your sword has killed the sons of many mothers, now your mother will be childless.” And Samuel cut Agag to pieces before the Lord at Gilgal. (1 Samuel 15)

It's no wonder the elders of Bethlehem fearfully questioned Samuel about his reason for visiting the village. His reputation went before him as a serious man of God. When Samuel suddenly arrived unannounced, the people knew something big was about to happen.


⁵ “Yes,” Samuel replied. “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.

The idea of having a sacrifice was the perfect cover to invite Jesse’s entire family to partake in the portion of the meat that was to be shared in the celebration. Furthermore, his mission to anoint the new King of Israel, would be intentionally concealed from the general public.


⁶ When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed!”

⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”


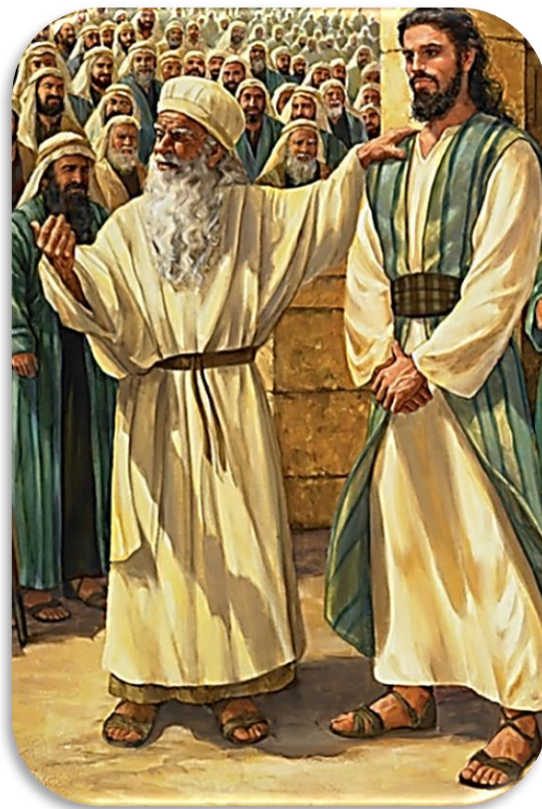
Following the same kind of thinking that brought Saul to power, Samuel wrongly evaluated Eliab by his impressive external appearance and quickly concluded he must be the Lord’s anointed king because he looked like a




great warrior. *The world is full of idolatries, but I question if any idolatry has been more extensively practiced than the idolatry of the outward appearance.*⁴ Fortunately, Samuel realized his mistake as he cautiously inquired of the Lord.




Yahweh instantaneously evaluated the content of Eliab's heart and rejected him because of his unseen character. *Eliab and the seven oldest sons of Jesse were perfect potential kings as far as the flesh is concerned. But God didn't want a king after the flesh. Israel already had a king like that.*⁵ This is something only Yahweh can do because He continuously exists outside of the confines of time and space. God knows everything before it happens because He is yesterday, today and forever simultaneously. Looking the part of a king, does not guarantee the heart of a king.



⁸ Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "This is not the one the Lord has chosen." ⁹ Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, "Neither is this the one the Lord has chosen." ¹⁰ In the same way all seven of Jesse's sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Then Samuel asked, "Are these all the sons you have?"



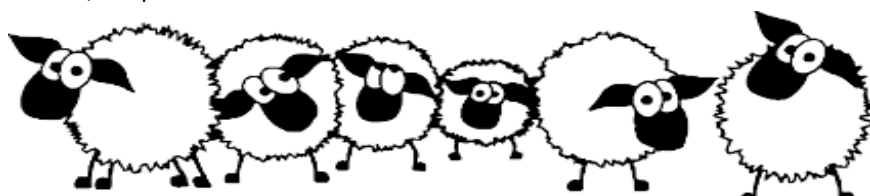
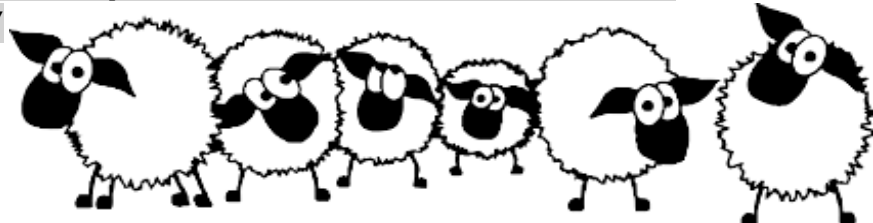
There is an unmentioned clue in the text that is quite insightful. Jesse invited all of his "legitimate" sons to be evaluated by the prophet. After all of his sons failed the test, Samuel asks is there another son who is not here? Sheepishly, Jesse replies there is another son but for some reason he is not included in the household, but he lives in the field. The question is obvious for the original audience. Why was David not included in the family and considered a "legitimate" son of Jesse like the rest?

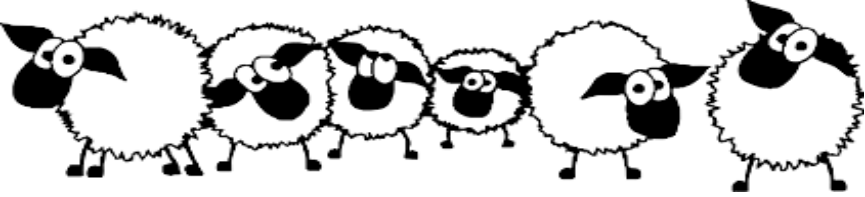


"There is still the youngest," Jesse replied. "But he's out in the fields watching the sheep and goats."

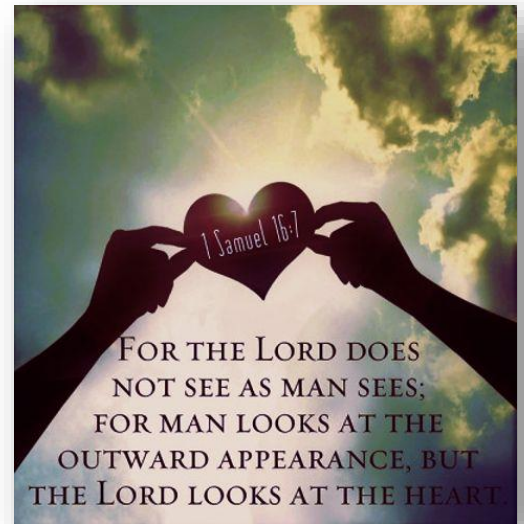
⁴ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 16

⁵ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 16





Notice David was not even mentioned by name by his own father but was instead described by his rank in the family. He was not only the youngest but was in the lowest position of status. For some unspoken reason, David was an outcast who was despised and rejected by his own family. Was Jessie ashamed of his son David and wanted to hide him away from the eyes of the holy prophet Samuel? Was there a reason he was not invited to the public feast? Perhaps the actions of Jessie indicated there was something about his son David that needed to remain hidden.



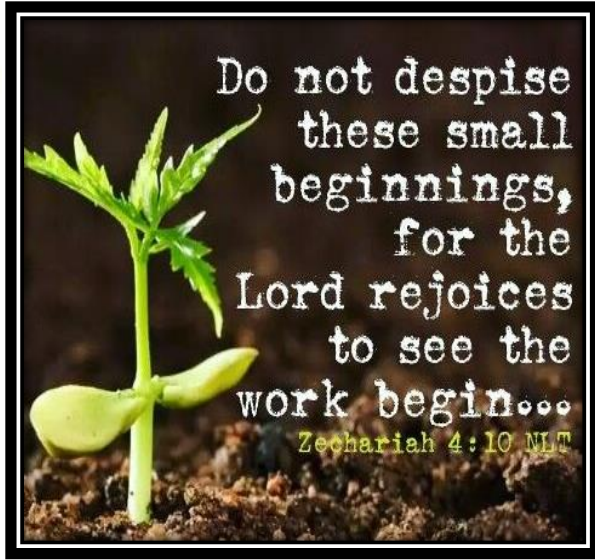
Keeping and caring for the sheep was the responsibility of the lowest member of the household and was a duty commonly reserved for a servant. However, in a poor rural family who had no money to pay a servant, the lowly position of the servant and the lowest son, was one in the same. David for many reasons was considered to be "inconsiderable" for the exalted position of the King of Israel.

The Lesson Of Starting Small

The first lesson David needed to learn was **not to despise small beginnings**. As David began "training for reigning", he needed to start at the bottom and work his way up. This is an important process in the development of successful spiritual leaders. People who are irresponsible with small tasks, will never be responsible with larger duties. Character and discipline must be learned with small things first, until we prove ourselves ready for higher levels of responsibility.

Abraham spent many years waiting for a child. Joseph spent most of his young life in jail. Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness tending the flock of Jethro. For the biblical heroes of the ancient past, Yahweh employed seasons of both "making and breaking", working simultaneously to build the character of these tremendous men of God. Likewise, Yahweh did not waste David's time as he tended the **few sheep** in the wilderness. Unwittingly, David developed the skills he needed to be the greatest king in Israel's history, exactly where he was at this time. Keeping the **few sheep** in the wilderness was a demanding task that significantly developed his leadership skills and personal character.





Keeping the sheep was a servant's job. The fact that David was out keeping the sheep showed that the family of Jesse was not especially wealthy, because if they were wealthy a servant would be keeping the sheep. But they were not affluent enough to have servants.

Keeping the sheep meant you had time to think. David spent a lot of time looking over the sheep and looking at the glory of God's creation. God built in him a heart to sing about His glory in all creation (Psalm 19:1-4 and Psalm 8 are good examples).

Keeping the sheep took a special heart, a special care. It meant you knew how sheep needed the care and help of a good shepherd. You learned that you were a sheep and God was your shepherd. During these years, God built in David the heart that would sing about the LORD as his shepherd (as in Psalm 23).

Keeping the sheep meant you had to trust God in the midst of danger. David had lions and bears and wolves to contend with and the sheep had to be protected. "The country round Bethlehem was not a peaceful paradise, and the career of a shepherd was not the easy life."⁶

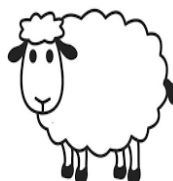
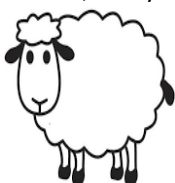
Yahweh the Good Shepherd

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. ¹² A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.



¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I

⁶ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 16



must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd. (John 10)

As the prophesied son of David, Yahshua was the ultimate manifestation of the "Good Shepherd". Building on the image of David, who fought Goliath as the Shepherd of Israel, Christ is the ultimate superhero who defeated Satan on behalf of all who were held captive. The idea of a shepherd laying down his life for the cause of mere sheep, is a ridiculous idea. The selfishness of fallen humanity scoffs at this outrageous concept. However, in the scripture, this illustration of sacrificial love is the foundation of Biblical redemption. King David was a foreshadow of the ultimate **superhero** still to come.

**CONTEXT
IS KING**



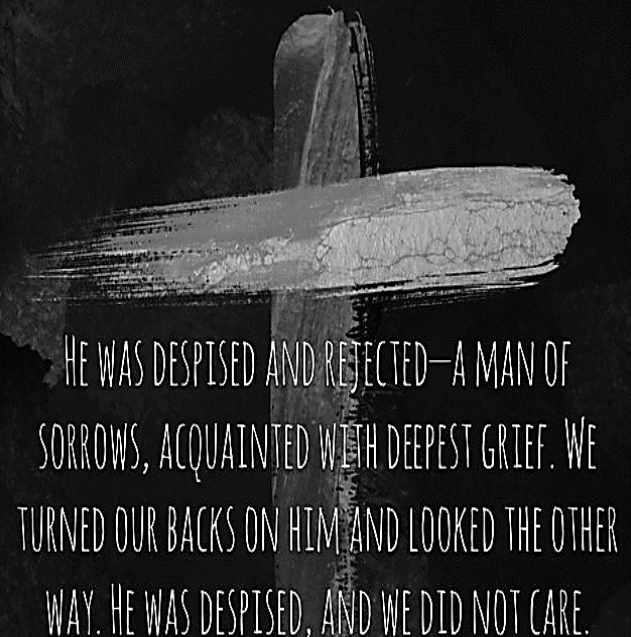
Was King David illegitimate?

There are many subtle clues in the text that support the idea that David was an illegitimate child in the household of Jessie. There is a strangely cryptic passage about his conception in the Psalms.

***⁵ Behold, in iniquity I was born,
and in sin my mother conceived me. (Psalms 51)***

The fact that David was never included among his brothers is an obvious clue that things were not always harmonious in the house of Jessie. When Saul arrived, David occupied the position of the lowest slave and did not live in the family household. David lived in the field with the **few sheep** indicating that the house of Jessie was relatively poor and possessed little in material wealth. Like Yahshua, David was poor, rejected, acquainted with suffering, and disregarded by his own brothers.

Furthermore, when Saul asked Jessie if he had any other sons, Jessie needed time to think about the question. In yet another clue, when all the other sons of Jessie were enlisted to serve in the army of Israel, David is mysteriously excluded from military service even though he was of age. In



HE WAS DESPISED AND REJECTED—A MAN OF
SORROWS, ACQUAINTED WITH DEEPEST GRIEF. WE
TURNED OUR BACKS ON HIM AND LOOKED THE OTHER
WAY. HE WAS DESPISED, AND WE DID NOT CARE.

ISAIAH 53:3 NLT

ANOINT MY HEAD

ancient Israel, an illegitimate male child was not authorized to serve in the Army of the Lord.

² An illegitimate child may not come into the assembly of Yahweh; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants may come into the assembly of Yahweh. (Deuteronomy 23)

Finally, with a heroic figure, as incredible as King David, a royal birth narrative would be expected from the Hebrew writers. However, in the case of King David the Scripture was oddly silent about his mother and the story of his conception. This was valuable historical information for the nation of Israel that would have been normally included in the history of the kings. Nevertheless, for some unstated reason, there is no birth narrative about King David and no mention of his mother in the genealogical line.

The strange silence surrounding this topic led many Biblical scholars to believe there was something problematic with David's conception.

There was likely something unmentionable about the legitimacy of his birth that caused the Hebrew writers to be completely silent in relation to this matter.

In yet another obvious connection between King David and the Son of David, Yahshua, the suspicion that surrounded their birth narrative caused many to assume that both men were conceived illegitimately. In fact, the assumption that Yahshua was a "bastard child" followed Him all the days of His life because he was clearly not the son of Joseph, who was forever called the husband of Mary.

You are doing the works of your own father."

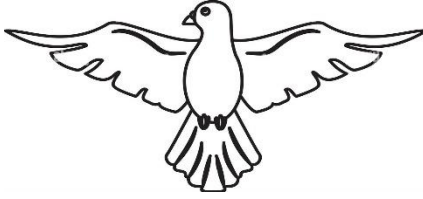
"We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

- John 8:41 NIV

"Send for him at once," Samuel said. "We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."

It would take a while for David to arrive from the backcountry. However, Samuel instructed the entire family to remain standing as a gesture of respect. If little David was the Lord's anointed, he deserved this kind of admiration. In the Israelite culture, there was great esteem given to the eldest members of the family, especially the first-born son. Eliab was the oldest son, who culturally deserved the greatest respect. For the entire





family to remain standing for an extended period of time until David arrived, it was a humbling and perhaps humiliating experience.

12 So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes.

The idea of being “dark and handsome” was connected to his status as being an “outside” son. The fact that David called the field his home and the sheep his family, is deeply insightful when it comes to the **type and shadow** cast by his introduction. Working in the blazing sun with the sheep made David darker than his brothers. This idea was also echoed in the Song of Solomon where the heroine was scorched by the unforgiving sun.



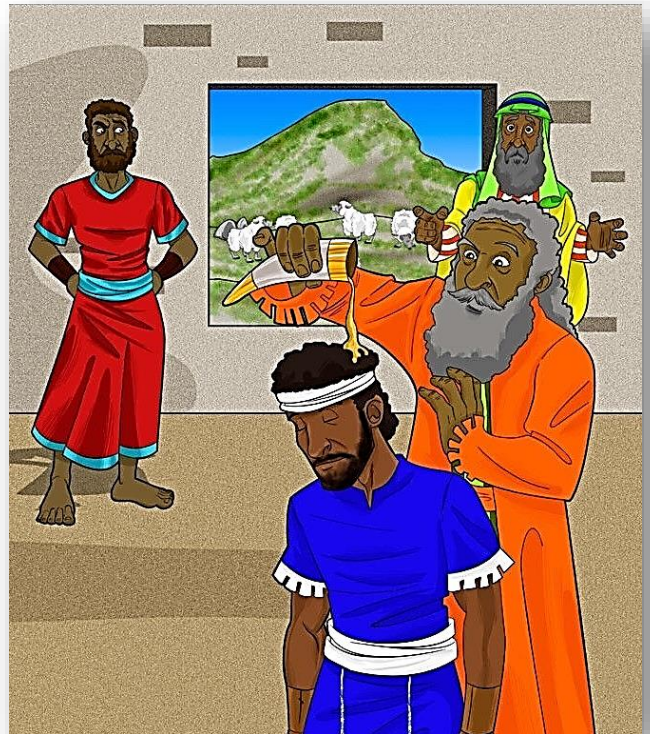
5 I am black but beautiful, O maidens of Jerusalem, I like the tents of Kedar, like the curtains of Solomon.

6 Do not gaze at me because I am black, because the sun has stared at me. The sons of my mother were angry with me; they made me keeper of the vineyards, but my own “vineyard” I did not keep. (Song of Solomon 1) LEB

Interestingly, like David, her dark complexion was caused because she was rejected by her brothers and forced to work long hours in the fields. Nevertheless, she was incredibly dark and exceptionally beautiful.

And the Lord said, “This is the one; anoint him.”

13 So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.



The reoccurring image of David being anointed with oil in the presence of his enemies strangely applied in this specific text, as his brothers remain standing until he arrives as the guest of honor.

In another interesting parallel, Yahweh alone vindicated David and identified him as the **one** who is **anointed** to be king. After being directly appointed

MY GUP

RUNS OVER

Why are **PASTORS** called

by Yahweh, David is also anointed by the power of the Spirit and is led out into the wilderness to tend the sheep. There is a striking similarity between this anointing narrative and the anointing of Yahshua in the New Testament.

16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." (Matthew 3)

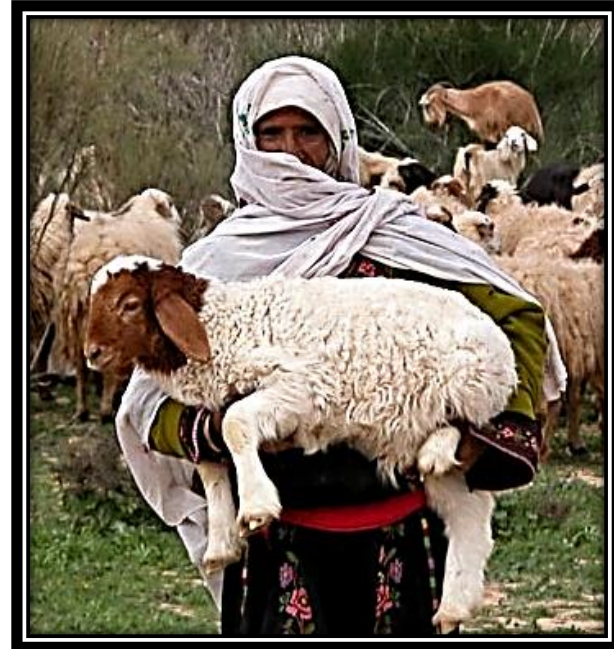
Moreover, the coming of the Spirit must have been an internal reality because nothing seems to change for David on the surface. After this powerful experience, David returned sheepishly to live among his sheep as if nothing really happened at all.

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD
is upon me, because He hath
ANOINTED ME
to preach the gospel to the poor;
He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted,
to preach deliverance to the captives,
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty them that are bruised.

YOU SHALL KNOW THE
TRUTH

70 He chose his servant David, calling him from the sheep pens. 71 He took David from tending the ewes and lambs and made him the shepherd of Jacob's descendants— God's own people, Israel. 72 He cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands. (Psalm 78)

The historical narrative of King David was truly remarkable considering where he came from. Shepherds have always had a powerfully symbolic meaning in the Scripture. Being a shepherd was the lowest way a person could possibly make a living in ancient Israel, aside from stealing and robbing. Shepherds were continually despised and rejected in the historical Biblical narrative. The last thing in the world a father would want in Hebrew culture, was for his daughter to come home and say she wanted to marry a lowlife shepherd.



SHEPHERDS?

Shepherding was hard and thankless work. You spent days and sometimes weeks, alone with the sheep in the field, often smelling like them. You were constantly wet and cold for extended periods of time without having a soft bed to lay your head. Being a shepherd was close to being considered a slave. They were the “lowest” members of Hebrew society and were normally considered the “least” of all in the ancient Jewish culture.

⁸ “Now go and say to my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people Israel. (2 Samuel 7)

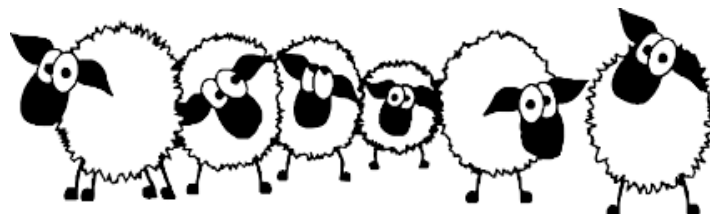
Shepherds in the birth narrative of the Messiah

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” (Luke 2)



It was totally unlikely that the glorious angels of the Lord would send for mere shepherds, to come and worship the newborn Messiah. However, shepherds were exactly the type of people the Messiah came to save. Yahshua came for the despised and the rejected people of the world. Despised, marginalized, and rejected people were obviously well represented by these lowly shepherds.

In another interesting connection, the Messiah identifies Himself as the “**Good Shepherd**”. This is actually a play on words. Could any mere shepherd really be considered as good? This was not a position of prestige. It was truly a position of dishonor and humiliation. Yet, Yahshua adopted the title and willingly applied it to Himself. The idea that the King of the Universe would be a despised shepherd, is a Biblical illustration rooted in the humble legacy of King David.



Additionally, the word "pastor" means "shepherd". A pastor's job is "to lead the sheep to pasture, set them to grazing and cause the sheep to eat". The term "pastor" in New Testament also relates to the role of an elder within the church and is synonymous with the biblical understanding of a servant minister.

David Serves in Saul's Court

14 Now the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul, and the Lord sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear.

The moment the Spirit rested upon David; His empowerment naturally departed from Saul. There is no empty space in the spiritual realm. When the Spirit departed from Saul, it created a vacuum in his soul that was instantly filled with another, lesser spirit. Saul resisted the Holy Spirit until Yahweh gave him exactly what he wanted.

He constantly acted independently of the Holy Spirit, until Yahweh gave him the independence he longed for. He desperately desired the empowerment of the Spirit, while treating obedience as an option. This was a foolish mistake. It's impossible to exercise the power of the Spirit, without obedience and loyalty to the voice of Yahweh! Hence, the Lord turned Saul over to hearing another voice. Instead of being troubled by constantly hearing the demanding voice of the Spirit, he would now be relentlessly tormented by the voice of a demonic force that distressed him mercilessly for the rest of his life.

If this demonic spirit was **actively** sent to torment Saul or **passively** allowed to harass him, the end result was the same. Saul was demonized because he persistently opposed the gentle leading of the Spirit. Did Saul lose his salvation? Who knows. But he obviously lost his mind and his anointing to be the king of Israel. Interestingly, he did not instantly lose his position right away, but lost his God given ability to keep it.



Will the Holy Spirit

YOU SHALL KNOW THE
TRUTH

*If God is all-good, why did He send a distressing spirit upon Saul? There are two senses in which God may send something. (1) He may send something in the **active sense** or (2) He may send something in a **passive sense**. Actively, God never initiates or performs evil; He is the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning (James 1:17). Passively, God may*

withdraw the hand of His protection and therefore allow evil to come, without being the source of the evil itself.⁷

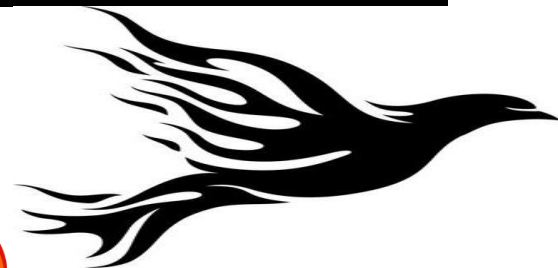
When David committed his horrific sin with Bathsheba, he was terrified at the thought of the Holy Spirit departing from him. David saw firsthand, what this meant in the life of Saul. As David repented, he begged the Lord not to take His Spirit away, and to create a right heart in him that long for His presence. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit rested upon the

people of God and departed once the task was completed. The "anointing" of the Spirit rested upon the king, the priest, and the prophet for the purpose of the ministry. However, in the New Testament we have a much better covenant because Holy Spirit will never leave us. This is why the continual presence of the Holy Spirit is such a comfort for all believers. We don't have to fear that God will take the Holy Spirit from us because He "lives within us forever".

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. (John 14)

Create in me
a pure heart, O God,
 and renew a
steadfast
spirit within me.
- Psalm 51:10

⁷ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 16



ever leave a Christian?

15 Some of Saul's servants said to him, "A tormenting spirit from God is troubling you. 16 Let us find a good musician to play the harp whenever the tormenting spirit troubles you. He will play soothing music, and you will soon be well again."

Saul's servants clearly understood that music was a means of powerful spiritual warfare. The healing power of God was always ministered in music. Music is also an essential aspect of angelic worship. Scripture implied that Satan was an angelic worship leader, who fell into sin because of pride. Worship is presently being carried out in the presence of Yahweh, with celestial music and angelic songs, right now. Genuine worship is not only about singing songs and playing music. It's an inner expression of adoration directed to Yahweh that has the unique ability to drive back spiritual darkness and set the demonically bound captive free.

17 "All right," Saul said. "Find me someone who plays well, and bring him here."

It's important to understand that worship has a way of changing the atmosphere. Even from an Old Testament perspective, the people of Israel understood the importance of controlling the environment when it came to the presence of demonic forces. In an atmosphere of authentic worship, demonic forces are frustrated and forced to flee. That was specifically why the wise servants of Saul looked for an anointed musician to minister to the king by controlling the mood around him with anointed worship music.

*God created music and gave it the capability to touch people with great power. Music can be used for great good or for great evil, because it so powerfully communicates to our inner being.*⁸ Music is a tool that carries great spiritual influence and can be used for both good and evil depending on the intention of the musician. That is why we need to guard our heart against certain types of music. Demonically empowered music can become an entry point for diabolical spirits to gain access into our life if we are unaware of its tremendous spiritual power.



⁸ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 16



**WORSHIP
IS MY
warfare**

BATTLING DEPRESSION WITH THE WEAPON OF WORSHIP

18 One of the servants said to Saul, "One of Jesse's sons from Bethlehem is a talented harp player. Not only that—he is a brave warrior, a man of war, and has good judgment. He is also a fine-looking young man, and the Lord is with him."

Notice, David's anointing was bringing him into the presence of the king. Interestingly, David was introduced by the author of I Samuel as both a man of **music** and a man of **war**. Music is an essential part of spiritual warfare. Any enemy in the physical world must be conquered in the spiritual world first. David was first called into the area of spiritual warfare, long before he was revealed as a skilled master of physical warfare.

David the Anointed Musician



David's first passion was music. Perhaps this is why he was also overlooked by his relatives when Samuel came looking for a king. In ancient Israel, a king was primarily a great warrior leading his army into battle. David was most likely already a very skilled musician when anointed by Samuel. Tending sheep in the open field allowed David the time to write, compose and practice his skills as a "Psalmist" in the crushingly long hours of isolation.

The Book of Psalms consists of 150 songs and approximately half were attributed to King David. David was a man who passionately worshipped Yahweh. He put his feelings, frustrations, joy, and adoration to music and constantly sang before his God. The ancient Hebrews were a musical people, who had an international reputation for their amazing talent associated with song and dance. Even during the Babylonian captivity, the Israelites were known for their musical skills.

1 Beside the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept as we thought of Jerusalem.

2 We put away our harps, hanging them on the branches of poplar trees.

3 For our captors demanded a song from us. Our tormentors insisted on a joyful hymn: "Sing us one of those songs of Jerusalem!"

4 But how can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a pagan land? (Psalm 137)



WORSHIP IS YOUR

WEAPON





Much of what we know about the life of King David is recorded in the songs and poems he wrote to Yahweh and musically performed in the Temple. If it was not for his inspiring musical skills, we would not have some of the most encouraging Scriptures in our Bible. It was David who wrote the "Lord is my Shepherd", which became a standard prayer for most Christian believers. David's songs have been recited over the history of the church. His poems are also quoted in many areas of the Bible, including the prophetic literature, and even referenced by Yahshua himself. David's influence as an anointed musician has had a longer and greater impact on world history, than his contribution as the greatest ancient warrior of all time.

19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, "Send me your son David, the shepherd." 20 Jesse responded by sending David to Saul, along with a young goat, a donkey loaded with bread, and a wineskin full of wine.

David was anointed from the time the oil touched his head. From that instant, he had a mighty anointing for worship and war. It was not long before that "anointing" made a way for him to stand before the king.

21 So David went to Saul and began serving him. Saul loved David very much, and David became his armor bearer.

As noted, the anointing on David's life caused him to surface to the top. However, David also embraced his place of service and served the king with all his heart. He would never raise his hand against his master Saul, even when he was repeatedly illtreated and frequently misunderstood. At first, Saul loved David and kept him close as his personal servant and musician. David desperately wanted a spiritual **father figure** when Saul appointed him to be his apprentice. Ironically, Saul would inadvertently train David to become the future King of Israel without even understanding what he was doing. In the palace, David learned from Saul how to manage a nation and conduct the business of a king, as he faithfully served his master.

22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse asking, "Please let David remain in my service, for I am very pleased with him."

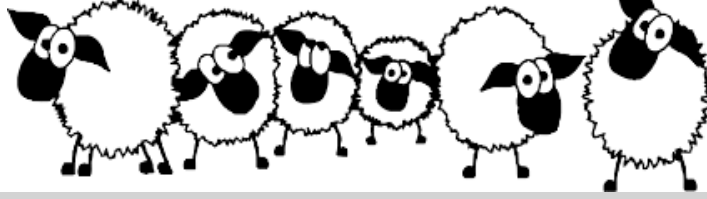


WALKING
IN THE
ANOINTING



*Your gift will make room
for you*

PROVERBS 18:16



23 And whenever the tormenting spirit from God troubled Saul, David would play the harp. Then Saul would feel better, and the tormenting spirit would go away.

Notice the kingly anointing on David led him to the royal palace. David needed to learn another skill after apprenticing with the sheep. He would now learn to **shepherd people** by sitting under the mentorship of King Saul.

Notice, everywhere David goes he is training for reigning at every stage in his life. The sheepfold was a place of amazing personal expansion that gave him the skills he would need in the palace.

The Spiritual Pattern of Apprenticeship

The Story
BEHIND
The Story

In our contemporary culture, we assume that having the skills and talents to accomplish a specific task qualifies us for a position of leadership. This is not a Biblical understanding of leadership development. According to ancient Hebrew tradition, leaders emerged over a long period of time after sitting under the apprenticeship of other mature and experienced mentors. This was the sacred pattern established

in both the Old and New Covenant. Joshua served Moses for many years until the mantle of leadership came upon him and he took the children of Israel into the Promised Land. Elisha served Elijah for many years and refused to leave his side until the mantle of authority “fell upon” him. David likewise learned how to manage the kingdom, by serving under King Saul as both his servant and heroic general.

In the New Testament, the original disciples left everything and followed Yahshua for three years, learning how to do the ministry of the Kingdom of God. Even in the Pastoral Epistles, we find the same pattern established. Paul the Apostle was their rabbi, who discipled his young spiritual children. Paul raised up Timothy, Titus, and Silas to become leaders in the New Testament Church by closely following his personal example.

In our present-day context, we could learn a lot from the historical pattern of Biblical discipleship. Spiritual leaders are not made, they are developed over a long period of time. Formal education is helpful and essential to sharpen the indispensable skills a leader must possess. Nevertheless, leadership abilities are both **caught** and **taught** at the same time. Furthermore, it's up to the emerging leader to find someone with both experience and moral character to sit under, as a disciple. The established

SPIRITUAL
APPRENTICESHIP

THE NEPHILIM



leader already possesses the skills and experience the young apprentice desperately needs. A young apprentice can only learn these necessary skills by closely watching and observing from a place of intimacy. This was the method employed by Jewish rabbis when calling a new disciple to “follow them” for years at a time. It's only when certain spiritual tests are passed that the mantle of leadership is truly released. The **position of authority** must be legally achieved before the **mantle of authority** is handed down by Yahweh.



1. Why did Samuel wrongfully assume Eliab was the one the Lord selected? The text says Yahweh does not judge by outer appearance but looks intently at the heart, do we do the same as believers?
2. Does it seem strange that David was not even considered to be a part of his own family by his father Jesse? Why?
3. What do you make of the phrase, “an evil spirit from the Lord?” Does the Lord send evil spirits to His will?
4. The Israelite culture understood that worship music had a powerful effect on tormenting spirits. How is this insightful to us?
5. David is first introduced as the anointed Psalmist. What is the spiritual connection between worship and spiritual warfare?

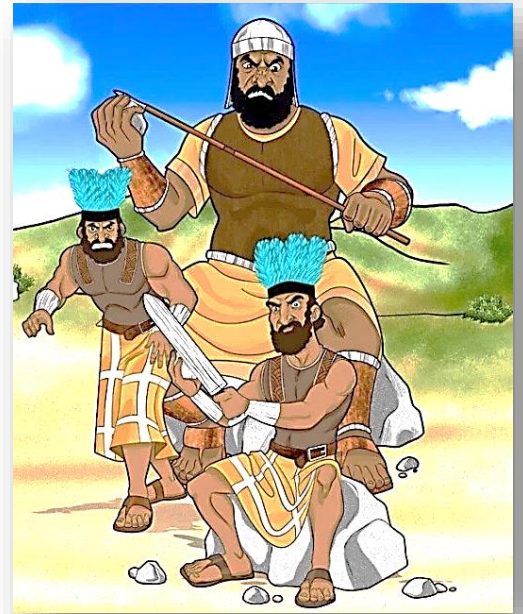


Goliath Challenges the Israelites

17 The Philistines now mustered their army for battle and camped between Socoh in Judah and Azekah at Ephes-dammim. ² Saul countered by gathering his Israelite troops near the valley of Elah. ³ So the Philistines and Israelites faced each other on opposite hills, with the valley between them.

This is an amazing illustration of the opposing forces of good versus evil. The armies of Yahweh are assembled against the armies of the enemies of God. The two opposing camps are fortified on the high places seeking control of the **Promised Land** Yahweh gave to the people of Israel.

4 Then Goliath, a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel.



Who Were The Nephilim?

The geographical connection to the region of Gath is especially insightful to understand this story. Goliath is not just a big man; he was a giant. He came from a region that had the last remaining "giant" clans in the territory. Gath was a stronghold of the few remaining Nephilim tribes that remained in the land of Israel. Goliath was a descendant of the Anakim, who were a formidable race of warrior titans. The name Anakim, according to biblical



scholarship, means “long necked giants”. The ancient Hebrews understood them to be descendants of the Nephilim, who were extremely powerful angelic/human hybrids who existed on the earth before and after the flood of Noah.

9 *“Listen, O Israel! Today you are about to cross the Jordan River to take over the land belonging to nations much greater and more powerful than you. They live in cities with walls that reach to the sky! ² The people are strong and tall—descendants of the famous Anakite giants. You’ve heard the saying, ‘Who can stand up to the Anakites?’ ³ But recognize today that the Lord your God is the one who will cross over ahead of you like a devouring fire to destroy them. He will subdue them so that you will quickly conquer them and drive them out, just as the Lord has promised. (Deuteronomy 9)*



The giants were a persistent thorn in the side of the Israelite people until they were finally exterminated under the rule of King David.

20 *In another battle with the Philistines at Gath, they encountered a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in all, who was also a descendant of the giants. ²¹ But when he defied and taunted Israel, he was killed by Jonathan, the son of David’s brother Shimea. ²² These four Philistines were descendants of the giants of Gath, but David and his warriors killed them. (2 Samuel 21)*



This story connects the Jewish people to another time in their history when they were crippled by fear. After scouting out the Promised Land, the Jewish spies spread a negative report of the land because they were afraid of fighting the Nephilim who lived among the Canaanite people.

33 *We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that’s what they thought, too!” (Numbers 13)*

For their cowardly behavior, Israel was sentenced to walk around in circles until their entire generation, who refused to fight the massive monsters, died in the wilderness.

He was over nine feet tall! ⁵ He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds. ⁶ He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder. ⁷ The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver's beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a shield.

The physical size of this monstrous man was incredible. He was totally awesome and carried state of the art weaponry for his era. He was covered with armor and very skilled in wielding every weapon at his disposal.

⁸ Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. "Why are you all coming out to fight?" he called. "I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! ⁹ If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! ¹⁰ I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!" ¹¹ When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.

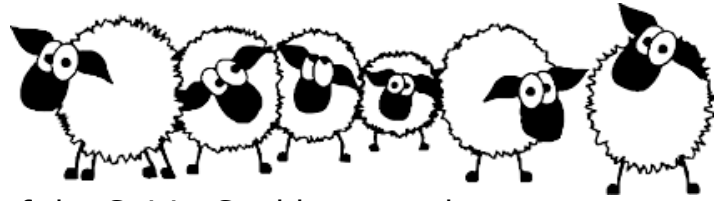
Goliath is the Nephilim champion who represented the fallen angelic offspring. Consequently, he called out a champion who represented the children of Yahweh, for an epic battle. His name meant to "**behead ruthlessly**". Naturally, everyone understood who Goliath was taunting specifically. He was calling out King Saul, who was the Hebrew champion. He was bigger and stronger than any man in Israel at the time. The fact that Saul absolutely refused to answer the call to battle, only proved that all of the Israelite fighters were unquestionably terrified.

However, the reader of the Biblical text understood, what the people did not. Saul was only a shell of the warrior he once was, because the Spirit of the



INTIMIDATION

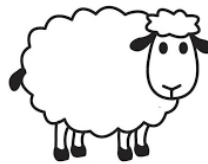




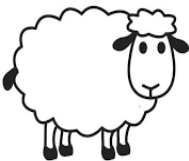
Lord had departed. Without the power of the Spirit, Saul became the pathetic coward he was, when he was originally called. *As battle loomed, this was Saul's state. At one time he was known as a fierce and successful military leader. But that was before the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul. As the Spirit left Saul so did his courage.*⁹

Jesse Sends David to Saul's Camp

¹² Now David was the son of a man named Jesse, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. Jesse was an old man at that time, and he had eight sons. ¹³ Jesse's three oldest sons—Eliab, Abinadab, and Shimea—had already joined Saul's army to fight the Philistines. ¹⁴ David was the youngest son. David's three oldest brothers stayed with Saul's army, ¹⁵ but David went back and forth so he could help his father with the sheep in Bethlehem.

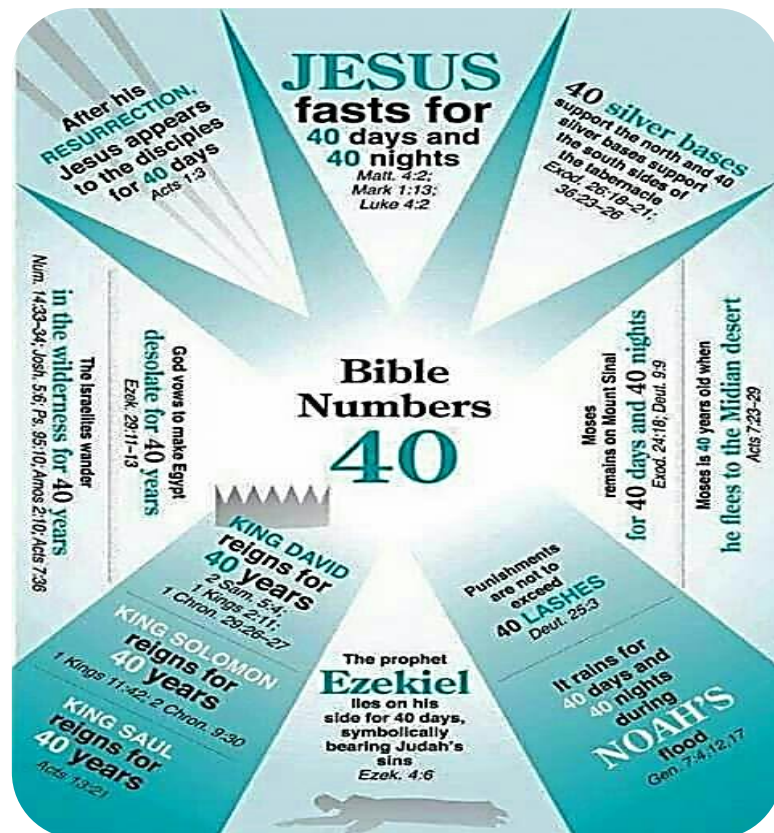
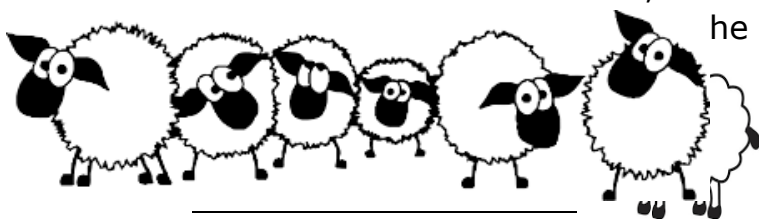


This is yet another clue to why David had such a low status in the family of Jesse. He was of age for military service, but he could not fight with the army of Israel along with his brothers. According to the text, David was previously summoned to play music for Saul when he was heavily demonized. At other times, especially when Saul was away from the palace, he would return home to Bethlehem to shepherd the few sheep.



¹⁶ For forty days, every morning and evening, the Philistine champion strutted in front of the Israelite army.

This is the biblical time of testing. For 40 days, the outcome is exactly the same. Both armies gather for battle until the giant emerges from among the Philistines. Then a spirit of fear consumed the men of Israel, and they



⁹ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 17

F.E.A.R

False Evidence Appearing Real

The Lesson Of Fighting Fear



As David continued “**training for reigning**” he needed to learn to face fear with faith. As emerging leaders in the Kingdom of God, we must all confront our fearful giants in the early stages of leadership development. The giants we refuse to confront in the beginning of our spiritual walk, will only grow larger and stronger with time. Our unseen giants constantly follow us. They will continue speaking lies and making intimidating threats, until we confront them in battle and cut off their heads.

Goliath was far more than a big, intimidating man of war. As previously mentioned, he was the manifestation of absolute evil. As a descendant of the frightening Nephilim, Goliath represented the worst of contorted humanity. According to the Biblical understanding, the Nephilim were a mixed breed creation consisting of both human and fallen angelic DNA. The resulting hybrids were absolutely cursed by Yahweh because they were not a part of His original creation. Yahweh never intended his human children and angelic children to combine their genetic material, because they were created to be two separate families of God.



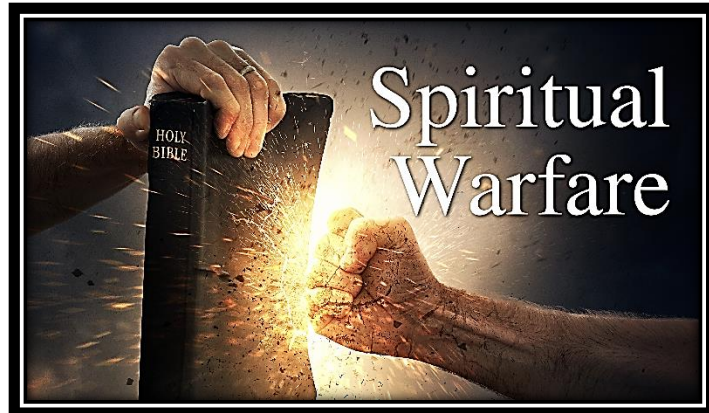
Goliath was not only physically threatening, but he was also spiritually intimidating as well. The power of the demonic lingered around Goliath like a revolting odor. His horrifying voice was spiritually empowered to drive fear into the hearts of the Israelite soldiers. Goliath spent 40 days taunting and terrifying the warriors of Israel because his supernatural power was not in his weapons, but in his words. As his words sank into the hearts of the Israelite fighters, fear and dread began to grow, until an overwhelming sense of powerlessness consumed them. Fear was the lethal weapon of the giant. As the Israelite soldiers listened day after day to the poisonous **spirit**



**FALSE
EVIDENCE
APPEARING
REAL**

of intimidation, a feeling of helplessness sank deeply into their hearts. A fearful opponent is already defeated, long before the battle begins.

The mind is the primary battlefield when it comes to any type of spiritual warfare. Unseen devilish forces operate in the realm of intimidation to defeat the will and control the mind. Therefore, invisible diabolical forces could only be defeated with mighty weapons of spiritual warfare. The Word of God must be skillfully employed to fight the spirit of fear. Without the Scriptures, mortal men are powerless in the face of supremely wicked spiritual beings. It's only with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit of God that mortal men can stand against such overwhelmingly powerful enemies.

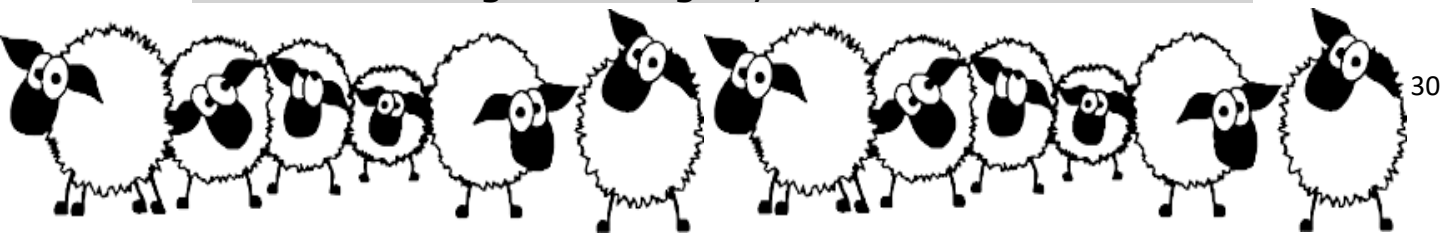
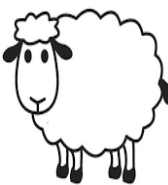


As leaders, our fundamental lesson in spiritual development is learning how to deal with fear and intimidation. As long as we allow ourselves to be intimidated, we will always remain spiritual babies. Like David, we need to learn to trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to do what we cannot do by ourselves. We need to learn to speak back to the invisible giants who speak to us constantly. We must speak the **Word of God** with the voice of the Spirit. It's only with the voice of the Spirit that the Sword of the Spirit, can sever the heads of the giants that holds us in bondage.

¹⁷ One day Jesse said to David, "Take this basket of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread, and carry them quickly to your brothers. ¹⁸ And give these ten cuts of cheese to their captain. See how your brothers are getting along, and bring back a report on how they are doing." ¹⁹ David's brothers were with Saul and the Israelite army at the valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines.

The stage is set for the introduction of the future King of Israel. David would not only be called out from among his brothers, but he would also soon be called out from among his people. Additionally, the Philistine Nephilim had openly defied the name of Yahweh for 40 days and his time of judgment was soon approaching.

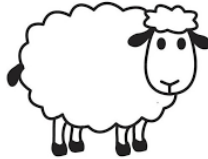
²⁰ So David left the sheep with another shepherd and set out early the next morning with the gifts, as Jesse had directed him.





This little observation shows the shepherd's heart of David. If he left the sheep to run an errand for his father he made sure the sheep were still well cared for.¹⁰

He arrived at the camp just as the Israelite army was leaving for the battlefield with shouts and battle cries. ²¹ Soon the Israelite and Philistine forces stood facing each other, army against army. ²² David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers. ²³ As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came out from the Philistine ranks. Then David heard him shout his usual taunt to the army of Israel.



What seemed like certain death to all the mighty men of Israel, sounded like an opportunity for promotion to David. As mentioned, David was already in the service of King Saul previously as an **anointed musician**. Now he would be revealed as an **anointed warrior** in the service of Yahweh.

²⁴ As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright. ²⁵ "Have you seen the giant?" the men asked. "He comes out each day to defy Israel. The king has offered a huge reward to anyone who kills him. He will give that man one of his daughters for a wife, and the man's entire family will be exempted from paying taxes!"



David was appointed and anointed to be the King of Israel. His destiny brought him to the right place, at exactly the right time. Saul offered the mighty warrior who displayed the courage required to kill Goliath, everything David needed to fulfill his God given destiny. He was offered a place at the king's table as a member of the royal family, along with wealth and prestige, if he did what he was already anointed to do.

²⁶ David asked the soldiers standing nearby, "What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?"



¹⁰ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 17



Those Who Keep Their Mouths Keep Their Lives

David was not only interested by the obvious benefit of the outstanding reward, but he was also astonished that no one volunteered to defend the reputation of Yahweh, who was being dishonored in the land of Israel.

27 And these men gave David the same reply. They said, "Yes, that is the reward for killing him."

YOU SHALL KNOW THE
TRUTH

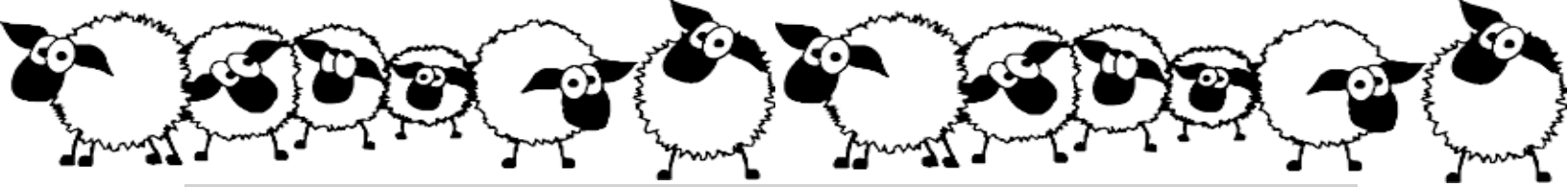
When David entered into the camp of Israel, he was already the king by "anointing", but not by "appointing". As mentioned, there is often a long period of development between the **day of anointing** and the **moment of appointing**. David was pulled between the "**now and the not yet**" because, as the anointed king, he was compelled to answer the call to battle. At this time, David was the anointed king, but Saul was still the appointed king. However, nobody saw who David really was because his anointing was internal and not yet revealed.

As believers in Christ, we are also experiencing the tension between the "**now and the not yet**". We are already **anointed** children of God because in Christ, we are a New Creation. However, we are also still waiting to be **appointed** to our "new bodies" that were promised to us. Similarly, **our day of anointing** and the **moment of appointing**, will happen at different times. Like David, nobody can see who we really are from the outside, because as a New Creation, we are changed on the inside first.

Goliath was calling out to King Saul to meet him on the battlefield. As the Philistine champion, he wanted to fight the Israelite champion, to prove whose God was supreme. Without the anointing of the Spirit, Saul was powerless to stand against a monster like Goliath. Instead of a spirit of power, he was consumed with a **feeling of fear** and inadequacy. On the other hand, David manifested the anointed power of the Spirit. He could not resist the challenge, because he was drawn to the battlefield to manifest the power of Yahweh. The Spirit of the Lord drove David to "**behead**" the Philistine "**beheader**", because he had insulted the armies of the living God. He was instinctually defending the reputation of the God of Israel. The Holy Spirit took the insults of the Philistine quite personally and decided that Goliath would never blaspheme again.

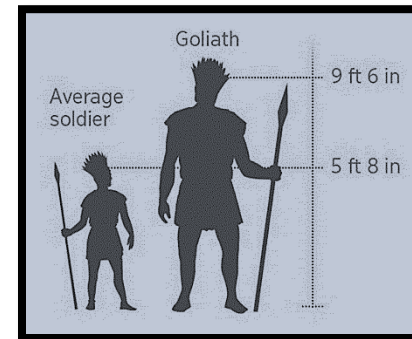
**He that keeps his mouth keeps his
life: but he that opens wide his lips
shall have destruction.**

Proverbs 13:3



28 But when David's oldest brother, Eliab, heard David talking to the men, he was angry. "What are you doing around here anyway?" he demanded. "What about those few sheep you're supposed to be taking care of? I know about your pride and deceit. You just want to see the battle!"

In the spiritual battlefield, we have unseen enemies on all sides. David was compelled to fulfil his destiny and emerge as a great leader in Israel. Meanwhile, the counterattack is already being launched. Eliab had a burning resentment for David because he was rejected by Saul when David was anointed. The bravery of his **little brother** reminded Eliab of the fragile condition of his own heart. Little David saw an opportunity for certain success, while the massive Eliab only imagined certain death. Finally, the fact that his younger "illegitimate" brother dared show himself among the legitimate sons of Israel, proved that David no longer accepted his status as the "outside child" of the family.



Accordingly, Eliab assumed David was rebellious and was acting in pride.

Cowards are always provoked by those who are anointed to accomplish something great. They hide their own cowardice under the disguise of human wisdom, when another person's bravery reveals their spinelessness. Eliab was outraged at David's willingness to fight the giant because it highlighted his unwillingness to take the same spiritual risk. People of faith always make cowards feel nervous. Cowards often accuse **faith filled**

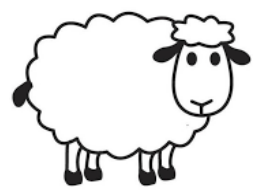
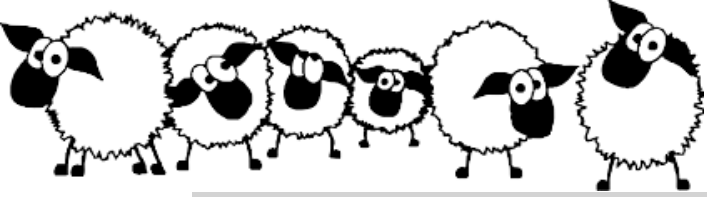
people of being prideful, when in reality, they are covering the fact that they are actually the ones filled with fear.

29 "What have I done now?" David replied. "I was only asking a question!" 30 He walked over to some others and asked them the same thing and received the same answer.

In a final act of God ordained rebellion, David walked away from his critical older brother and disregarded his cowardly verbal attack. David didn't have the time to wrestle with the words of his fainthearted brother. He was on a mission from God, and would not be distracted by the demonic counter-attack coming from an anxious and insecure member of his own family.

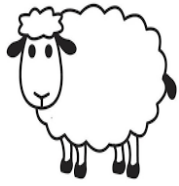
**YOU EITHER FIGHT
OR RUN FOREVER**

**Life is
too short
don't be
a coward**



31 Then David's question was reported to King Saul, and the king sent for him.

Finally, the bravery of this young man reached the ears of the king. Saul was excited to see the mighty man of war who responded to his call. The years of training in the field among the sheep had given David everything he needed to perform on the biggest stage of his life. He needed to know the voice of Yahweh and determine the will of God. He needed to stand against bigger enemies and have faith in his anointing. He needed to use weapons of warfare that were uncommon to his enemies, which kept distance between him and his adversaries. David learned everything he needed to know among the sheep from the **sheepfold**.

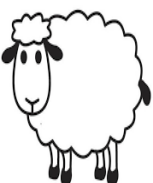
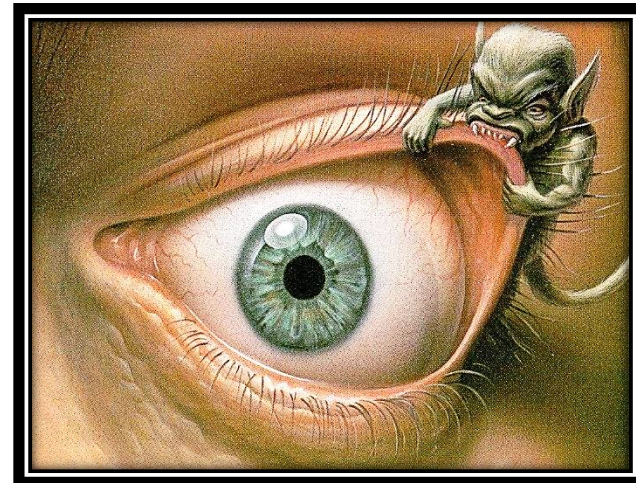


The Lesson Of Killing Giants



As previously mentioned, Bethlehem is the place of spiritual beginning. It's in our personal "Bethlehem" we learn the skills we need to take us further in the things of God. It's only in the beginning stages of our spiritual development, that we build the character we need to defeat our opposition. As emerging spiritual leaders, we all have intimidating giants who stand before us. Like the children of Israel, when we compare ourselves to the massive giants that stand in our way, we feel helpless and unable to do

what God has called us to do. Remember, we must learn to directly confront our giants in Bethlehem, or those same giants will relentlessly follow us for the rest of our life. David learned to trust the Lord among the few **sheep**, but now he had to extend his faith to trust the Lord among the many **giants**. David trusted in the Lord and depended on the power of the Spirit when he fought against a lion and a bear. Now he would have to step out in faith, to confront this aggressive and hostile giant. In the developmental stage of spiritual warfare, we must all learn to confront the tormenting giants that antagonize and intimidate us. We need to learn the power of faith to overcome the crippling effect of anxiety. While all of Israel was crippled by an overwhelming **sense of fear** at the sight of this monster Goliath, David was overcome by an overwhelming **sense of faith**. He understood that his God was greater than any obstacle



Slaying Your Goliath

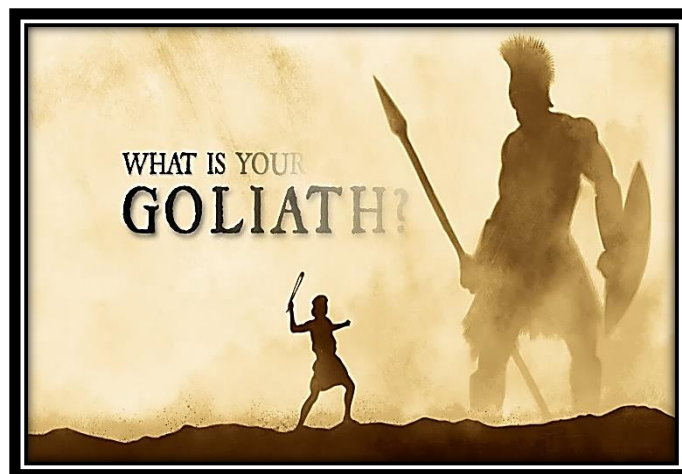
Who or What is Your Goliath ?

that overshadowed him. Unless we learn to “behead” the speaking giants that torment us, we will never emerge as the spiritual leaders God intended us to be. As mentioned, the giants we refuse to face in the developmental stage of our spiritual experience, will continue to haunt us in times to come. Over time, giants get bigger and more intimidating. The Goliaths we refuse to kill now will only become more ferocious in the future and will continue to come up with new and more efficient ways to destroy our spiritual progress.

What is your Goliath?

As children of God, we all need to learn to stand against our giants and behead them in spiritual warfare. Goliath was a physical giant, but in the New Testament we war against unseen spiritual giants. The nature of our warfare is quite different, but our enemies are still very lethal. In physical warfare, you see flesh and blood wounds. In spiritual warfare, however, the wounds experienced in battle are less apparent on the outside, but more destructive in our

lives and our relationships with others. We must all face our personal giants in battle, otherwise our threatening giants grow larger and will torment us all the days of our life by holding us back from the peace, joy and purpose God promised us. Spiritual warfare is just as real as physical warfare. The only difference is you need “spiritual” discernment to see it.



10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6)

Demonic spirits



The primary giants we need to decapitate as we grow in spiritual maturity are demonic spirits that torment us in the area of our minds. Goliath skillfully employed the power of intimidation to terrify the people of Israel until they felt like **grasshoppers** in his presence. That's what the **spirit of intimidation** does. It uses **words** to make us feel smaller than we really are, undermining our God-given identity in our own minds. The power of Goliath was a spirit of fear, and until the spirit of fear was confronted by



FOR EVERY GOLIATH
THERE IS A **STONE**.

faith, the Israelites were powerless in the presence of this demonic adversary.

And I know that same faith continues strong in you. ⁶ This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1)

Carnal nature

The New Testament reminds us that we not only fight against unseen spiritual beings, but we must also “wrestle” against the desires of our sin nature. As a **New Creation**, we are born again, but we still live in a corrupted body that desires the pleasures of sin. Our temptation to sin is yet another giant that needs to be conquered, or it will continue to torment us all the days of our life.

⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. (Colossians 3)

Traditions

The people of Israel refused to believe that little David had a chance against the massive Nephilim warrior from Gath. Their established traditions told them that only an enormous warrior, can defeat another gigantic soldier. Hence, all their hopes rested upon King Saul to gather the courage to fight Goliath. However, David was proposing something that was never done before. Doing something new is always an area of tremendous spiritual warfare. People in general don't like to try new things. The words “**we have always done it this way**” represent the fading cries of a dying people.

As emerging leaders, we must learn to stand against the intimidating giants of meaningless **man-made** traditions. Like all giants, traditions **grow larger** and **more powerful** with time. Nevertheless, only a mad person continues doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. Whenever we become stuck in the traditions of the past,

“If there’s a Goliath in front of you, that means there’s a David inside of you.”

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

tradition

those traditions that once brought life, will eventually begin to minister death instead.

Family

David's first enemy was not the giant Goliath, it was his "giant big brother", Eliab. David's family could not see the anointing of God working in his life because they saw him with "natural" eyes. David had to fight past the obvious disrespect of his family to hold onto the destiny that was unfolding before him. Even Yahshua's family assumed He was insane and tried to take Him back home by force.

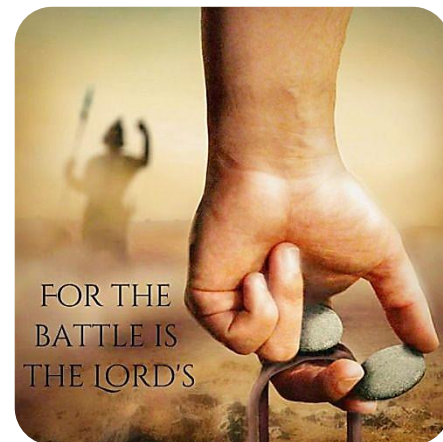
²⁰ One time Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat. ²¹ When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said. (Mark 3)

David needed to confront complicated family issues as an emerging leader. So do we! Leadership is often a lonely position where few people truly understand us. Sometimes the opinions of our own family are the most intimidating forces in our lives and the biggest giant that stops us from possessing the promises of God. This is often the trickiest giant to decapitate because the people closest to you are often the ones that can hurt you the most.

David Kills Goliath

³² "Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!"

This was not good news to King Saul. He could only see with carnal eyes and saw what everyone else did. They saw a skinny young man who would be easily killed by a mighty giant like Goliath. Saul could no longer see with spiritual eyes because the Spirit of the Lord had departed from him. It was the anointing of the Spirit that came upon Saul and transformed him into a mighty warrior in the first place. It was such a long time since Saul heard words of faith, that they seemed like foolishness in his ears. Regardless, the faith filled words of David helped Saul remember the distant past, when he was also a man of faith and power.



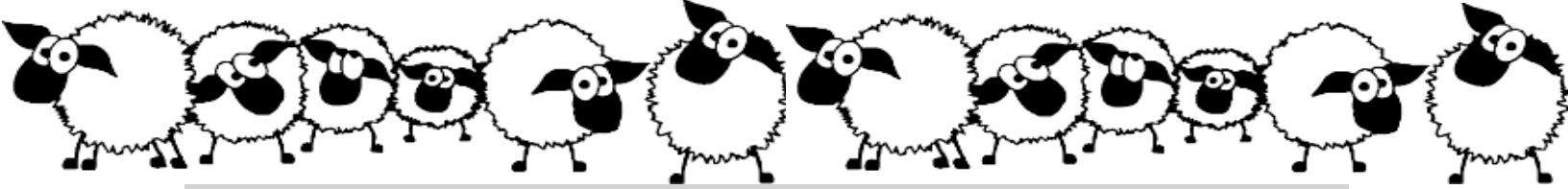
"All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's..."

1 Samuel 17:47 (NIV)



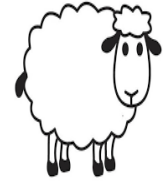
THE LORD?

37

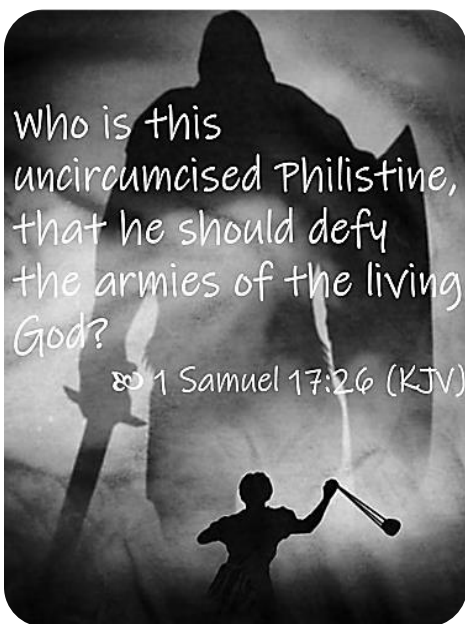
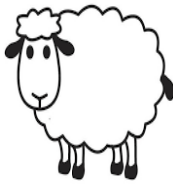


33 "Don't be ridiculous!" Saul replied. "There's no way you can fight this Philistine and possibly win! You're only a boy, and he's been a man of war since his youth."

Looking with natural eyes, the conclusion was obvious. But the text already established that Yahweh does not look at things the way mere men do. As noted, David must aggressively challenge the traditions of the past, to do something that has never been done before!



34 But David persisted. "I have been taking care of my father's sheep and goats," he said. "When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, 35 I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. 36 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God!"



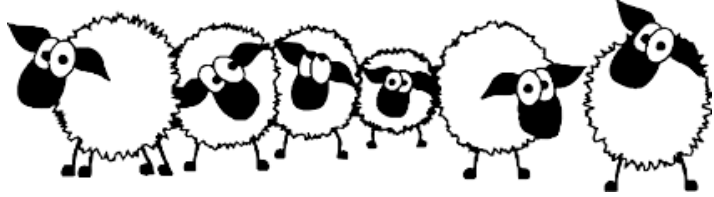
The words of David were unlike anything that was spoken in the camp of Israel. Natural men only speak about what they have to lose, because they are ultimately afraid of death. On the other hand, spiritual men have nothing to lose, because they are assured of eternal life. David's words were Spirit-empowered and filled with truth that contradicted all the rational facts Saul could muster.

David had great confidence based in his daily experience with God. To Saul, the anointing was nothing but a distant memory of his former glory days. To David, the anointing was a vital part of his everyday experience because it was part of his "gifting" as the rightful King of Israel.

37 The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!"

This was a faith-filled statement, if there ever was one. David already knew he was anointed by Samuel to be King of Israel. He could not be the king and be dead at the same time. Therefore, David believed God in the tradition of Abraham and as in the example of Abraham, Yahweh counted David as righteous. Abraham knew he would return with Isaac because Yahweh promised him, Isaac would be the promised son. Likewise, David knew he would kill Goliath because it could only end with one of them dead and it could not possibly be him.



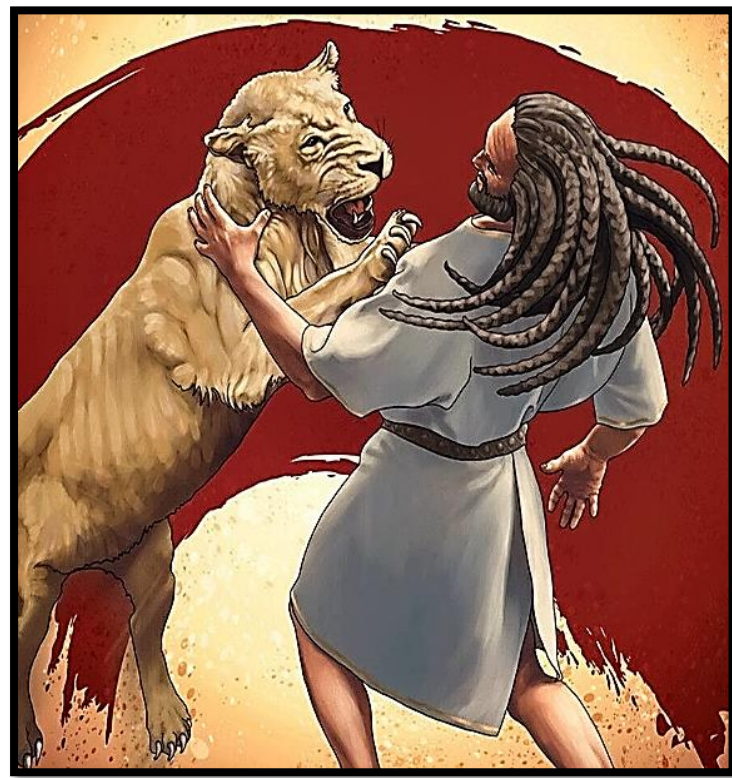


Yahweh prepared David for this exact battle when David was still a lowly shepherd. A lion attacked the lambs and David fought the lion. A bear came against the sheep and David battled the bear. All along, God prepared David to fight Goliath. How long did David prepare to fight Goliath? All of his life, up to that day.

This is generally Yahweh’s pattern for preparation. He calls us to be faithful right where we are and then uses our faithfulness to accomplish greater things. If David was scared of the lion or the bear, he would never have been ready to fight Goliath now. But since he was faithful in small things, he was also faithful with big things.

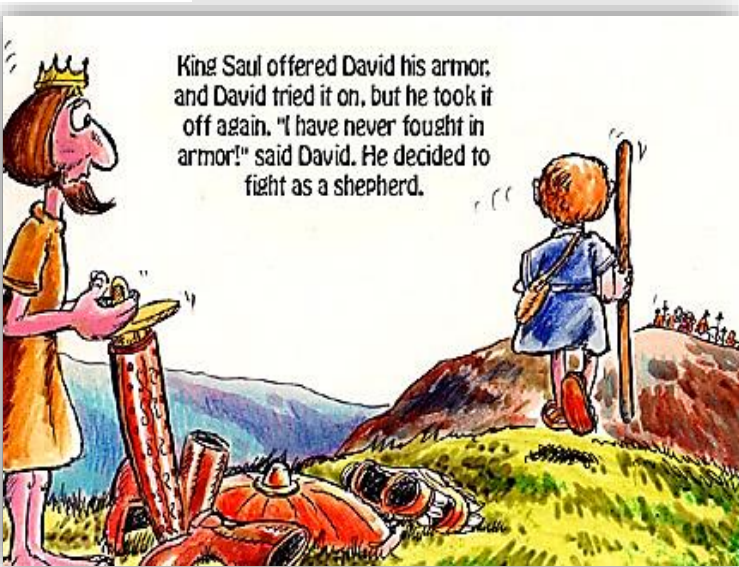
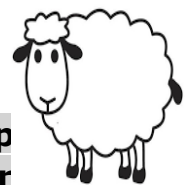
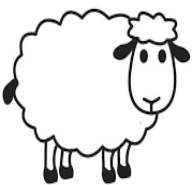
David had many life lessons to learn before he was truly qualified to be the man God intended him to be. He had many more giants to kill along the way. Additionally, there were many years of intense suffering and rejection yet to be endured, until the purification process was finally completed.

This is a New Testament picture of who we are in Christ at this present moment. We are anointed to be “kings and priests”, reigning with Christ. But we are not yet appointed to sit with Christ in our prestigious position. Until our new bodies are fully manifested, like David, we are in between two specific points of time. We live in the **“now and the not yet”**. In the **“now”** we are anointed, in the **“not yet”** we will be appointed.



Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the Lord be with you!” ³⁸ Then Saul gave David his own armor—a

bronze helmet and a coat of mail. ³⁹ David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before.



This is yet another example of the physical conflicting with the spiritual. In the physical realm, battles are won

with superior weaponry and military technology. However, in the spiritual world, battles are won with obedience and faith. Saul was so far from who he was supposed to be that he did not realize he had the answer the entire time. He could no longer see what was always before his eyes.



There is an interesting insight hidden in the Scripture that sheds light on how Saul could have defeated Goliath. Apparently, the traditional masters of the sling and the stone were the ancient warriors of Benjamin. As a young boy, Saul would have been trained in the use of the sling and the stone as part of his tribal heritage. Sadly, Saul was so caught up with the modern weapons of warfare that he forgot the simplicity of the past.

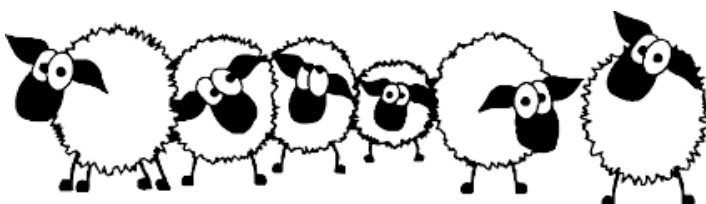
¹⁶ Among Benjamin's elite troops, 700 were left-handed, and each of them could sling a rock and hit a target within a hairsbreadth without missing. (Judges 20)

They were among the warriors who fought beside David in battle. ² All of them were expert archers, and they could shoot arrows or sling stones with their left hand as well as their right. They were all relatives of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin. (1 Chronicles 12)

Goliath could not be easily defeated fighting on his own terms. He was a man tremendously skilled with the sword and the shield. David had no real experience at that point with a sword and armour. He understood sticks, slings, and rocks, which were the weapons of the common shepherd. David could not fight Goliath with the weapons of modern warfare. His strength was his lightning quick speed and his outstanding agility. He needed to keep distance between himself and the lumbering giant. The sling was an excellent weapon to be used at a distance and like the warriors of Benjamin, David skillfully developed his marksmanship among the sheep and could sling a stone with lightning quick velocity.



Goliath was a monster of a man and needed to be defeated with the right type of weaponry. David could not fight Goliath with carnal weapons but



THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR



needed to rely on the leading of the Spirit. Spiritual weapons are not at all like physical weapons but are deadly in the spiritual realm. Most “reasonable” people would not consider a sling and stone to be a formidable weapon compared to heavy armor and a mammoth steel sword. Nevertheless, a Spiritual weapon, in the hand of a man of faith, is deadly when it comes to spiritual warfare. Paul reminded the Corinthians in the New Testament, that they were also given powerful weapons of mass destruction.

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10)

In both the New and Old Testament, the object lesson was the same. Spiritual people are called to fight differently than carnal people. We are not the people of the world and therefore, we can't fight the same way they do. Carnal people must depend on carnal things. Spiritual people, on the other hand, must depend on the power of the Lord and the wisdom of the Spirit to know how to fight.

“I can’t go in these,” he protested to Saul. “I’m not used to them.” So David took them off again. ⁴⁰ He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd’s bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine.

David could not possibly do what everyone expected him to do. If he tried, he would have died for sure. He was not able to fight with a giant at close range. He needed another battle plan that only Yahweh could give him. He would not fight Goliath with a sword and shield, where Goliath would have the overwhelming advantage. Instead, he would use his own strength to his advantage. He was small and mobile. From a distance, the advantage of the giant was insignificant, and the deadly power of the sling and the stone was at its best.

David had to renounce Saul’s armor. He had to vow, “I will not fight with man’s armor. I will trust in the LORD and His armor instead.” Often, we want

a safe "middle ground" where we try to wear both kinds of armor. God wants us to trust in Him and Him alone.¹¹

41 Goliath walked out toward David with his shield bearer ahead of him, 42 sneering in contempt at this ruddy-faced boy. 43 "Am I a dog," he roared at David, "that you come at me with a stick?" And he cursed David by the names of his gods.

Goliath was brutally insulted by the presence of David and felt he was being teased by the people of Israel. For 40 days, he consistently challenged King Saul to emerge from hiding in his tent. It was a ridiculous insult for a young man to show up carrying only a sling and a walking stick.

In the ancient world, a battle between tribal nations was also a battle between their gods. When Israel emerged from Egypt, it was said that Yahweh defeated all the gods of Egypt in spiritual warfare. Likewise, in this confrontation, Goliath is more than the champion of the Philistines. He is also the champion of their god, Dagon.



Yahweh had previously broken the back of Dagon in spiritual warfare during the time of the Judges. When the Ark of the Covenant was brought into the Temple of Dagon, twice, Yahweh threw their false god to the ground, finally smashing him into many pieces. This was such a tragic defeat for the Philistine nation, that they fearfully returned the Ark of the

Covenant back to Israel with golden offerings as an apology. The appearance of the giant Goliath as the champion of the Philistines is just another round of the ongoing war between the gods of the tribal nations. Goliath therefore summoned all the dark spiritual power of Dagon and perhaps other regional gods, to place a "curse" on David.

¹¹ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 17



Speak Faith

"Calling those things that be not, as though they were."

(Romans 4:17)

44 "Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!" Goliath yelled.

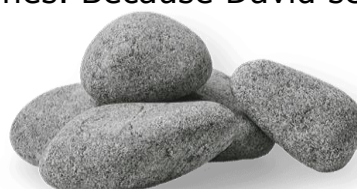
The spiritual warfare illustrated by this passage is undeniable. Words are powerful in the spirit realm and witchcraft is empowered and transferred by spoken words. The curse Goliath placed upon David was empowered by his gods and carried authentic spiritual power. Nevertheless, the authority of Yahweh that rested upon David was infinitely greater than the power of the puny gods that Goliath represented.

45 David replied to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! 47 And everyone assembled here will know that the Lord rescues his people, but not with sword and spear. This is the Lord's battle, and he will give you to us!"

**SPEAK WHEN
YOU ARE
SPOKEN TO**

This was not just a battle between mortal men but between national God/gods. In the context of the Old Testament, the national battles were contests of opposing deities. In the Exodus narrative, Yahweh went to war against the gods of Egypt and defeated every member of the Egyptian pantheon until finally killing the Pharaoh who also declared he was a god in Egypt. When Yahweh killed the pharaoh of Egypt and destroyed his entire nation, the fear of Yahweh spread all over the known world. When the City of Jericho was surrounded by the Israelite army, the people of Jericho were already terrified because they heard what Yahweh did to the feeble Egyptians.

This battle made David famous. He made the name of Yahweh to be feared among the Philistines. Because David selflessly desired to





bring glory to God, his reputation began to grow. In comparison, Saul constantly attempted to glorify himself in the eyes of the people, until his prideful rebellion cost him his relationship with God and eventually his wretched life.

48 As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. 49 Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.



This battle was won out with the sheep. In those lonely hours alone with the lambs, David talked to God and took a lot of target practice with his sling. Now his communion with the LORD and his skill with the sling are both used by God. "In the use of the sling it requires much practice to hit the mark; but when once this dexterity is acquired, the sling is nearly as fatal as the musket or bow."¹²

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. 51 Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.

The Lesson Of Confession



As David progressed in his journey of "training for reigning", he learned an incredible lesson that every aspiring spiritual leader must take very seriously. Words are very powerful in the spirit realm. Thoughts come to us through words. Words that are constantly

spoken over us, have the capability to influence what we believe to be true. In spite of the negative words spoken over his life, as the Holy Spirit matured him, he learned to speak back to the voices that spoke to him with the truth of the Word of God.

Speak
 those things that are not
 as though they were.
 ROMANS 4:17

¹² David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 17



WHAT IS MEANT BY
"CALL THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE
NOT AS THOUGH THEY WERE"?

ROMANS 4:17

As noted in the previous chapters, the strength of Goliath was the spirit of intimidation. Paranormal things must be fought with supernatural, spiritual weapons. The **invisible spirit** behind Goliath needed to be defeated, before the **visible man** was taken down by the power of the sling and the stone. David needed to defeat the spirit of intimidation by the power of his faith filled confession. The contents of David's heart came out of his mouth, and David began to speak things that "be not" as though they are.

For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. (Matthew 12:34)

In the New Testament, there is a tremendous connection between what we believe in our heart and the words that come out of our mouth. Believing and speaking are irreversibly linked in Scripture because what we believe we will also speak.

And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: ⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. (Romans 10)

This is a powerful spiritual principle that was clearly established in the Old Testament. The power of our confession is essential in creating the reality that Yahweh intended to come to pass. We are not creating our "own" reality by the words we speak; we are simply verbally agreeing with the will of God. By boldly speaking faith filled words, agreeing with the will of God, confession has the ability to manifest in the physical world according to the plan and purpose Yahweh has already established. David needed to confess victory over the giant. God had already made it known to David that the giant would die that day. It was simply up to David to speak verbally what God had already revealed.

In the unseen world, David "beheaded" the spirit of intimidation that was empowering Goliath, before he actually killed the physical man. By speaking faith filled words, the spiritual power behind the monster was broken. Without his spiritual covering, Goliath was as vulnerable as any other man. What happened in the spiritual realm also happened in the physical realm. The head of the demonic power had to come off first, before the head of the physical power was cut off.

Speak Faith

"Calling those things that be not, as though they were."

(Romans 4:17)



1. David is introduced in this chapter as the anointed warrior who killed and beheaded Goliath. Why is the Bible so violent?
2. David killed a lion and a bear before he killed Goliath. What are the insights into spiritual warfare that can be taken from this passage?
3. Goliath was empowered by a spirit of intimidation. Why was David not intimidated by the giant when all the mighty men of Israel were?
4. Goliath cursed David by the names of his pagan gods, but David spoke back in the name of Yahweh. What does speaking in faith have to do with battling the spirit of fear and intimidation?
5. David threw the stone, but Yahweh killed Goliath. What does this teach us about spiritual warfare?

WHAT ARE THE RULING SPIRITS

Israel Routs the Philistines

When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they turned and ran. ⁵² Then the men of Israel and Judah gave a great shout of triumph and rushed after the Philistines, chasing them as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron. The bodies of the dead and wounded Philistines were strewn all along the road from Shaaraim, as far as Gath and Ekron. ⁵³ Then the Israelite army returned and plundered the deserted Philistine camp. ⁵⁴ (David took the Philistine's head to Jerusalem, but he stored the man's armor in his own tent.)

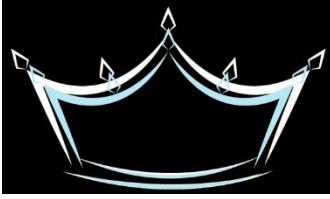
Goliath was far more than a mighty warrior representing the Philistine army. Like Queen Jezebel, he was a powerful figure harboring many controlling demonic powers. His presence acted like a demonic nest, becoming the centre of their spiritual power.

When Goliath died in battle, the spirit that operated behind him was also defeated. When the demonic spirit empowering Goliath was "exorcised", courage returned to the men of Israel. After being emancipated from the spirit of intimidation, the spell was instantaneously broken, and the cowardly warriors became mighty men once again.

⁵⁵ As Saul watched David go out to fight the Philistine, he asked Abner, the commander of his army, "Abner, whose son is this young man?" "I really don't know," Abner declared. ⁵⁶ "Well, find out who he is!" the king told him. ⁵⁷ As soon as David returned from killing Goliath, Abner brought him to Saul with the Philistine's head still in his hand. ⁵⁸ "Tell me about your father, young man," Saul said. And David replied, "His name is Jesse, and we live in Bethlehem."

This is a difficult passage to understand if we wrongfully assume Saul did not know who David was. On the other hand, we just need to pay





Whose Son Is He?

attention to the question. Saul is not asking "who is this young man"? But who's "son" is this young man? Saul wanted to know more about David's family line, because he was clearly more than an anointed musician. It's possible that Saul already had a hint of distrust concerning young David, especially if he came from the royal Tribe of Judah. Perhaps Saul already understood that the prophetic writings predicted the King of Israel would come from Judah and not Benjamin.

YOU SHALL KNOW THE
TRUTH

The connection between King David and King Yahshua is evident to anyone with "eyes to see". On the one side, we have the giant Goliath, representing the forces of everything evil and twisted. On the other side, we have David representing the righteousness of God. The two champions meet face-to-face on the open battlefield to forever settle their differences.

This epic battle will determine the eternal destiny of both nations. If Goliath wins, the people of God will be dominated by the evil Philistines. If David wins, the people of God will dominate the forces of evil and gain control over their stolen land.

This heroic battle was an Old Testament "type and shadow" of what Christ accomplished for humanity on the cross of Calvary. We, like the people of Israel, were helpless in the face of the intimidating giant, Satan. However, Christ arose as our champion and represented all of us, in fearsome combat. Christ won a victory we could not win for ourselves. With the victory of Christ, the power of the enemy over our lives was destroyed forever. Christ was our champion who went to war against Satan and defeated him forever, taking the keys of death and hell and triumphing over him in the resurrection.

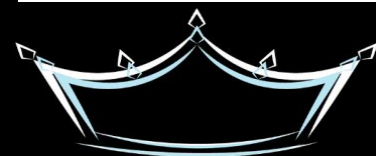
THEN ONE OF THE ELDERS SAID TO ME, "DO NOT WEEP! SEE, THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, THE ROOT OF DAVID, HAS TRIUMPHED. HE IS ABLE TO OPEN THE SCROLL AND ITS SEVEN SEALS."
REVELATION 5:5

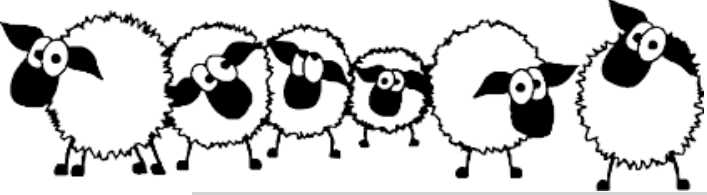


Saul Becomes Jealous of David

18 After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for

Whose Son Is He?





Jonathan loved David. ² From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home.

The beheading of Goliath was a turning point in the life of David. He would never again return to his father's "**few sheep**". From this point on, the life of David and Saul would be permanently entangled, until Yahweh removed Saul from his position as the King of Israel.

³ And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. ⁴ Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

The motives of Saul and Jonathan were completely different when it came to young David. Saul was abnormally suspicious of David and keeps him near by to evaluate his every move. Jonathan, on the other hand, was a fellow warrior and he instantaneously developed a deep brotherly affection for David. He also established an everlasting covenant with him, by exchanging their clothing. *Two men, each on track for the same throne — yet they made a covenant of friendship that would prove stronger than jealousy, than envy, than ambition.*¹³

Ironically, this covenant is ultimately prophetic. David would become king in the place of Jonathan, and Jonathan would die in the place of David. The curse intended to annihilate David, would fall on the son of Saul and the blessing of Jonathan, would rest upon David, his father's enemy.

⁵ Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike.

Saul immediately employed David for the glory of his kingdom, but this quickly backfired because David was successful at everything he put his hands to accomplish. The Lord was with David as He was with Joseph in Egypt, and Saul saw this unfold before his eyes.

David remained fully submitted to Saul all the days of his life. He knew he could not take the kingdom by force, because this kind of rebellion would violate the nature of Yahweh's Spirit. David intended to wholeheartedly serve Saul, making him the "**father figure**" he always wanted. Sadly, Saul had no intention of becoming a father figure to young David. Instead, he

¹³ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 18

**SPIRITUALLY
FATHERLESS**

consistently antagonized David, hurt him, and implant a “**spirit of rejection**” in the tender heart of this noble warrior.



⁶ When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. ⁷ This was their song:

“Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!”

The people of Israel were a tribal society who dearly loved music and dance. They sang songs about everything and composed music that made them famous throughout the

known world. Their victories and defeats were recorded with songs that marked every event of their history. At this point, there was a new and joyful song being sang in the Nation of Israel. However, the name Saul was no longer mentioned. His once magnificent name faded into the background, overshadowed by the emerging name of David. David was the new “superhero” of the Israelite people, and the new songs that emerged were melodies of his heroic acts and superhuman conquests.

⁸ This made Saul very angry. “What’s this?” he said. “They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they’ll be making him their king!” ⁹ So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

Notice, the chapter begins with Saul keeping his eye on David and now evolves to him keeping his “jealous” eye on David. A demonic influence is clearly growing in the mind of Saul empowered by his fear of being replaced by the emerging young hero with the “kingly anointing”. The people of Israel once composed songs about Saul, but now danced to melodies about the



"The Anointing"

mighty warrior David. This unleashed a torrent of torment that from the demon that harassed Saul from the moment David was anointed with oil from the flask of Samuel. *It is a bad sign in a leader when they resent or feel threatened by the success of a subordinate. It is a certain sign of weakness in the leader.*¹⁴ This was the typical reaction of a proud but insecure old man, holding onto power at the expense of the people.

¹⁰ The very next day a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day.

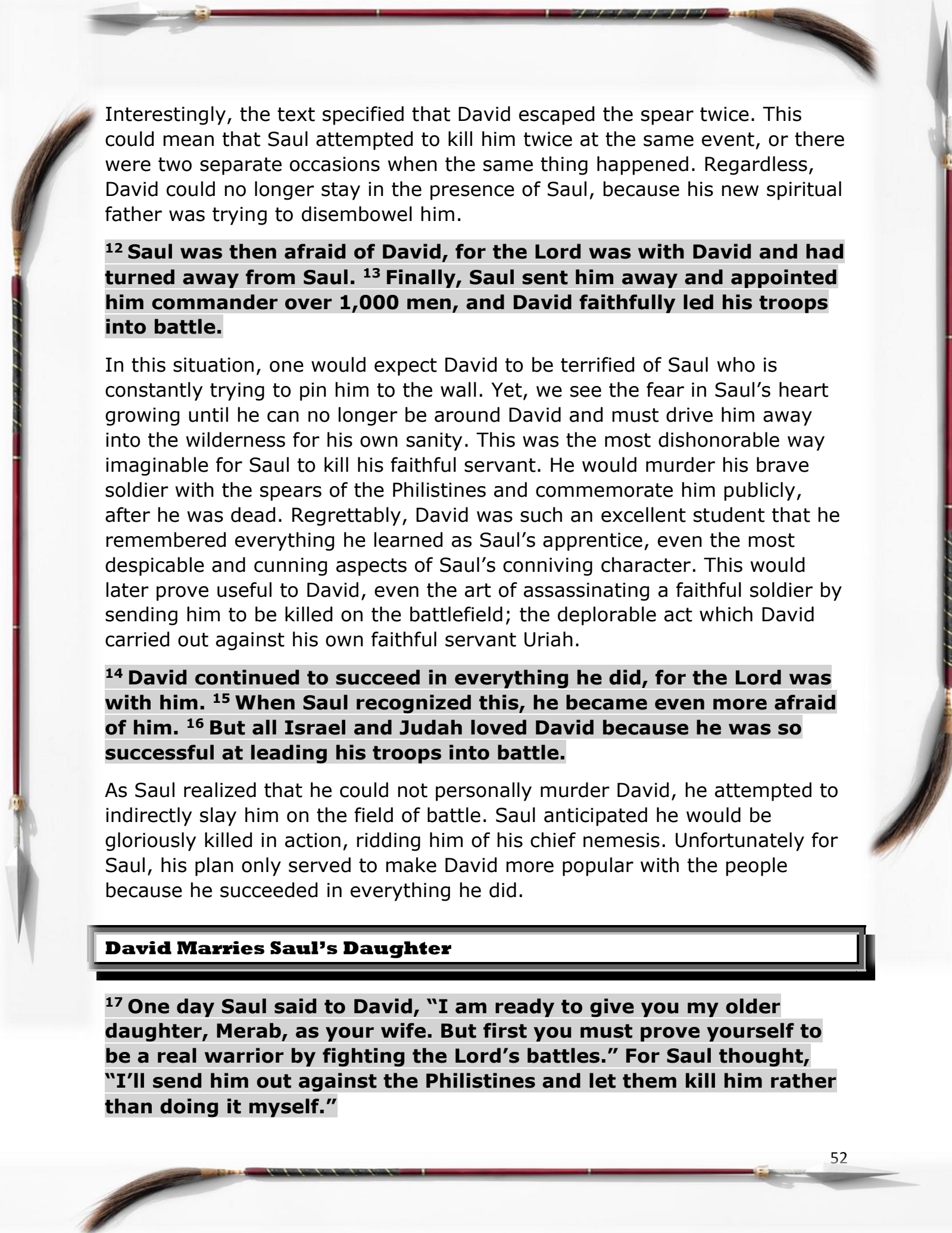
It's apparent that Saul's madness is growing worse. When David was first introduced as the **anointed psalmist**, he was called intermittently to minister to Saul when he was tormented by the demonic spirit. However, at this point, his torment is a daily occurrence, and the level of torment is increasing, because David no longer has the ability to drive the evil spirit away with his worship music. As Saul sank deeper and deeper into the pit of mad jealousy, the tormenting spirit gained more and more authority over his mind, will and emotions. Saul is on a slippery slope that will only end in the gloom of the grave.

But Saul had a spear in his hand, ¹¹ and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice.

David is now engaged in the most dangerous kind of warfare imaginable. In the open field he understood who his enemy was, but in the palace, his enemy was spiritual and unseen. David did what he could to contain the powerful influence of the demonic spirit with the calming melody of his harp, but over time, Saul's madness, empowered by his growing jealousy, consumed what remained of his rational mind. As jealousy consumed his every imagination, all that remained was the raving of a madman, like someone living among the dead. Eventually, David could no longer play the harp in the presence of Saul because he was an easy target for the thrust of his spear at such a close range.

¹⁴ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 18





Interestingly, the text specified that David escaped the spear twice. This could mean that Saul attempted to kill him twice at the same event, or there were two separate occasions when the same thing happened. Regardless, David could no longer stay in the presence of Saul, because his new spiritual father was trying to disembowel him.

¹² Saul was then afraid of David, for the Lord was with David and had turned away from Saul. ¹³ Finally, Saul sent him away and appointed him commander over 1,000 men, and David faithfully led his troops into battle.

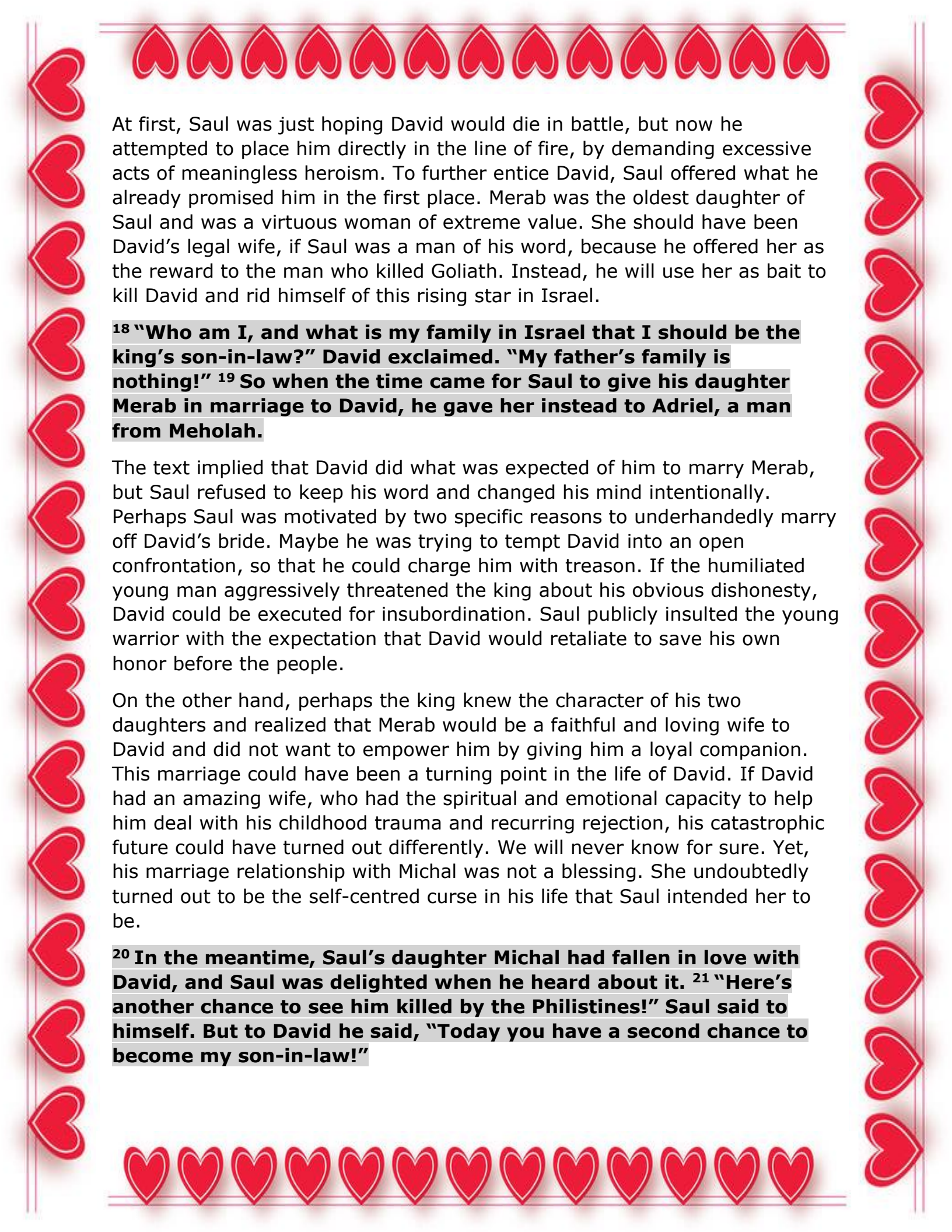
In this situation, one would expect David to be terrified of Saul who is constantly trying to pin him to the wall. Yet, we see the fear in Saul's heart growing until he can no longer be around David and must drive him away into the wilderness for his own sanity. This was the most dishonorable way imaginable for Saul to kill his faithful servant. He would murder his brave soldier with the spears of the Philistines and commemorate him publicly, after he was dead. Regrettably, David was such an excellent student that he remembered everything he learned as Saul's apprentice, even the most despicable and cunning aspects of Saul's conniving character. This would later prove useful to David, even the art of assassinating a faithful soldier by sending him to be killed on the battlefield; the deplorable act which David carried out against his own faithful servant Uriah.

¹⁴ David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the Lord was with him. ¹⁵ When Saul recognized this, he became even more afraid of him. ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David because he was so successful at leading his troops into battle.

As Saul realized that he could not personally murder David, he attempted to indirectly slay him on the field of battle. Saul anticipated he would be gloriously killed in action, ridding him of his chief nemesis. Unfortunately for Saul, his plan only served to make David more popular with the people because he succeeded in everything he did.

David Marries Saul's Daughter

¹⁷ One day Saul said to David, "I am ready to give you my older daughter, Merab, as your wife. But first you must prove yourself to be a real warrior by fighting the Lord's battles." For Saul thought, "I'll send him out against the Philistines and let them kill him rather than doing it myself."



At first, Saul was just hoping David would die in battle, but now he attempted to place him directly in the line of fire, by demanding excessive acts of meaningless heroism. To further entice David, Saul offered what he already promised him in the first place. Merab was the oldest daughter of Saul and was a virtuous woman of extreme value. She should have been David's legal wife, if Saul was a man of his word, because he offered her as the reward to the man who killed Goliath. Instead, he will use her as bait to kill David and rid himself of this rising star in Israel.

18 "Who am I, and what is my family in Israel that I should be the king's son-in-law?" David exclaimed. "My father's family is nothing!" 19 So when the time came for Saul to give his daughter Merab in marriage to David, he gave her instead to Adriel, a man from Meholah.

The text implied that David did what was expected of him to marry Merab, but Saul refused to keep his word and changed his mind intentionally. Perhaps Saul was motivated by two specific reasons to underhandedly marry off David's bride. Maybe he was trying to tempt David into an open confrontation, so that he could charge him with treason. If the humiliated young man aggressively threatened the king about his obvious dishonesty, David could be executed for insubordination. Saul publicly insulted the young warrior with the expectation that David would retaliate to save his own honor before the people.

On the other hand, perhaps the king knew the character of his two daughters and realized that Merab would be a faithful and loving wife to David and did not want to empower him by giving him a loyal companion. This marriage could have been a turning point in the life of David. If David had an amazing wife, who had the spiritual and emotional capacity to help him deal with his childhood trauma and recurring rejection, his catastrophic future could have turned out differently. We will never know for sure. Yet, his marriage relationship with Michal was not a blessing. She undoubtedly turned out to be the self-centred curse in his life that Saul intended her to be.

20 In the meantime, Saul's daughter Michal had fallen in love with David, and Saul was delighted when he heard about it. 21 "Here's another chance to see him killed by the Philistines!" Saul said to himself. But to David he said, "Today you have a second chance to become my son-in-law!"

100 PHILISTINE

22 Then Saul told his men to say to David, "The king really likes you, and so do we. Why don't you accept the king's offer and become his son-in-law?"

23 When Saul's men said these things to David, he replied, "How can a poor man from a humble family afford the bride price for the daughter of a king?"

In his subsequent attempt to manipulate David into his trap, Saul is absolutely delighted that his second daughter has fallen deeply in love with him. Stunningly, Saul viewed Michal's crush as a strategic advantage and did not consider her affection for David as another example of rejection by his own family. The text did not say David loved her in return. He was just willing to do whatever he could to be counted as the "legitimate" son of Saul.

21 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." (1 Samuel 18) AMP

Saul understood that Michal would not be an asset to David but a deficit. She would be like a rope around his neck. Perhaps her love for David could be weaponized and used as a distraction to him because she was very emotionally demanding. Saul recognized that her emotional instability would be a curse in David's life and not a blessing, in contrast to her sister Merab.

This was obviously a well thought out trap laced with careful manipulation. Saul even used his royal officials to plant false ideas into David's mind. David knew in his heart, that Saul wanted to kill him. However, if he could be deceived into thinking otherwise, he would lower his guard just enough to be pinned by Saul's spear indirectly.

24 When Saul's men reported this back to the king, 25 he told them, "Tell David that all I want for the bride price is 100 Philistine foreskins! Vengeance on my enemies is all I really want." But what Saul had in mind was that David would be killed in the fight.

Saul was thoroughly brilliant in planning the downfall of David. In place of an enormously expensive bridal dowery that David could clearly not afford, Saul demanded something ridiculous. This was the second part of Saul's trap. He expected something impossible of David, in the hope that he would be killed in the process and never be seen again. He did not ask for scalps or heads, but foreskins instead. Obviously, 100 uncircumcised



FORESKINS



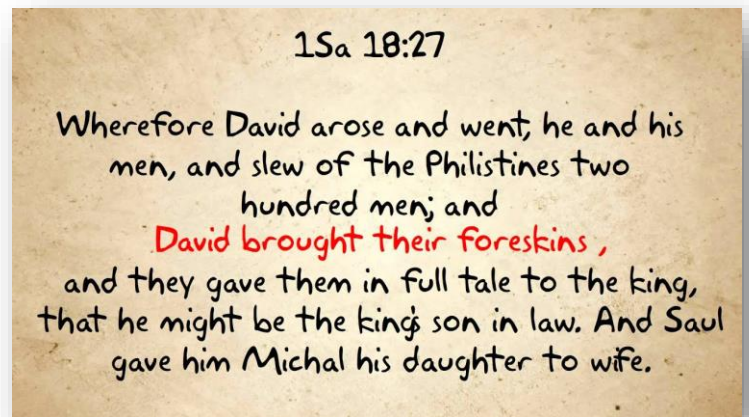


Philistine warriors will not willingly give up their foreskins, without an intensely ferocious fight. Moreover, the dead bodies of 100 sexually mutilated corpses would enrage the Philistines and make David look like a sexual pervert in the mind of his enemies. This would enflame Philistine army to kill David at all costs, when word circulated that he was a sexual predator.

26 David was delighted to accept the offer. Before the time limit expired, 27 he and his men went out and killed 200 Philistines. Then David fulfilled the king's requirement by presenting all their foreskins to him. So Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife.

When David paid double the bridal price and did twice as much as what was asked, the fear of the Lord fell upon Saul. Yet again, his scheme backfired when he received his bag of blood-soaked foreskins and counted his disgusting dowry.

28 When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and how much his daughter Michal loved him, 29 Saul became even more afraid of him, and he remained David's enemy for the rest of his life.



There is an unmentioned victim in this entire transaction that goes unnoticed by the text. Michal could have had the best intentions toward David at this point in her life. However, she was being treated like a chess piece. Her emotions were manipulated because neither Saul, nor David, really cared about her. Michal's affection for David was simply a weapon to be used. She was nothing more than a trophy to be won. It's no wonder she became so filled with bitter resentment towards both Saul and David in years to come.

30 Every time the commanders of the Philistines attacked, David was more successful against them than all the rest of Saul's officers. So David's name became very famous.



Saul's plan eventually backfired on every level. David truly became the hated enemy of the Philistine army, and they constantly hunted him for revenge. Nevertheless, Yahweh gave David victory in every circumstance. The more David was attacked, the more famous he became as a talented warrior. This was the opposite of what Saul desired and in turn, caused him to burn with an ever-growing hatred for David.



David's Sexual Brokenness

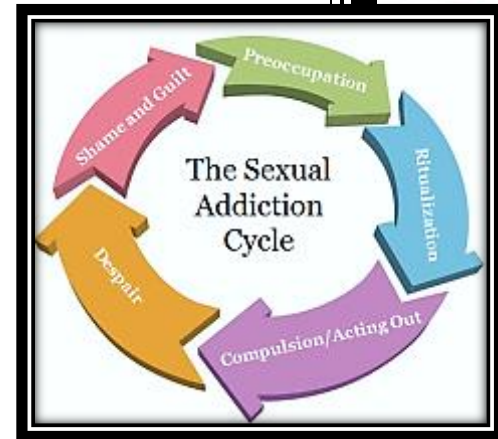
Saul promised the man who killed Goliath the hand of his eldest daughter Merab in marriage. After becoming jealous of David, Saul changed the bargain and instructed David to earn his daughter by proving himself on the battlefield against the Philistines once again. Abruptly, Saul cancelled his bargain

and gave his firstborn daughter to a rich man. The Hebrew name "Merab" means to **"increase and have many more"**. Saul did not want David to have an amazing wife like Merab, but was secretly glad, when he found out that Michal had fallen in love with him. The name "Michal" in Hebrew means **"babbling shallow brook"**. Merab would have been a deep, faithful well in David's life causing him to increase emotionally. Instead, he was given a shallow stream that quickly dried up when the heat was turned up.

Saul wanted David to be married to Michal because he knew she would lead him to his downfall and become a curse on his life. Perhaps, unlike her older sister Merab, Michal was a pretentious, unstable, and privileged young woman, who would never be happy with anything David provided for her?

No matter what, this was a tragedy in the life of David and a tragic turning point from which he never really emerged. From this moment onward, David had a very unhealthy relationship with almost every woman who entered his life. If David had a stable, sensible wife at his side, he could have had the emotional/spiritual support he needed during his lifetime. Sadly, David grounded his self-esteem in his ability to have many women, instead of one faithful wife.

It seemed, the one aspect of Godly character that David failed to develop in Bethlehem was the ability to have a stable sexual relationship with a virtuous woman. In response to the ongoing rejection from every father figure in his life, David learned to compensate for rejection by seeking



sexual gratification. By becoming intimate sexually with many different women, David felt loved and accepted for brief moments and seasons.

His need, nevertheless, was not emotional, simply sexual. Just as he had an excessive desire to conquer his enemies on the battlefield, he covered up his emotional instability by endless **sexual conquests**, that left him feeling empty and frustrated.

David learned how to be a formidable warrior and a skilled politician, but he never discovered how to be a good husband or an interested father. This emotional shortcoming haunted him all the days of his life. David would excel in every area except when it came to sexual intimacy and family life. This cancer lurking beneath the surface would eventually emerge to destroy his entire family line in years to come.

Saul Tries to Kill David


19 Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David.

As Saul's paranoia increased daily, David became the only thing he focused on. In his twisted mind, David stole the affection of his daughter, David stole the loyalty of his subjects, and now, to add insult to injury, Saul realized that David had also stolen the loyalty of his firstborn son. David was officially surrounded by enemies on every side because King Saul was now freefalling into insanity.

But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David, ² told him what his father was planning. "Tomorrow morning," he warned him, "you must find a hiding place out in the fields. ³ I'll ask my father to go out there with me, and I'll talk to him about you. Then I'll tell you everything I can find out."

⁴ The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him. "The king must not sin against his servant David," Jonathan said. "He's never done anything to harm you. He has always helped you in any way he could. ⁵ Have you forgotten about the time he risked his life to kill the Philistine giant and how the Lord brought a great victory to all Israel as a result? You were certainly happy about it then. Why should you murder an innocent man like David? There is no reason for it at all!"





Jonathan is an amazing young man with a heart filled with virtue, honesty, and loyalty. He is everything his father is not. Jonathan desperately wanted to believe in the “goodness” of his father. He wanted to believe his father’s heart was redeemable, if he could only speak some sense into him. Jonathan didn’t realize he was actually trying to reason with a demonic spirit, who was set on destroying David through his father. Foolishly, Jonathan trusted the word of Saul. Perhaps, Jonathan wanted to believe the best about his father and could not accept the fact that Saul was an incredibly self-serving person, who changed his word, as quickly as he changed his mind.

⁶ So Saul listened to Jonathan and vowed, “As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be killed.”

When Saul was in his right mind, he could be reasoned with and convinced by a logical argument. Jonathan reasoned with Saul and presented a factual case to prove that David was a loyal servant. Jonathan could only reason with his father when he was not insane, but when the demon came upon him, he was completely unreasonable.

⁷ Afterward Jonathan called David and told him what had happened. Then he brought David to Saul, and David served in the court as before.

⁸ War broke out again after that, and David led his troops against the Philistines. He attacked them with such fury that they all ran away.

David was an awesome warrior. He found his greatest sense of peace on the battlefield. Warfare was his cherished opportunity to get away from the constant stress created by King Saul's emotional instability. David was at his best on the battleground, leading his men to victory. Remarkably, he was most comfortable when surrounded by the blood and gore of the chaotic combat zone. His great blessing would also become the source of a persistent curse. As David rose to fame, Saul fell deeper and deeper into a dark pit of jealous frustration and depression.

Spiritually, these are warning clouds of a coming storm. It was David’s success that aroused Saul’s jealousy before. When David was successful again, surely Saul would be tempted to jealousy again.¹⁵

⁹ But one day when Saul was sitting at home, with spear in hand, the tormenting spirit from the Lord suddenly came upon him again. As David played his harp, ¹⁰ Saul hurled his spear at David. But David

¹⁵ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 19



dodged out of the way, and leaving the spear stuck in the wall, he fled and escaped into the night.

After a relatively peaceful season, Saul relapsed into his insane state of jealous rage and attempted to murder David as he ministered deliverance with a harp. This was the final straw. David knew he needed to flee for his life. For the next 7 years, David would run from Saul until Saul was finally killed in battle.



Michal Saves David's Life

¹¹ Then Saul sent troops to watch David's house. They were told to kill David when he came out the next morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't escape tonight, you will be dead by morning." ¹² So she helped him climb out through a window, and he fled and escaped.

¹⁴ My enemies come out at night, snarling like vicious dogs as they prowl the streets.

¹⁵ They scavenge for food but go to sleep unsatisfied.

¹⁶ But as for me, I will sing about your power. Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love. For you have been my refuge, a place of safety when I am in distress. (Psalm 59)¹⁶

¹³ Then she took an idol and put it in his bed, covered it with blankets, and put a cushion of goat's hair at its head.

Mysteriously, Michal placed a family idol in her bed in place of David. What was an idol doing in her house in the first place? Perhaps David was her most precious idol, but the text implied she was an idol worshipper.

¹⁶ A Psalm of David, when Michal saved his life from Saul.

Psalm 59:17

O my
Strength

I will sing praises to You
for You, O God, are my

Fortress

The God who shows me
steadfast love

This was just a slight insight into her faulty character, that will be further highlighted as the story progressed.

14 When the troops came to arrest David, she told them he was sick and couldn't get out of bed. 15 But Saul sent the troops back to get David. He ordered, "Bring him to me in his bed so I can kill him!" 16 But when they came to carry David out, they discovered that it was only an idol in the bed with a cushion of goat's hair at its head.

17 "Why have you betrayed me like this and let my enemy escape?" Saul demanded of Michal. "I had to," Michal replied. "He threatened to kill me if I didn't help him."



Michal was truly the daughter of Saul. When it came down to her defending the character of the man she loved, she protected herself when she was placed under pressure. This is sadly the life of a career politician. It's extremely hard to grow up in the house of a leader and not develop this type of self-serving attitude.

18 So David escaped and went to Ramah to see Samuel, and he told him all that Saul had done to him. Then Samuel took David with him to live at Naioth.

David did the right thing when in a difficult and confusing situation. He spent some time with a godly man. We can imagine David pouring out his heart to the prophet: "Samuel, you anointed me king and look what happened! I guess it isn't time yet, but why is it so hard? Does God want me dead? Why is the LORD allowing this?"¹⁷

19 When the report reached Saul that David was at Naioth in Ramah, 20 he sent troops to capture him. But when they arrived and saw Samuel leading a group of prophets who were prophesying, the Spirit of God came upon Saul's men, and they also began to prophesy.

¹⁷ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 19

This was a difficult phenomenon to describe. The men assigned to capture David were overcome with some kind of supernatural experience that caused them to become incapacitated and unable to carry out their duty. Regardless of the exact nature of the experience, the Spirit of Yahweh protected David from the diabolical hand of King Saul.



When it says that they were all prophesying it isn't that they were all predicting the future. The Hebrew word simply has the idea of speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They probably all gave spontaneous and inspired praise to God.¹⁸

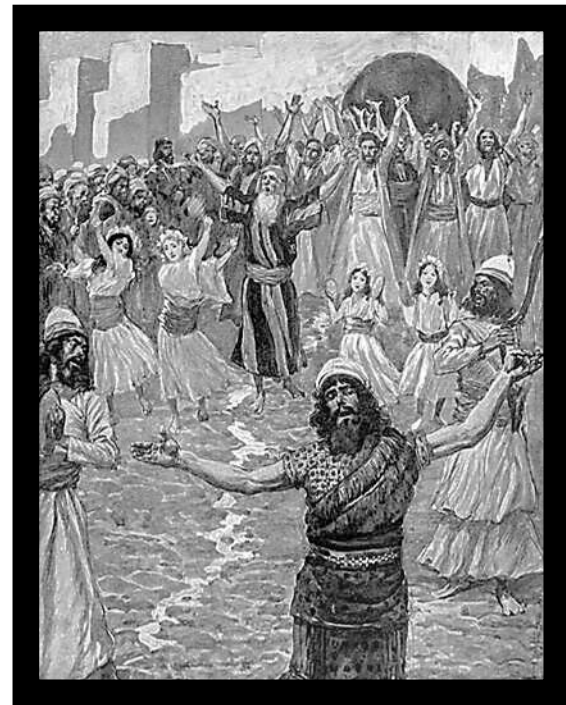
²¹ When Saul heard what had happened, he sent other troops, but they, too, prophesied! The same thing happened a third time. ²² Finally, Saul himself went to Ramah and arrived at the great well in Secu. "Where are Samuel and David?" he demanded.

"They are at Naioth in Ramah," someone told him.

²³ But on the way to Naioth in Ramah the Spirit of God came even upon Saul, and he, too, began to prophesy all the way to Naioth! ²⁴ He tore off his clothes and lay naked on the ground all day and all night, prophesying in the presence of Samuel. The people who were watching exclaimed, "What? Is even Saul a prophet?"

The Spirit prompted Saul to do this as an expression of deep humility. Saul would not humble himself before God, and so God will find a way to humble him.¹⁹

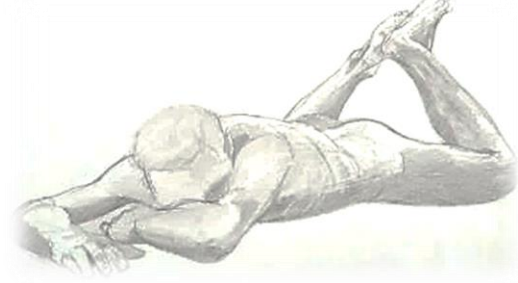
Just because Saul had a powerful charismatic experience with Yahweh, did not mean that his heart was transformed. This charismatic experience was Saul's final encounter with the



¹⁸ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 19

¹⁹ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 19

Spirit of God. It was almost as if Yahweh was giving him one last opportunity to repent and soften his heart before he was completely overcome by the darkness that filled his soul. Perhaps the illustration foreshadowed what is apparent to anyone reading the text. Saul will be stripped of his honor and glory. He will likewise be stripped of the Kingdom of Israel. This will happen by the hand of God and not by the sword of David.



1. The text says Jonathan and David made a pact or a covenant and they exchanged clothing. What were the prophetic implications of this act?
2. Jonathan is a powerful type and shadow of someone yet to come. He was the rightful future King of Israel but exchanged his position with a lowly servant like David. What does this act foreshadow?
3. How did Saul respond to the praises people were heaping on David? What can we learn about Saul from his response? Contrast the response of Saul with the response of Jonathan.
4. As King Saul sinks deeper into demonic oppression, he moves in and out of sanity. Do you think Saul could still have repented at this time or was it too late?
5. How do we understand the violent nature of the Old Testament? Is the New Testament less violent?



Jonathan Helps David

20 David now fled from Naioth in Ramah and found Jonathan. **"What have I done?" he exclaimed. "What is my crime? How have I offended your father that he is so determined to kill me?"**

In frustration, David appealed to one of his few friends. He bitterly lamented over his situation and asked Jonathan if he had done anything to bring this great burden upon himself. At the same time, there was also a slight element of hopefulness behind David's painful inquiry.

2 "That's not true!" Jonathan protested. "You're not going to die. He always tells me everything he's going to do, even the little things. I know my father wouldn't hide something like this from me. It just isn't so!"

Jonathan was a wise man who understood the will of Yahweh in this situation. David will be King of Israel regardless of what anyone does to prevent it. It's foolish to fight against the will of Yahweh.

3 Then David took an oath before Jonathan and said, "Your father knows perfectly well about our friendship, so he has said to himself, 'I won't tell Jonathan—why should I hurt him?' But I swear to you that I am only a step away from death! I swear it by the Lord and by your own soul!"

David surely understood the gravity of his situation. He knew without a doubt that Saul will not relent until he was dead. He was fighting feelings of depression and frustration and felt he was at the end of his rope.

**I WILL NOT DIE, BUT I
WILL LIVE AND PROCLAIM
WHAT THE LORD HAS
DONE.
- PSALM 118:17**



**A man of God in the will of God is
immortal until His work is done.**

The Friend That Sticks

⁴ “Tell me what I can do to help you,” Jonathan exclaimed.

⁵ David replied, “Tomorrow we celebrate the new moon festival. I’ve always eaten with the king on this occasion, but tomorrow I’ll hide in the field and stay there until the evening of the third day. ⁶ If your father asks where I am, tell him I asked permission to go home to Bethlehem for an annual family sacrifice. ⁷ If he says, ‘Fine!’ you will know all is well. But if he is angry and loses his temper, you will know he is determined to kill me. ⁸ Show me this loyalty as my sworn friend—for we made a solemn pact before the Lord—or kill me yourself if I have sinned against your father. But please don’t betray me to him!”

David asked Jonathan to spy on Saul to determine if there was any shift in his attitude. He assumed that Saul would try to trap him at the moon festival if he still had ill intentions towards him. According to the Hebrew lunar calendar, the new month began when the moon was thinnest. David understood that he was expected to be at the “staff meeting” with all the other leaders of Israel.

⁹ “Never!” Jonathan exclaimed. “You know that if I had the slightest notion my father was planning to kill you, I would tell you at once.”

¹⁰ Then David asked, “How will I know whether or not your father is angry?”

¹¹ “Come out to the field with me,” Jonathan replied. And they went out there together. ¹² Then Jonathan told David, “I promise by the Lord, the God of Israel, that by this time tomorrow, or the next day at the latest, I will talk to my father and let you know at once how he feels about you. If he speaks favorably about you, I will let you know. ¹³ But if he is angry and wants you killed, may the Lord strike me and even kill me if I don’t warn you so you can escape and live. May the Lord be with you as he used to be with my father. ¹⁴ And may you treat me with the faithful love of the Lord as long as I live. But if I die, ¹⁵ treat my family with this faithful love, even when the Lord destroys all your enemies from the face of the earth.”

Closer Than A Brother

The Lesson Of Friendship



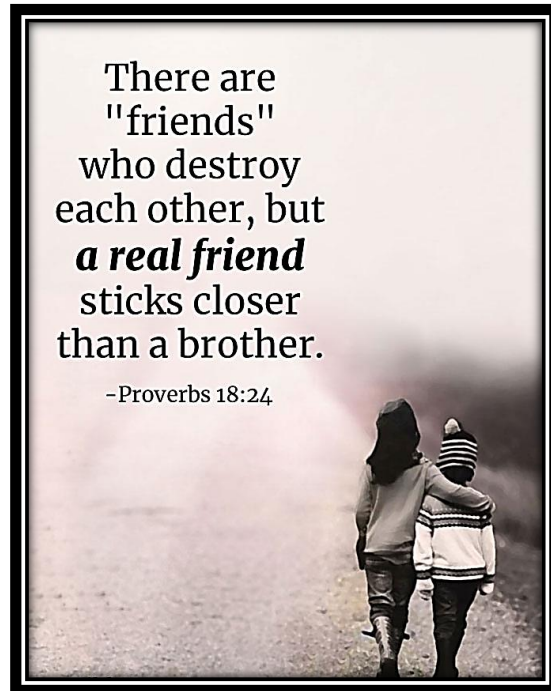
David endured a series of disastrous relationships all his life. His family life was a complete disaster. He was rejected by his father and lived like an outcast among his own brothers. Saul also deeply hurt David and reinforced the "spirit of rejection" which constantly plagued him. David's only source of peace was his trustworthy sword. He could not seem to achieve any kind of stability in his life aside from the battlefield. David had no real source of emotional stability because he was constantly betrayed by the people closest to him.

In the midst of all his dysfunctional relationships, Jonathan was his only ray of light. In Jonathan, David found a friend that was closer than a brother. Their souls were united because they were both noble men and mighty warriors at heart. Jonathan was selfless and cared more about serving Israel, than he did his own throne. He longed for the day when he and David would serve Yahweh together and make Israel the greatest nation on the face of the earth. Sadly, that day would never come because only one king can sit on the throne at a time.

There is a crucial life lesson in this illustration that all developing leaders need to understand. We all need to have stability in our relationships and people close to us whom we can trust. Our primary source of emotional stability should be found in our marriage relationship. Our best friend should be our spouse. However, aside from that, we need to have close relationships with friends we trust. Trusted friends keep a leader in check and help them balance their emotions. Without these kinds of friendships, leaders become psychologically unstable when they spend too much time with their own thoughts. This is exactly what happened to King Saul. He had no one close enough to him who could speak truth into his life. Therefore, no one was able to give him wise council as he sank into emotional despair. Isolation and loneliness are the deadliest traps leaders fall into. Leaders have an unconscious tendency of surrounding themselves with people who will only tell them what they want to hear. This is a classic recipe for disaster!

There are
"friends"
who destroy
each other, but
a real friend
sticks closer
than a brother.

-Proverbs 18:24





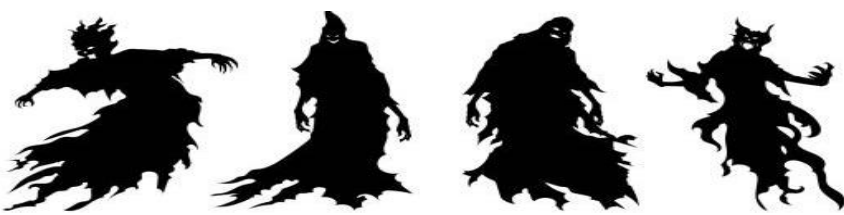
Strangely, Jonathan does not prophesy about the death of David, but speaks about his own demise. Perhaps Jonathan had the spiritual discernment to understand that David could never be the King of Israel, until all the biological sons of Saul were also dead. In the “everlasting” covenant Jonathan made with David, he foreshadowed his own death. Interestingly, Jonathan requested that David make an eternal covenant with his descendants to show kindness to all his offspring in the future, when the Lord removed the descendants of Saul from the throne.



16 So Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, saying, “May the Lord destroy all your enemies!” 17 And Jonathan made David reaffirm his vow of friendship again, for Jonathan loved David as he loved himself.

18 Then Jonathan said, “Tomorrow we celebrate the new moon festival. You will be missed when your place at the table is empty. 19 The day after tomorrow, toward evening, go to the place where you hid before, and wait there by the stone pile. 20 I will come out and shoot three arrows to the side of the stone pile as though I were shooting at a target. 21 Then I will send a boy to bring the arrows back. If you hear me tell him, ‘They’re on this side,’ then you will know, as surely as the Lord lives, that all is well, and there is no trouble. 22 But if I tell him, ‘Go farther—the arrows are still ahead of you,’ then it will mean that you must leave immediately, for the Lord is sending you away. 23 And may the Lord make us keep our promises to each other, for he has witnessed them.”

Jonathan demonstrated great wisdom because he placed the matter into the hands of Yahweh. He understood that David’s life had a tremendous destiny to fulfill, and that it was Yahweh sending David away, not Saul. David had to surrender to the will of Yahweh and trust Him alone for his provision and protection.

24 So David hid himself in the field, and when the new moon festival began, the king sat down to eat. 25 He sat at his usual place against the wall, with Jonathan sitting opposite him and Abner beside him. But David’s place was empty. 26 Saul didn’t say anything about it that day, for he said to himself, “Something must have made David ceremonially unclean.” 27 But when David’s place was empty again the next day, Saul asked Jonathan, “Why hasn’t the son of Jesse been here for the meal either yesterday or today?”





28 Jonathan replied, "David earnestly asked me if he could go to Bethlehem. 29 He said, 'Please let me go, for we are having a family sacrifice. My brother demanded that I be there. So please let me get away to see my brothers.' That's why he isn't here at the king's table."

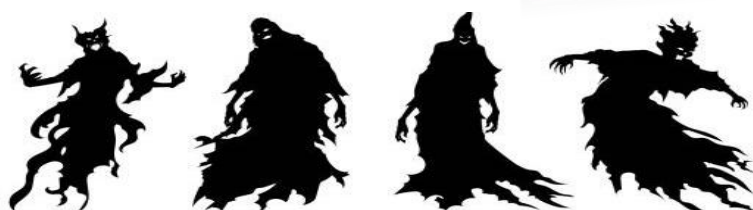
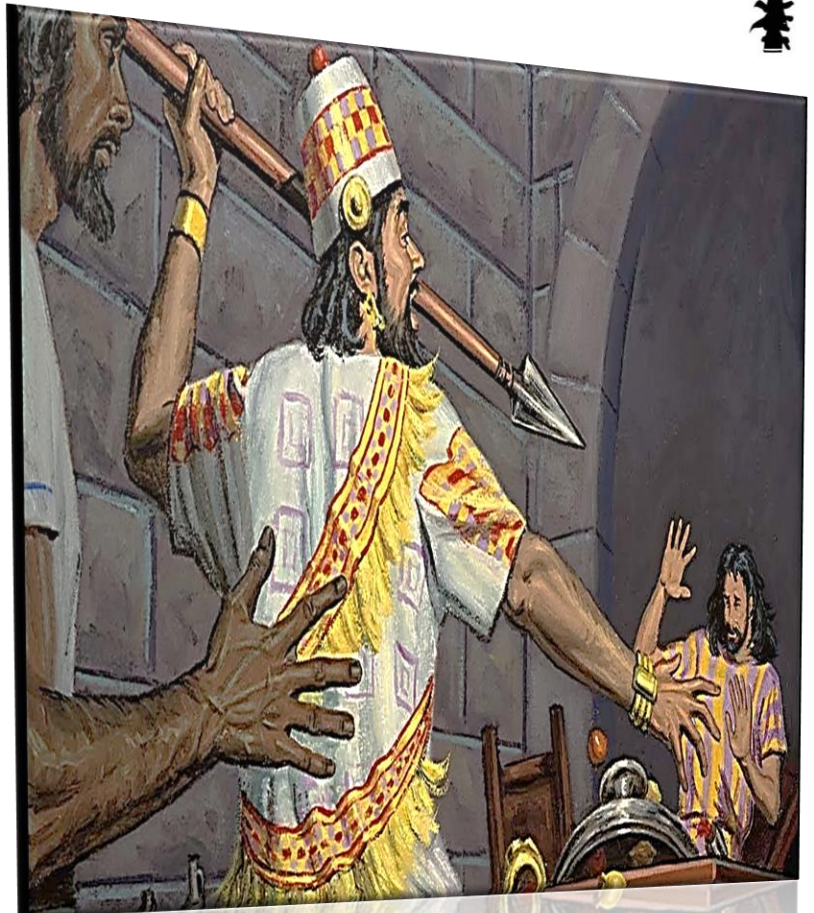
Clearly, Saul had every intention to murder David at the festival but was doing his best not to look too suspicious. Saul remained silent as long as he could until he felt Jonathan was not telling him everything. At this point, Saul's anger exploded into a torrent of malicious rage.

30 Saul boiled with rage at Jonathan. "You stupid son of a whore!" he swore at him. "Do you think I don't know that you want him to be king in your place, shaming yourself and your mother? 31 As long as that son of Jesse is alive, you'll never be king. Now go and get him so I can kill him!"

Saul foolishly assumed he could circumvent the will of Yahweh, while Jonathan wisely understood the will of God was unstoppable. In his anger, Saul accused Jonathan of being stupid and dishonorable. Conversely, Saul was obviously the man who lacked honor, while Jonathan displayed royalty and nobility in everything he did.

Saul demanded that Jonathan participate in capturing and killing David to preserve his own royal lineage, but Jonathan strongly objected.

32 "But why should he be put to death?" Jonathan asked his father. "What has he done?" 33 Then Saul hurled



his spear at Jonathan, intending to kill him. So at last Jonathan realized that his father was really determined to kill David.

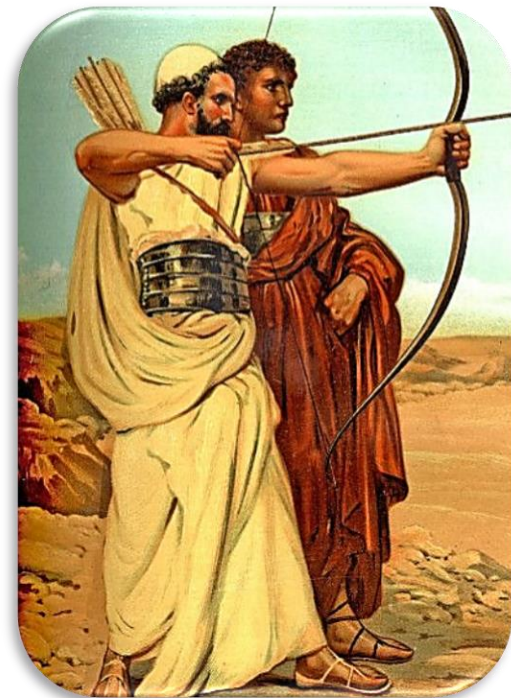
Saul was so blinded with rage and jealousy; he was even willing to murder his own faithful son. At this point, he was way beyond the ability to reason and was clearly demonized, especially when he was enraged.

³⁴ Jonathan left the table in fierce anger and refused to eat on that second day of the festival, for he was crushed by his father's shameful behavior toward David.

Poetically, the mighty King Saul was left alone at the feast. He was losing everything, right before his eyes because he was fighting Yahweh, not David. The more Saul tried to prevent the prophetic words of Samuel from coming to pass, the more isolated and alone he became. One can never hold bitterness and unforgiveness for an extended period of time, without being open to spiritual invasion. In Saul's case, it was far more serious. He was bitter and angry at Yahweh, who was his only source of deliverance.

³⁵ The next morning, as agreed, Jonathan went out into the field and took a young boy with him to gather his arrows. ³⁶ "Start running," he told the boy, "so you can find the arrows as I shoot them." So the boy ran, and Jonathan shot an arrow beyond him. ³⁷ When the boy had almost reached the arrow, Jonathan shouted, "The arrow is still ahead of you. ³⁸ Hurry, hurry, don't wait." So the boy quickly gathered up the arrows and ran back to his master. ³⁹ He, of course, suspected nothing; only Jonathan and David understood the signal. ⁴⁰ Then Jonathan gave his bow and arrows to the boy and told him to take them back to town.

Keeping his word, Jonathan shot the arrow that changed the trajectory of David's life forever. As he powerfully pulled on the tight bow, Jonathan disappointedly realized that all his hopes and dreams were being catapulted away with that one single arrow. Jonathan dreamed of honourably serving side-by-side with David, as they collectively defeated the enemies of Yahweh. Jonathan and David were a heroic "dream team" which was feasibly comprised of the two of the greatest warriors in the history of Israel. With the flight of that single arrow,



David would be an enemy of Israel as long as Saul lived. Moreover, Jonathan had a sinking feeling that his relationship with David was about to come to a tragic end.

41 As soon as the boy was gone, David came out from where he had been hiding near the stone pile. Then David bowed three times to Jonathan with his face to the ground. Both of them were in tears as they embraced each other and said good-bye, especially David.

42 At last Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn loyalty to each other in the Lord's name. The Lord is the witness of a bond between us and our children forever." Then David left, and Jonathan returned to the town.



This was a sad day for both men, but a tragic day for David. He would spend many years running like a rabbit in the wilderness, far from the comfort of his wife, his friends, and his family. This was not what he deserved for his faithful service to Saul. Nevertheless, Yahweh had something greater for David to accomplish and a "new chapter" of his life was about to unfold.

THE NEXT CHAPTER



The Graduation

As mentioned in the introduction, David had many lessons to learn at major stages of his life until he was ready to sit on the Throne of Israel. Consequently, he spent approximately 7 years (7 representing completion) at each specific stage in his development. David spent 7 years in **Bethlehem**, learning the life lessons needed to carry the "anointing" he received from Samuel. Afterwards, he spent 7 years hiding in **Adullam** from King Saul, as he learned the art of waiting and suffering. Finally, David spent 7 more years in **Hebron** where he experienced his "appointing" as the King of Judah, learning how to govern over a nation.

It was only after fully completing all 3 stages of his **“training for reigning”**, that David received the fullness of the prophetic promised made by Samuel, when he was finally both **“appointed”** and **“anointed”** to be King of Israel.

Bethlehem

1. Calling
2. Anointing
3. beginning

Adullam

1. Suffering
2. Learning
3. growing

Hebron

1. Commitment
2. Relationship
3. Promotion



Great things happen in Adullam!

The Story
BEHIND
The Story

The cave of Adullam was a place of great suffering for David. It was a 7-year season of his life where he was tested greatly, learned new skills and experienced tremendous growth as a spiritual leader. The Adullam stage of development for David was just as necessary as the Bethlehem stage. Just as a leader must grow in their gifting and anointing, they must also develop in the ability to suffer and endure disappointment and personal loss. Adullam was a fortress for David called “Masada” in Hebrew. David had all the basic ingredients of a great leader, but he needed to simmer for a few years to mature the flavor of his leadership skills. David did not want to endure this season of waiting, suffering and growing, but it was necessary before moving onto the next level of authority.

It was in the cave of Adullam where David learned to be a governor of an emerging nation called Judah and a successful mentor to the greatest army Israel ever knew. David's anointing drew people to him and they came to

YOU ARE MY

Adullam by the hundreds and then, thousands. David used this time well to mentor a new generation of leaders. He went into the hostile, damp cave as one rejected and dejected individual. Seven years later, he rose from that humble position and left the cave, with the strongest standing army in Israel. Even when we don't see Yahweh working, we can be assured He is always working behind the scenes. David saw this stage of his life as a tragic waste of time. However, looking back, it was the greatest developmental stage in his history. Unexpectedly, great things come to developing leaders, from our worst times of suffering and loss.

David Runs from Saul

21 David went to the town of Nob to see Ahimelech the priest.

The fact that David ran to the priest is very insightful. Previously, he tried to find a source of refuge by returning to Samuel the Prophet. He could not stay with Samuel indefinitely. He needed to leave. Nevertheless, David always tried to find security by seeking after the presence of the Lord. He instinctually ran to the Lord during his moments of crisis, when he suffered from seasons of depression and intermittent confusion.

¹ *I come to you for protection, O Lord my God.*

Save me from my persecutors—rescue me!

² *If you don't, they will maul me like a lion,*

tearing me to pieces with no one to rescue me.

³ *O Lord my God, if I have done wrong*

or am guilty of injustice,

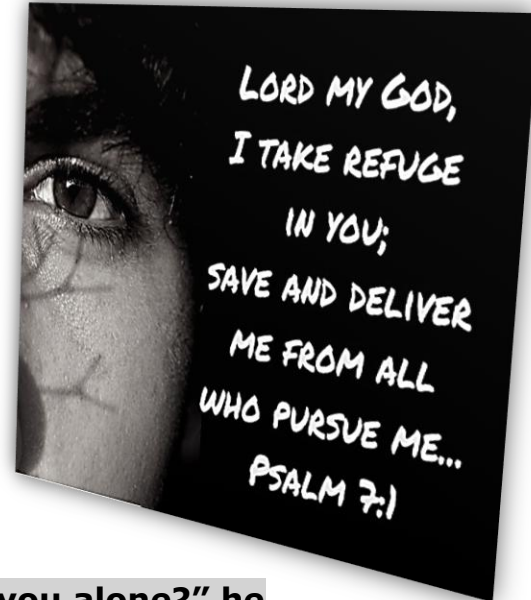
⁴ *if I have betrayed a friend*

or plundered my enemy without cause,

⁵ *then let my enemies capture me.*

Let them trample me into the ground

and drag my honor in the dust. (Psalm 7)²⁰



Ahimelech trembled when he saw him. "Why are you alone?" he asked. "Why is no one with you?"

Having nowhere else to go, David traveled to the house of the Lord. After being rejected by every **father figure** in his past, David found strength in

²⁰ A Psalm of David which he sang to the Lord concerning Saul.

HIDING PLACE

the presence of his **everlasting Father**. David obviously looked so poorly, that Ahimelech knew something was desperately wrong.

² “The king has sent me on a private matter,” David said. “He told me not to tell anyone why I am here. I have told my men where to meet me later. ³ Now, what is there to eat? Give me five loaves of bread or anything else you have.”

David lied to save his life in a desperate situation. Nothing good is going to come out of this heart-breaking lie. The consequences on this moment will be horrific to the life of Ahimelech, all the priests and their families.

⁴ “We don’t have any regular bread,” the priest replied. “But there is the holy bread, which you can have if your young men have not slept with any women recently.” ⁵ “Don’t worry,” David replied. “I never allow my men to be with women when we are on a campaign. And since they stay clean even on ordinary trips, how much more on this one!” ⁶ Since there was no other food available, the priest gave him the holy bread—the Bread of the Presence that was placed before the Lord in the Tabernacle. It had just been replaced that day with fresh bread.



In an amazing act of charity and compassion, Ahimelech bent the legalistic rules, to meet the need of a desperate man. According to the Law of Moses, this bread was strictly reserved only for the priests serving in the Tabernacle. Breaking with tradition, this priest chose love over legalism, which fully expressed the **heart of the law**. He understood that human needs are greater than religious traditions. Oddly, the bread that preserved the life of David, came at the expense of Ahimelech’s life.

This is the second illustration in the text where a good and righteous man must die to preserve the life of David. The tragic brokenness of King Saul has many consequences in the nation of Israel. When evil people rise to power, righteous people must die as a consequence. This is the graphic nature of spiritual warfare. Light and dark cannot exist in the same place. Darkness always hates the light and Satan was a murderer from the beginning.

The Devil

**He was a murderer from the beginning
He does not stand in the truth
There is no truth in him
He he is a liar and the father of lies**

³ Jesus said to them, "Haven't you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He went into the house of God, and he and his companions broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests are allowed to eat. (Matthew 12)

⁷ Now Doeg the Edomite, Saul's chief herdsman, was there that day, having been detained before the Lord. ⁸ David asked Ahimelech, "Do you have a spear or sword? The king's business was so urgent that I didn't even have time to grab a weapon!"

Exploiting the helpfulness of Ahimelech, David sought to gain a weapon for his own self defense. Because he fled from Saul with such haste, he didn't even have the time to go back to his house to pick up his trusty weapons. Fortunately, the sword of Goliath was being held in the tabernacle, as a symbol of Yahweh's supernatural deliverance of His people. Although David defeated Goliath by faith, he is now motivated by fear, desperation, and self preservation. These self-serving lies will return to sting David sharply because he will carry the guilt of many dead priests for years to come.

⁹ "I only have the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah," the priest replied. "It is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. Take that if you want it, for there is nothing else here."

"There is nothing like it!" David replied. "Give it to me!"



David seeks shelter from the Philistines

¹⁰ So David escaped from Saul and went to King Achish of Gath. ¹¹ But the officers of Achish were unhappy about his being there. "Isn't this David, the king of the land?" they asked. "Isn't he the one the people honor with dances, singing,



'Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands?'

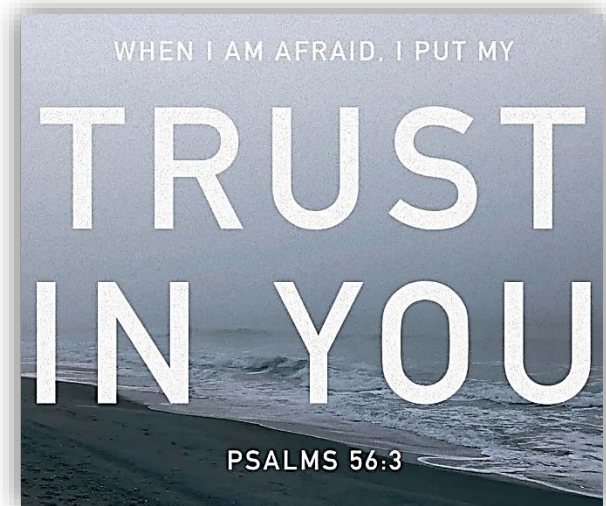
David Amongst the Philistines

Trust in Yahweh

12 David heard these comments and was very afraid of what King Achish of Gath might do to him.

This is definitely not a high point in David's life. He was no longer living by faith, but made many spontaneously foolish decisions, out of pure desperation. Why would David, the greatest warrior in Israel, enter into the city of the Philistines with the sword of Goliath, their champion? Why would he expect mercy from the enemies of Yahweh? Did David go insane like King Saul? Astonishingly, David came to his senses and sought Yahweh for direction and discernment at this crucial moment of time.

**1 O God, have mercy on me,
for people are hounding me.
My foes attack me all day long.**
**2 I am constantly hounded by those who
slander me,
and many are boldly attacking me.**
**3 But when I am afraid,
I will put my trust in you.**
**4 I praise God for what he has promised.
I trust in God, so why should I be afraid?
What can mere mortals do to me? (Psalm
56)²¹**



Psalm 56 was written specifically about this time, when David was captured by the Philistines of Gath. David foolishly got himself in a horrible situation and cried out to Yahweh for help. This is a turning point in David's life because he remembered the promise of the Lord and the anointing that followed him ever since the oil from Samuel's flask covered his head.

13 So he pretended to be insane, scratching on doors and drooling down his beard.

14 Finally, King Achish said to his men, "Must you bring me a madman? 15 We already have enough of them around here! Why should I let someone like this be my guest?"

²¹ A Psalm of David, regarding the time the Philistines seized him in Gath.

Fear Not

David was already acting like a madman in the first place. Why would he do something as foolish as going to the city of Goliath for refuge? Funny enough, what got him into this hopeless situation, would also get him out. Drawing from his trying experience with King Saul, David knew how insane people behaved. He gave the best performance of his life and acted like such a raving madman; he even covered his face with drool. David was so reprehensible in the sight of the Philistines that King Achish wanted to be as far away from him as possible. Consequently, they escorted David out of the region of Gath and cast him out of the land.

4 I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me.

He freed me from all my fears.

5 Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.

6 In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; he saved me from all my troubles.

7 For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. (Psalm 34)²²

The Lord rescued David from an impossible situation because he called upon Yahweh in his moment of desperation. Yahweh did not give David what he deserved but showed him grace and mercy, because it was only by the mercy of God, that he got out of that impossible situation.

**I sought the
LORD, and
he heard
me, and
delivered
me from all
my fears.**

- Psalm 34:4 (KJV) -



²² A Psalm of David, regarding the time he pretended to be insane.



1. Saul was so consumed by jealous rage that he was willing to cold-bloodedly murder Jonathan for defending David. Discuss the consequences of rebellion in the heart of Saul and where his stubbornness is leading him.
2. David bowed 3 times before Jonathan in heartfelt sorrow knowing his grief was only beginning. What are some parallels between David's suffering and the suffering of Jesus?
3. Jonathan was the only male figure in David's life who mentored him as a young man. How did his lack of a spiritual father figure affect David in his later life?
4. David lied to Ahimelech to obtain bread and a sword. Is it ever the Lord's will that we lie to achieve a greater good? Discuss.
5. David pretended to be mad to escape from King Achish. Was this godly wisdom or another example of David using immoral deception to stay alive?

David at the Cave of Adullam

22 So David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam.

David in the Cave

As noted, the word "Adullam" means "a **hiding place**". This was a tragic period in David's life. For the next 7 years, David would hide like a rabbit in the wilderness, relentlessly hunted by King Saul. After learning the essential skills in Bethlehem related to calling, beginning, and anointing, David spent another 7 years learning other skills. *This was David's place of refuge. He couldn't go to his house, he couldn't go to the*

The Story
BEHIND
The Story

VALLEY OF THE

palace, he couldn't go to Samuel, he couldn't go to Jonathan, he couldn't go to the house of the LORD, and he couldn't go to the ungodly. But he could go to a humble cave and find refuge.²³

In the cave of Adullam, David would learn the skills of testing, learning, and growing. Such skills were necessary for David to rule as a king. At the lowest moments of his life, David mastered the life lessons associated with **suffering** and **rejection**.

These are difficult lessons to learn, because nobody desired to be in such a place, for an extended period of time. As developing leaders, we want our season of testing to be as short as possible. Nevertheless, the lessons we learn during the darkest periods of our lives are the teachings that impact us deeply. The Bible says that even King Yahshua willingly learned by suffering.

***10** God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation. (Hebrews 2)*

If it was necessary for even Yahshua to suffer, it must mean that perhaps suffering has a redeemable quality because it produces something in us that nothing else will.



During this time, David wrote some of the most powerful Psalms he ever penned. His emotions were raw and unstable, fluctuating erratically from time to time. In Adullam, there were ecstatic moments of great victory, surrounded by longer periods of crushing lingering depression. Towards the end of this 7-year journey, the **refining fire** of suffering almost crushed him, and David nearly lost all hope. But God always remained faithful to him, in the midst of this difficult journey. This was the "**valley of the shadow of death**" that David walked through at this trying season of his life.

Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there. ² Then others began coming—men who were in trouble or in debt or who

²³ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 22

SHADOW OF DEATH?

57D all through

were just discontented—until David was the captain of about 400 men.

David was already **appointed** and **anointed** to be the King of Israel. He was already the king in the eyes of Yahweh, he just needed a kingdom. As the people heard he was in the cave, the Lord drew people to him as sheep gather around a shepherd. There was no shepherd in Israel because Saul was consumed with selfishness. In a desperate time, he became a source of stability and hope for broken people because the Lord was with him.

YOU SHALL KNOW THE
TRUTH

The **appointing** and the **anointing** that rested on the life of David drew broken people to him because they recognized the **position of authority** that was placed upon his life. There was nothing on the surface that demonstrated the “anointing”. It was simply a presence that constantly rested upon him. People who were broke, busted, and disgusted with their present life, and lifestyle, came to David desperately looking for hope. This foreshadowed the infinitely greater “anointing” which rested on Yahshua, which drew men/women to him who were also in desperate need of

change.

***28** Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” (Matthew 11)*

When David became a commander over the 400 soldiers who recognized his leadership ability, the men who committed to follow him, also shared in his anointing. These broken men eventually became the greatest army in Israel’s history. Scripturally, you become like the person you serve under. Greatness is infectious and spreads



Did you know that **CHRIST** means **MESSIAH**?



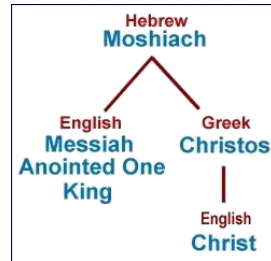
from person to person when a group of people make a **covenant** to serve a God-anointed leader.

8 Some brave and experienced warriors from the tribe of Gad also defected to David while he was at the stronghold in the wilderness. They were expert with both shield and spear, as fierce as lions and as swift as deer on the mountains. (1 Chronicles 12)

Likewise, when we covenant ourselves to Christ, we **partake** in His Spirit, and we become **transformed** by our service.

3 Later David went to Mizpeh in Moab, where he asked the king, "Please allow my father and mother to live here with you until I know what God is going to do for me." 4 So David's parents stayed in Moab with the king during the entire time David was living in his stronghold.

David was able to find refuge for his parents because Jessie came from a Moabite family line. Jessie was the grandson of Ruth, the Moabite woman, famous for her amazing faith. Ruth married Boaz, the Israelite, and conceived Obed who was Jessie's father. Their family line gave David incredible favor with the King of Moab during his lifetime.



The Lesson Of Prayer



From a natural perspective, the cave seemed like the worst possible situation for David to be in. Removed from the comforts of the palace, David was forced to rely exclusively upon the Lord. It was at this desperate place, where David deepened his faith and relied on Yahweh with everything he had. At his deepest points of depression, he regularly cried out to the Lord like never before. It was during this soul-crushing, season that

David wrote some of his most intensely powerful worship songs, when he exclusively relied on Yahweh, for even his next breath.

1 Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection.

**Have mercy on me, my God,
have mercy on me, for in you I
take refuge. I will take refuge
in the shadow of your wings
until the disaster has passed.**

Psalm 57:1



Prophet.



Priest.



King.



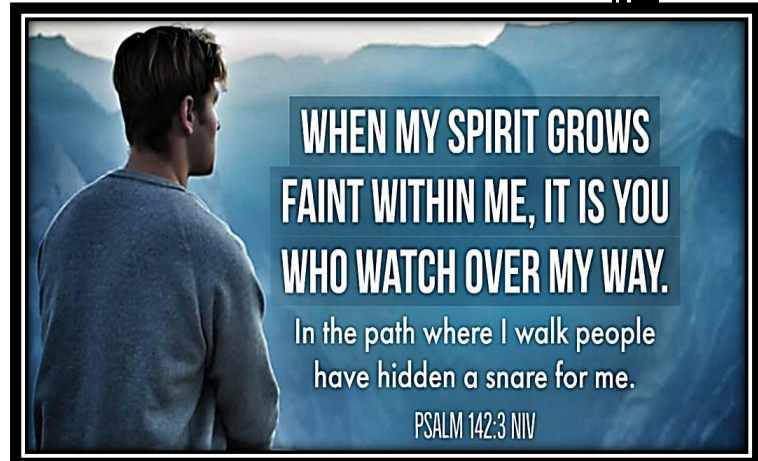
*I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until the danger passes by.
2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.
3 He will send help from heaven to rescue me, disgracing those who hound me. (Psalm 57)*

During this time of crisis, David could not even rely on the power of his own sword to keep him safe. King Saul relentlessly pursued him with thousands of armed men. David could only rely on the power of God to shield him under the shelter of the Most High.

*1 I cry out to the Lord;
I plead for the Lord's mercy.
2 I pour out my complaints before him
and tell him all my troubles.
3 When I am overwhelmed,
you alone know the way I should
turn. Wherever I go, my enemies have
set traps for me. (Psalm 142)²⁴*

There is an incredible lesson to be learned for all of God's people in the most difficult moments of life. In the lonely seasons, when we wrongfully assume God is breaking us, He is actually making us. It's in the difficult times, the **dark night of the soul**, where we hold closely to the presence of God, because He is all we have! David experienced amazing spiritual growth during the worst of times and so do we.

*1 Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection.
I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until
the danger passes by.
2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill
his purpose for me.
3 He will send help from heaven to rescue
me, disgracing those who hound me. My God will
send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness.
4 I am surrounded by fierce lions
who greedily devour human prey—
whose teeth pierce like spears and arrows, and
whose tongues cut like swords.*



Rest in the shadow of the **Almighty**

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens!

May your glory shine over all the earth.

⁶ My enemies have set a trap for me.

I am weary from distress.

They have dug a deep pit in my path, (Psalm 57)²⁵



⁵ One day the prophet Gad told David, "Leave the stronghold and return to the land of Judah." So David went to the forest of Hereth.

David enjoyed support and aid from the prophets. Saul's dealing with the prophets (such as Samuel) was almost always negative because Saul resisted the word of God. David received God's word.²⁶

Even when David was isolated in Adullam, the Word of the Lord came to him at specific times. Although Saul had rejected David, Yahweh had not. The call of God was still progressively unfolding in his life, as long as he remained sensitive and obedient to the Voice of Yahweh.

⁶ The news of his arrival in Judah soon reached Saul. At the time, the king was sitting beneath the tamarisk tree on the hill at Gibeah, holding his spear and surrounded by his officers.

The small detail about Saul holding his spear is insightful because that was the same spear that he intended to thrust through David's heart. Realizing that discontented men were rallying to David's side, Saul was motivated to make him look like a rebel leader, who amassed a guerrilla army to overthrow the legitimate King of Israel.

⁷ "Listen here, you men of Benjamin!" Saul shouted to his officers when he heard the news. "Has that son of Jesse promised every one of you fields and vineyards? Has he promised to make you all generals and captains in his army?"



²⁵ A Psalm of David, regarding his experience hiding from Saul in the cave.

²⁶ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 22

DEMONIZATION

OR

MENTAL ILLNESS

THINKING DISTORTED

Saul shamelessly appealed to the political interest of his core supporters as he asserted that David intended to place the men from the **Tribe of Judah** in all the important positions of power in Israel. If the men of Benjamin hoped to retain their power, prestige, and influence, they also had a vested interest in killing David to suppress the emerging ambition of Judah.

Perhaps Saul was painfully aware of the prediction Jacob spoke over his son Judah shortly before his death. Judah was predestined to be the kingly line, because the **sceptre of the king** would remain in this tribe, until the **Lion of the Tribe of Judah**, received it forever.

⁹ *Judah, my son, is a young lion
that has finished eating its prey.
Like a lion he crouches and lies down;
like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?*
¹⁰ *The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from his descendants,
until the coming of the one to whom it belongs,
the one whom all nations will honor.*
(Genesis 49)



Not only was Saul fighting against the Will of Yahweh, but he was also fighting against the Word of Yahweh. Both the Will and Word of God are the same. Yahshua was the Word of God, Who came to do the Will of God.

Saul was destined to fail in his attempt to kill David because the prophetic Word of Samuel was forever established and the “foreknowledge” of Yahweh already predicted that David would be king.

⁸ Is that why you have conspired against me? For not one of you told me when my own son made a solemn pact with the son of Jesse. You're not even sorry for me. Think of it! My own son—encouraging him to kill me, as he is trying to do this very day!”

Saul was so demented that he presented the story backwards. In his demonized mind, David was rallying the people of Judah against him, with the obvious intention to murder him. He also believed, David maliciously seduced both Jonathan his son, and Michal his daughter, to join the rebellion. In Saul’s mind, he was the innocent, helpless victim in the unfortunate drama. This was all part of the demonic strategy. Demons have the ability to twist the thinking of their victims to see things in a completely distorted way.



W H O W A S

DOEG THE EDMITE?



⁹ Then Doeg the Edomite, who was standing there with Saul's men, spoke up. "When I was at Nob," he said, "I saw the son of Jesse talking to the priest, Ahimelech son of Ahitub. ¹⁰ Ahimelech consulted the Lord for him. Then he gave him food and the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

Sadly, the selfish lies David told to the priest Ahimelech, would result in the most tragic consequences, to the most innocent people of all. While Ahimelech innocently assumed he was helping David complete a mission in the service of King Saul, Doeg would twist the truth by implying that Ahimelech was in an alliance with David, plotting against the king. Doeg is a pathetic individual who responded to Saul's insecurity and his suspicious mistrust of even his closest soldiers. By reporting that the priest gave David food and weapons, he clearly established that his own loyalty to Saul, was even greater than his fear of Yahweh. This was the type of demented individual Saul could easily relate to.

Instantly, the demons who motivated Saul, took the opportunity to further distort his fractured thinking, by provoking him to murder the priests of Yahweh in cold blood. This further illustrated how demonized King Saul had become under the influence of his paranoid jealousy.

The Slaughter of the Priests

¹¹ King Saul immediately sent for Ahimelech and all his family, who served as priests at Nob. ¹² When they arrived, Saul shouted at him, "Listen to me, you son of Ahitub!" "What is it, my king?" Ahimelech asked. ¹³ "Why have you and the son of Jesse conspired against me?" Saul demanded. "Why did you give him food and a sword? Why have you consulted God for him? Why have you encouraged him to kill me, as he is trying to do this very day?"

Saul was a raving lunatic consumed with irrational, demonically-driven thinking. He was consumed in a web of paranoid lies and saw nothing but suspicious rebellion all around him. First his daughter, then his son, and now the priests, are all plotting with David to plan his demise. Saul was quickly descending into a bottomless pit of selfish obsession. His raging compulsion to murder David is leading him to deeper level of insanity as his leadership skills unravelled.





14 "But sir," Ahimelech replied, "is anyone among all your servants as faithful as David, your son-in-law? Why, he is the captain of your bodyguard and a highly honored member of your household! 15 This was certainly not the first time I had consulted God for him! May the king not accuse me and my family in this matter, for I knew nothing at all of any plot against you." 16 "You will surely die, Ahimelech, along with your entire family!" the king shouted.

Saul was reluctant to kill the enemies of the LORD when he was commanded by Yahweh to it. But he wasn't reluctant to murder the priests of the LORD in cold blood. Saul is clearly going off the deep end. "His anger was bent against the Lord himself, for taking away his kingdom, and giving it to another: and because he could not come at the Lord, therefore he centered his rage upon his priests."²⁷

17 And he ordered his bodyguards, "Kill these priests of the Lord, for they are allies and conspirators with David! They knew he was running away from me, but they didn't tell me!"

Previously, when Jonathan attempted to reason with Saul, he tried to murder him for defending David. Sadly, as Ahimelech also tried to speak truth to Saul, by defending the evident loyalty of David, his words poured gasoline on Saul's burning suspicion. Consequently, Saul did the unthinkable! He insanely demanded that the representatives of Yahweh be put to death for no real reason at all.

On the surface, Saul was trying to murder David to keep his throne in the family. Under the surface, he was in outright rebellion to the will of Yahweh, attempting to fight with God and win. Saul's madness is similar to the insanity that completely consumed Satan in his rebellion. You can't win when you fight against Yahweh. Only insane people rebel against the Almighty God, as evidence of their complete insanity.

But Saul's men refused to kill the Lord's priests.

Any rationally minded man in this situation, would have refused to follow Saul's irrational command. It was complete madness to raise a sword against the priests of Yahweh and murder them in cold blood. This would bring a lasting curse upon the family of the man foolish enough to murder the Lord's anointed priests. However, this brutal instruction provided to be another opportunity for Doeg to demonstrate his fanatical loyalty to Saul.



²⁷ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 22





18 Then the king said to Doeg, "You do it." So Doeg the Edomite turned on them and killed them that day, eighty-five priests in all, still wearing their priestly garments. 19 Then he went to Nob, the town of the priests, and killed the priests' families—men and women, children and babies—and all the cattle, donkeys, sheep, and goats.

This was another stunning Biblical example of bad things happening to good people. Some may ask questions about the goodness of the Lord in relation to this dreadful situation. How could God allow an evil man and a mad king to murder faithful priests, helpless women, and innocent children? Regardless of our moral confusion, the reality of spiritual warfare was always operating behind the unseen veil. Saul has given himself over to the control demonic voices. Diabolic forces are operating behind his corrupt mandate to murder David. Satanic forces always seek to undermine the authority of Yahweh and everything good that His authority represents.



20 Only Abiathar, one of the sons of Ahimelech, escaped and fled to David. 21 When he told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord, 22 David exclaimed, "I knew it! When I saw Doeg the Edomite there that day, I knew he was sure to tell Saul. Now I have caused the death of all your father's family. 23 Stay here with me, and don't be afraid. I will protect you with my own life, for the same person wants to kill us both."

David was consumed with the guilt associated with the consequences of his lies, for the rest of his life. He lived with the knowledge of this horrific act from that moment on. Nevertheless, an unmentioned blessing resulted from this horrendous occurrence. The only surviving priest of the entire family, brought David a gift of immeasurable value that will be revealed in the coming chapters.



1 Why do you boast about your crimes, great warrior?

Don't you realize God's justice continues forever?

2 All day long you plot destruction.

Your tongue cuts like a sharp razor; you're an expert at telling lies.

3 You love evil more than good and lies more than truth. **4** You love to destroy others with your words, you liar!

5 But God will strike you down once and for all.

He will pull you from your home

and uproot you from the land of the living. (Psalm 52)²⁸

David Protects the Town of Keilah

23 One day news came to David that the Philistines were at Keilah stealing grain from the threshing floors.

The plea for help came to David because Saul was no longer fulfilling his duty as the King of Israel. While Saul was consumed with his ridiculous determination to murder David, the Philistines were moving deeper and deeper into the territory of Judah. The people of Judah needed a king with a standing army, but Saul will not support them. He mainly favored the loyal men of the Tribe of Benjamin who sided with him against David. In the future, this division will cause the Tribe of Judah to become loyal to David, because he was willing to defend them in their time of crisis.

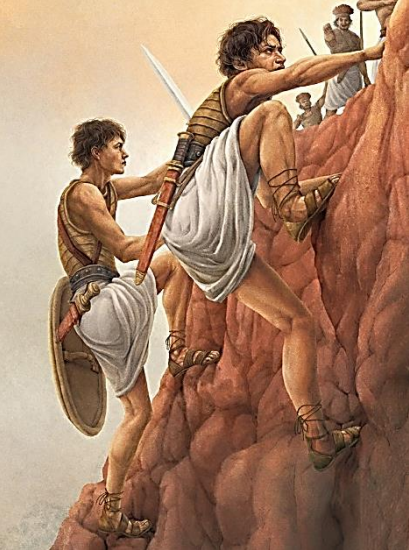
2 David asked the Lord, "Should I go and attack them?" "Yes, go and save Keilah," the Lord told him.

3 But David's men said, "We're afraid even here in Judah. We certainly don't want to go to Keilah to fight the whole Philistine army!"

4 So David asked the Lord again, and again the Lord replied, "Go down to Keilah, for I will help you conquer the Philistines."



²⁸ A Psalm of David, regarding Doeg the Edomite.



It seemed logical for David to remain hidden in a secure place. However, it was the will of the Lord for David to become the King of Israel. He could not accomplish this task by remaining in a safe and secure location. His destiny demanded greater exploits, and drove him to do dangerous things, that made his life extremely uncomfortable. Leaving the stronghold was neither reasonable nor rational. Nevertheless, David received instruction from Yahweh and knew what was required of him. Even after hearing the Word

of the Lord, David temporarily questioned the wisdom of this decision because it was against the will of his men and all common sense. It was only after he heard the voice of Yahweh for a second time, that David finally committed to leave the stronghold in the wilderness. This was a pivotal experience in his life, which put him on the path to becoming the future King of Judah. Great men will not choose to be safe, when great things are yet to be accomplished for God.

⁵ So David and his men went to Keilah. They slaughtered the Philistines and took all their livestock and rescued the people of Keilah. ⁶ Now when Abiathar son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, he brought the ephod with him.

By murdering the priests of the Lord in cold blood, Saul inadvertently gave David a powerful secret weapon. When David received the ephod, He also received the ability to inquire directly from the Lord in a unique and powerful manner. In this situation, we see the difference between the trajectory of Saul and David. David ascended into his destiny, as Saul declined into destruction. As Saul wasted his time, as he tracked David like a fox in the wilderness, David began to take on the responsibilities of the king, by fighting the battles of the people of Israel.

⁷ Saul soon learned that David was at Keilah. "Good!" he exclaimed. "We've got him now! God has handed him over to me, for he has trapped himself in a walled town!" ⁸ So Saul mobilized his entire army to march to Keilah and besiege David and his men.



To highlight the difference between these two leaders, David is concerned about the suffering of the people while Saul is focused on murdering David. David is slowly becoming the King of Israel, while Saul is declining into a pit of madness. The more he tries to defend his position as the king, the more he acts like a criminal and a scoundrel. David finds his purpose in doing and accomplishing the will of the Lord, while Saul finds his purpose in defending his own petty desires and insecurities.

⁹ But David learned of Saul's plan and told Abiathar the priest to bring the ephod and ask the Lord what he should do.

We know the ephod was a tool of ceremony—a special, ornamental, handcrafted item with great significance. Much effort went into making it, and it was crafted from the finest materials. It was made up of 12 stones representing the Tribes of Israel.

Before Yahshua, most people couldn't simply talk with Yahweh about His will. They were afraid they were not holy

enough, and would suffer His wrath. God typically spoke through His prophets. Therefore, when the people wanted to know God's will, they consulted a priest or prophet, who would then speak to God on their behalf. Those who spoke to God would use holy items, such as the ephod, to help them communicate with the Lord.

No one knows specifically how the ephod worked. However, there was a way of asking Yahweh simple **yes or no** questions, which would be answered in a mysterious and mystical way. Many Biblical scholars' believe the ephod was actually a pocket which contained two similar stones of different colors. The first stone represented **yes**, and the second stone represented **no**. The High Priest could enquire of the Lord by drawing stones as an indication of the will of Yahweh.



¹⁰ Then David prayed, "O Lord, God of Israel, I have heard that Saul is planning to come and destroy Keilah because I am here. ¹¹ Will the



JONATHAN WENT TO FIND DAVID AND ENCOURAGED HIM TO STAY STRONG IN HIS FAITH IN GOD.

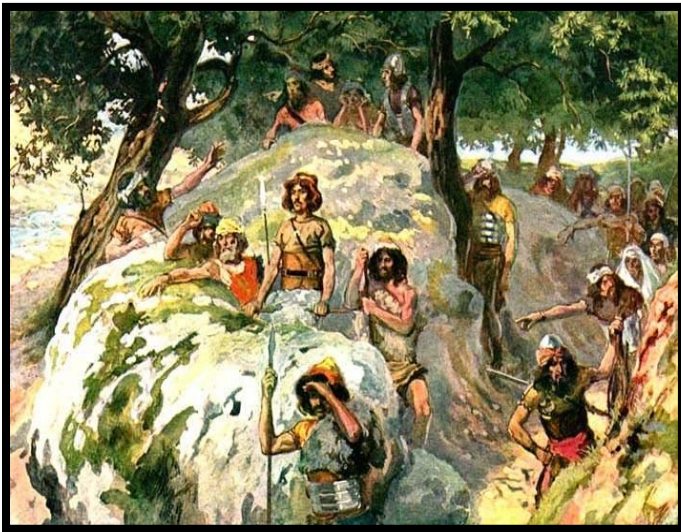
leaders of Keilah betray me to him? And will Saul actually come as I have heard? O Lord, God of Israel, please tell me."

And the Lord said, "He will come."

¹² Again David asked, "Will the leaders of Keilah betray me and my men to Saul?" And the Lord replied, "Yes, they will betray you."

David needed to decide what to do next. He wanted to protect the city of Keilah from both the Philistines and from Saul. Saul would have destroyed the entire city to kill David in the process. Therefore, David used the supernatural power entrusted to the High Priest to discern the will of the Lord once again. Ironically, Saul inadvertently destroyed himself when he commanded the High Priest of the Lord be killed. He unintentionally gave David a hidden advantage that made him close to indestructible.

David Hides in the Wilderness



¹³ So David and his men—about 600 of them now—left Keilah and began roaming the countryside. Word soon reached Saul that David had escaped, so he didn't go to Keilah after all. ¹⁴ David now stayed in the strongholds of the wilderness and in the hill country of Ziph. Saul hunted him day after day, but God didn't let Saul find him. ¹⁵ One day near Horesh, David received the news that Saul was on the way to Ziph to search for him and kill him. ¹⁶ Jonathan went to find

David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God. ¹⁷ "Don't be afraid," Jonathan reassured him. "My father will never find you! You are going to be the king of Israel, and I will be next to you, as my father, Saul, is well aware." ¹⁸ So the two of them renewed their solemn pact before the Lord. Then Jonathan returned home, while David stayed at Horesh.

While Saul was unable to locate David for years, Jonathan found him with little effort. As usual, Jonathan encouraged David in a time of great discouragement. Sadly, the destiny of Jonathan was irreversibly connected to his pathetic father.

"DON'T BE AFRAID," JONATHAN REASSURED HIM. "MY FATHER WILL NEVER FIND YOU! YOU ARE GOING



TO BE THE KING OF ISRAEL, AND I WILL BE NEXT TO YOU, AS MY FATHER, SAUL, IS WELL AWARE.”

Because of their great friendship, David and Jonathan looked forward to the day when David would be king, and Jonathan would support and help him. But it would never come to pass because Jonathan would die before David became king. Jonathan’s encouragement was a mix of divine promises and an expression of hope and desire.²⁹

19 But now the men of Ziph went to Saul in Gibeah and betrayed David to him. “We know where David is hiding,” they said. “He is in the strongholds of Horesh on the hill of Hakilah, which is in the southern part of Jeshimon. 20 Come down whenever you’re ready, O king, and we will catch him and hand him over to you!”

21 “The Lord bless you,” Saul said. “At last someone is concerned about me! 22 Go and check again to be sure of where he is staying and who has seen him there, for I know that he is very crafty. 23 Discover his hiding places, and come back when you are sure. Then I’ll go with you. And if he is in the area at all, I’ll track him down, even if I have to search every hiding place in Judah!” 24 So the men of Ziph returned home ahead of Saul.

Saul assumed David was a crafty military strategist. What he did not know is David had the supernatural ability to inquire of the Lord with the ephod of the priest, whom Saul killed. While Saul imagined he was fighting against David, his true enemy was the Yahweh Almighty. Yahweh would never allow David to be killed because David was already the “**anointed**” king, but not yet, the “**appointed**”, King of Israel.

Meanwhile, David and his men had moved into the wilderness of Maon in the Arabah Valley south of Jeshimon. 25 When David heard that Saul and his men were searching for him, he went even farther into the wilderness to the great rock, and he remained there in the wilderness of Maon. But Saul kept after him in the wilderness.

26 Saul and David were now on opposite sides of a mountain. Just as Saul and his men began to close in on David and his men, 27 an urgent message reached Saul that the Philistines were raiding Israel again. 28 So Saul quit chasing David and returned to fight the Philistines. Ever since that time, the place where David was camped has been called the Rock of Escape. 29 David then went to live in the strongholds of En-gedi.

²⁹ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 23

		Age to Come
	The Already and Not Yet	
This Age		

Everything was working in favor of David. Even when Saul had David trapped, circumstance turned against him, and he was forced to abandon the military blockade. For Saul, the Philistines chose the worst possible time to invade Israel, forcing him to abandon his pursuit and do his duty as king.



1. When David was at a very low point in his life, men were drawn to him in the cave of Adullam. What does this say about the power of his anointing?
2. Using his God-given authority David transformed this group of broken men into one of the greatest armies in the history of Israel. Do we still need apostolic leaders like David in our modern version of church?
3. Saul slaughtered the priests of the Lord for innocently supporting David. Was David partially responsible for this slaughter or did Saul shoulder all the responsibility?
4. David was protecting the city of Keilah while Saul was busy chasing David. What does this foreshadow about the destiny of David? What does it say about the destiny of Saul?
5. The ephod was extremely useful to David for inquiring of the Lord. Can we use a similar means of inquiring of the Lord today? Why or why not?

DAVID SPARES SAUL



David Spares Saul's Life

24 After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of Engedi. ² So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats.



Geographically, the rugged wilderness area of Israel, was a perfect place to hide. There was a spring of water that fed into a cool

waterfall surrounded by many huge, deep caves. Moreover, there were many networks of interconnected caves, that led to other caves. The region formed a vast underground complex perfectly situated for the protection of David's guerrilla army.

³ At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave!

At specifically the worst time possible, Saul needed to take an emergency **dump** and found some privacy in a deep, dark cave. Being decapitated while taking a dump would be the most dishonorable way for the King of Israel to die at the hand of his enemy. His naked body would likely never be discovered, and he would not be buried with respectful honor. Saul was literally caught with his pants down.

⁴ "Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today the Lord is telling you, 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.'" So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe.



IMPORTANCE OF

The Lesson Of Character



After fearfully running from Saul for years at a time, it seemed the Lord had placed him directly into David's hands. At this exact moment, the hunter instantly became the hunted. Saul was absolutely helpless because he was literally caught with his pants down. He removed his "kingly" robes in the privacy of the cave and stooped naked to empty his bowel. This was the second time we encounter King Saul helplessly **stripped naked** in the text. This was surely evidence of Biblical foreshadowing because Saul will unquestionably be stripped of the kingdom in time to come.

David could have easily slit his throat and ended the whole affair without making a sound.

Motivated by his men, David saw an opportunity to murder Saul. Nevertheless, Yahweh restrained David's ambition. However, Yahweh provided him an occasion to prove himself to Saul. Instead of cutting off his head, he cut off the bottom **hem** of his kingly garment.



David could do nothing outside of the character of God. He understood that it was God who took him from the sheepfold and brought him into a position of prominence before the people of Israel. Only Yahweh could finish what He started.

If David "disembowelled" the Lord's anointed king, the people would forever call him a dishonorable rebel, who stole the throne by force. Moreover, this would certainly create a huge problem with his best friend Jonathan, who would be pressured to avenge the murder of his father or live in dishonor permanently. By choosing not to "touch the Lord's anointed", David trusted in God and not in the power of his flesh.

A leader must learn to live by faith and not accomplish anything with the power of the flesh. Anything done for God by the power of natural human effort, will be burnt up in judgment as dead works. David was a man who lived by faith and therefore, needed to depend on his faith in his Heavenly Father, to see his destiny come to pass.

⁵ But then David's conscience began bothering him because he had cut Saul's robe. ⁶ He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn't attack the Lord's anointed

FAITH IN GOD

one, for the Lord himself has chosen him.”⁷ So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.

Even after sparing the life of Saul, David’s conscience was deeply troubled because he humiliated the King of Israel. Although he refused to strike Saul, he damaged his reputation by cutting off his royal robe. As Saul emerged from the cave, he was disgraced before his troops because David had stripped him of his dignity when he was defenceless and undignified.

In ancient Israel, the hem of the garment carried great significance. It was almost like a military rank in today’s contemporary army. Saul’s prestige was communicated by his decorative hem. It communicated his rank and his position as the King of Israel. By cutting the hem of Saul’s garment, David symbolically removed the kingdom from Saul. Stunningly, even after everything Saul did to humiliate and destroy David, his heart was still tender towards his vengeful master. It grieved David that he disgraced the Lord’s anointed king. In light of the amount of emotional torment he already endured, David didn’t want to add to the raging fire, causing Saul to boil with greater rage and resentment.

After Saul had left the cave and gone on his way,⁸ David came out and shouted after him, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him.

This was an act of public reverence for Saul. David did not take the liberty to rub salt in a fresh emotional wound. Instead, he publicly honored Saul before his troops to compensate for his obvious humiliation. David understood something crucial in the development of spiritual leadership. He knew that he did not need to respect the **person of Saul**, to show respect to the **position of Saul**. Just because Saul failed as a person did not mean that God had removed him from his position. David had to patiently wait until the mantle of leadership was removed from Saul before he could wear the hem of the King of Israel.

⁹ Then he shouted to Saul, “Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? ¹⁰ This very day you can see with your own eyes it isn’t true.

David showed great kindness and tact to Saul. David knew very well that Saul’s fear of David came from Saul himself and not from anyone else. But David put the blame on nameless others so that it was easier for Saul to



say, "They were wrong" instead of "I was wrong." Even in confrontation, David covers Saul's sin.³⁰

For the Lord placed you at my mercy back there in the cave. Some of my men told me to kill you, but I spared you. For I said, 'I will never harm the king—he is the Lord's anointed one.' ¹¹ Look, my father, at what I have in my hand.

To prove his loyalty, David exposed himself in a most humble position before the King of Israel. By lifting up the hem of his garment, David proved to everyone he had the life of Saul in his hand and refused to murder him. This one gesture proved that David had no intention of killing Saul for his throne.

It is a piece of the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn't kill you. This proves that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though you have been hunting for me to kill me.

David's gesture also carried huge prophetic symbolism. Many years ago, Saul tried to bully Samuel, when he refused to honor him before the people of Israel. In the scuffle, Saul tore the hem of Samuel's robe.

²⁷ As Samuel turned to go, Saul tried to hold him back and tore the hem of his robe. ²⁸ And Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is better than you. ²⁹ And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind!" (1 Samuel 15)



Saul should have recognized instantly the predictive foreshadowing of this prophetic act. Just as he tore the hem of Samuel's garment, the Lord was in the process of removing the hem of his garment. Saul did what he could to resist the will of the Lord. But slowly and surely, the will of Yahweh would come to pass right before his eyes.

¹² "May the Lord judge between us. Perhaps the Lord will punish you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you. ¹³ As

³⁰ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 24

Hem of His Garment

that old proverb says, 'From evil people come evil deeds.' So you can be sure I will never harm you.

Essentially, David turned Saul over to the hand of the Lord. He made it crystal clear, that only the Lord could judge the King of Israel, but as a faithful servant, he would never be the instrument of Yahweh's divine justice.

¹⁴ Who is the king of Israel trying to catch anyway? Should he spend his time chasing one who is as worthless as a dead dog or a single flea? ¹⁵ May the Lord therefore judge which of us is right and punish the guilty one. He is my advocate, and he will rescue me from your power!"

David used this opportunity to justify himself before all the people of Israel. He clearly proved he had no desire to "touch the Lord's anointed". However, not "touching the Lord's anointed" does not mean that a leader's evil deeds should not be publicly exposed if necessary. David did not allow Saul to simply escape without being held accountable for his sins. He knew that only God would bring judgment upon Saul, because his hand would never swing the sword of vengeance. It was the Lord God of Israel who appointed an anointed King Saul over His people. Therefore, it was only the God of Israel, who could remove him in due time.

¹⁶ When David had finished speaking, Saul called back, "Is that really you, my son David?" Then he began to cry. ¹⁷ And he said to David, "You are a better man than I am, for you have repaid me good for evil. ¹⁸ Yes, you have been amazingly kind to me today, for when the Lord put me in a place where you could have killed me, you didn't do it. ¹⁹ Who else would let his enemy get away when he had him in his power? May the Lord reward you well for the kindness you have shown me today. ²⁰ And now I realize that you are surely going to be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will flourish under your rule. ²¹ Now swear to me by the Lord that when that happens you will not kill my family and destroy my line of descendants!"

²² So David promised this to Saul with an oath. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went back to their stronghold.

Interestingly, Saul came to his senses momentarily. For a brief time, he had the ability to correctly evaluate the situation and recognized what was obvious to everyone else around him. David was destined to be the King of Israel, regardless of what Saul did to stop it. Surprisingly, Saul blessed David and acknowledged that he was the "anointed king", destined to sit on

the throne. This was a brief and fleeting moment of repentance, however, it would not last for very long. Saul's demonic blindness would soon cover his eyes once again and he would sink back into the madness of his prideful delusion of grandeur.

The Death of Samuel

25 Now Samuel died, and all Israel gathered for his funeral. They buried him at his house in Ramah.

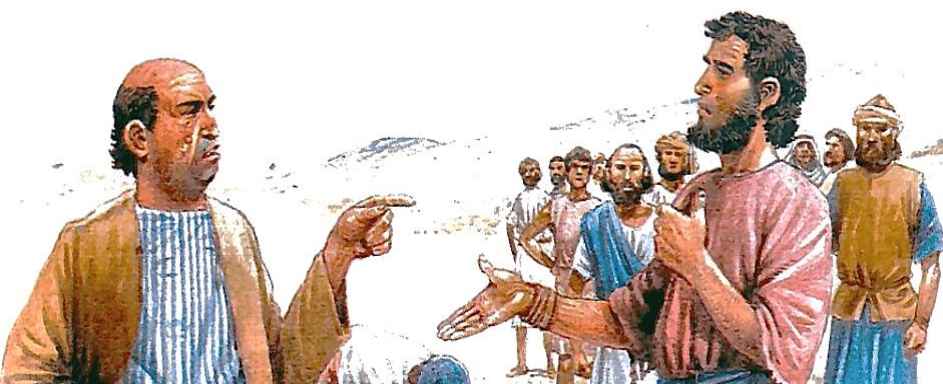
In another interesting sign of the times, the last "Judge of Israel" finally passed away. Now that the **Anointed King** had finally arrived, the time of the **Judges of Israel** came to an end. David's reign would be the beginning of a dynasty of kings that would ultimately lead to the coming of the promised Messiah. The coming Messiah, from the family line of David, would be the rightful **Judge of Israel** forever.

Nabal Angers David

Then David moved down to the wilderness of Maon. ² There was a wealthy man from Maon who owned property near the town of Carmel. He had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats, and it was sheep-shearing time. ³ This man's name was Nabal, and his wife, Abigail, was a sensible and beautiful woman. But Nabal, a descendant of Caleb, was crude and mean in all his dealings.

Abigail, the wife of Nabal of Carmel, was the only woman in the Bible who was described as both intelligent and beautiful. While the name Nabal meant "fool" in the Hebrew language, the narrative introduced her in sharp contrast to him. She was a wise woman of great integrity, trapped in marriage to a fool.

⁴ When David heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep, ⁵ he sent ten of his young men to Carmel with this message for Nabal: ⁶ "Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own! ⁷ I am told that it is sheep-shearing time. While your shepherds stayed among us near Carmel, we never harmed them, and nothing was ever stolen from them. ⁸ Ask your own men, and they





will tell you this is true. So would you be kind to us, since we have come at a time of celebration? Please share any provisions you might have on hand with us and with your friend David.”⁹ David’s young men gave this message to Nabal in David’s name, and they waited for a reply.

David had the ability to take anything he wanted by force but refused to become a tyrant like Saul. He protected the resources of Nabal and only asked for simple kindness in return.

¹⁰ “Who is this fellow David?” Nabal sneered to the young men. “Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are lots of servants these days who run away from their masters. ¹¹ Should I take my bread and my water and my meat that I’ve slaughtered for my shearers and give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where?”

As noted, Nabal’s name means “fool”, and his foolish answer removed all doubt. He not only insulted the family of the greatest warrior in history, but also implied he was a rebellious runaway slave. This was a very foolish.

¹² So David’s young men returned and told him what Nabal had said. ¹³ “Get your swords!” was David’s reply as he strapped on his own. Then 400 men started off with David, and 200 remained behind to guard their equipment.

Based on his immediate reaction, David knew exactly what he intended to do. Without inquiring of the Lord, he raised his sword and departed. Maybe, he grew tired of expressing humility and decided to take matters into his own hands to gain some respect.

¹⁴ Meanwhile, one of Nabal’s servants went to Abigail and told her, “David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he screamed insults at them. ¹⁵ These men have been very good to us, and we never suffered any harm from them. Nothing was stolen from us the whole time they were with us. ¹⁶ In fact, day and night they were like a wall of protection to us and the sheep. ¹⁷ You need to know this and figure out what to do, for there is going to be trouble for our master and his whole family. He’s so ill-tempered that no one can even talk to him!”

The wise servant acts in the best interest of the whole family, by going to the most intelligent member of the household. Nabal’s ignorance would surely get everyone killed, so the faithful servant decided to turn the matter over to Abigail.





18 Abigail wasted no time. She quickly gathered 200 loaves of bread, two wineskins full of wine, five sheep that had been slaughtered, nearly a bushel of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 fig cakes. She packed them on donkeys ¹⁹ and said to her servants, "Go on ahead. I will follow you shortly." But she didn't tell her husband Nabal what she was doing. ²⁰ As she was riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, she saw David and his men coming toward her. ²¹ David had just been saying, "A lot of good it did to help this fellow. We protected his flocks in the wilderness, and nothing he owned was lost or stolen. But he has repaid me evil for good. ²² May God strike me and kill me if even one man of his household is still alive tomorrow morning!"



Abigail Intercedes for Nabal

²³ When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him. ²⁴ She fell at his feet and said, "I accept all blame in this matter, my lord. Please listen to what I have to say. ²⁵ I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don't pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I never even saw the young men you sent.

Abigail proved herself to be a wise, graceful, and very noble wife. She was also a victim in this situation. How did such a beautiful, wise woman end up with a brutish fool like Nabal? Possibly, because he was a rich man, he purchased her from her family with a generous bridal dowry. Nevertheless, she humbled herself before David and gave him the honor his position deserved.

²⁶ "Now, my lord, as surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, since the Lord has kept you from murdering and taking vengeance into your own hands, let all your enemies and those who try to harm you be as cursed as Nabal is. ²⁷ And here is a present that I, your servant, have brought to you and your young men. ²⁸ Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way. The Lord will surely reward



you with a lasting dynasty, for you are fighting the Lord's battles. And you have not done wrong throughout your entire life.

Speaking peace directly into the angry heart of David, Abigail reminded him of who he was. He was not a robber or a scoundrel, but the anointed King of Israel. He did not need to lower himself to the level of her foolish husband to prove himself to anyone. With kindness, she prevented David from doing something he would live to regret when his temper subsided.

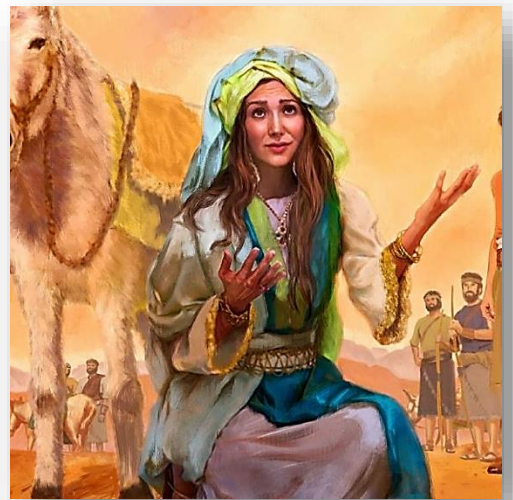
²⁹ "Even when you are chased by those who seek to kill you, your life is safe in the care of the Lord your God, secure in his treasure pouch! But the lives of your enemies will disappear like stones shot from a sling! ³⁰ When the Lord has done all he promised and has made you leader of Israel, ³¹ don't let this be a blemish on your record.

David took his 400 men to do what God could do as easily as throwing a stone out of sling. This had to remind David of a time when he really did trust God for the victory — when he cast a stone out of a sling and killed Goliath. Through her wise words, Abigail focused David's attention from Nabal back unto the LORD.³¹

Then your conscience won't have to bear the staggering burden of needless bloodshed and vengeance. And when the Lord has done these great things for you, please remember me, your servant!"

Abigail made a powerful point which illustrated her great wisdom. If David and his men murdered an entire family and took their possessions, Saul would actually have a valid accusation against him. David's irrational reaction to Nabal's insult, would prove to Israel that he was really a lawless rebel. This single laps of judgment would harm his reputation with the people of Israel forever.

³² David replied to Abigail, "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today! ³³ Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder and from carrying out vengeance with my own hands. ³⁴ For I swear by the Lord, the God of



³¹ ³¹ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 25

Love and
Compassion

Forgiveness and
Reconciliation

Justice

Peace

Love and
Compassion

Forgiveness and
Reconciliation

Justice

Peace

Israel, who has kept me from hurting you, that if you had not hurried out to meet me, not one of Nabal's men would still be alive tomorrow morning."

The Lesson Of Compassion



In the process of **training for reigning**, a warrior as skilled as David would also need to learn the art of compassion as well. It was one thing for David to show compassion for the king of Israel, but it was quite another thing for David to humble himself before a lowlife, loudmouth like Nabal. Nabal treated both David and his men with great disrespect. Even after protecting his land and assets from foreign invaders, Nabal called David an escaped slave and insinuated that his men were vermin. David had every right to avenge his honor, by cutting this worthless drunkard in two. On

the other hand, because of Abigail's wisdom and the compassion she extended, she reminded David of the kind-hearted nature of the Lord, which continued to pursue his life. Once again, David remembered he could not be "a man after the heart of God" and act outside of the nature of Yahweh. To be a righteous man, necessarily meant that he must respond to situations the way God would, reflecting both His character and compassion. When confronted with his own angry, judgmental attitude towards Nabal, David quickly repented, humbled himself, and put away his self-righteous sword. This act of humility and compassion allowed room for the "justice of Yahweh" to fairly settle the issue and keep the blood of this foolish, worthless, man off the hands of a mighty warrior. Nabal was not worth the honor of David's sword. Why would the future King of Israel need to avenge himself against a fool? It was unworthy of Nabal to die such an honorable death. Therefore, the Lord acted on behalf of his obedient servant as David demonstrated humility and compassion.

There would have been another consequence following the vengeful murder of Nabal that David failed to anticipate. As mentioned, Saul told the people of Israel that David was leading a rebel army in the wilderness, set to overthrow the rightful King of Israel. If David murdered a successful businessman and plundered his property, this act would only justify what Saul said in the first place. David would have been rightly classed as an outlaw and his reputation would be damaged in the eyes of the people of Judah. Abigail protected the reputation of David. She reminded him that he was above such a simpleminded response. He needed to keep his public

Peace

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Compassion

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Compassion

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image clean, because all of Israel needed to see both character and compassion in their future king.

As developing leaders in the Kingdom of God, we need to consider the consequences our actions will have on our calling and destiny. Just one small laps in judgment can disqualify us from reaching our full potential. This is why we need to be people who choose not to allow ourselves to be easily offended and we must also be quick to forgive. David needed to protect his destiny from the consequences of irrational actions, and so do we.

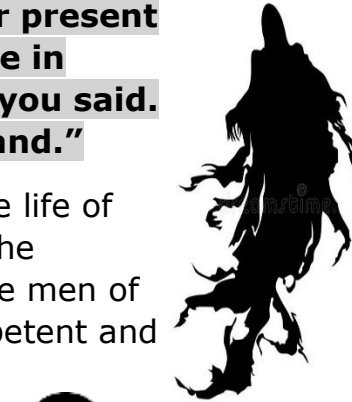


35 Then David accepted her present and told her, "Return home in peace. I have heard what you said. We will not kill your husband."

Abigail not only preserved the life of her husband, she protected the reputation of David before the men of Israel. Truly, she was a competent and wise woman.

36 When Abigail arrived home, she found that Nabal was throwing a

big party and was celebrating like a king. He was very drunk, so she didn't tell him anything about her meeting with David until dawn the next day. 37 In the morning when Nabal was sober, his wife told him what had happened. As a result he had a stroke, and he lay paralyzed on his bed like a stone. 38 About ten days later, the Lord struck him, and he died.



Nabal deserved to die for the dishonorable way he treated David, the Lord's anointed. However, because David trusted in the Lord to bring justice in this situation, Yahweh showed favor to both David and Abigail and cut off Nabal with His sword of judgment. By stopping his heart, Yahweh avenged the injustice done to David and freed Abigail from her marriage covenant to this foolish, brutish man.



David Marries Abigail

³⁹ When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise the Lord, who has avenged the insult I received from Nabal and has kept me from doing it myself. Nabal has received the punishment for his sin." Then David sent messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife.

⁴⁰ When the messengers arrived at Carmel, they told Abigail, "David has sent us to take you back to marry him."

⁴¹ She bowed low to the ground and responded, "I, your servant, would be happy to marry David. I would even be willing to become a slave, washing the feet of his servants!" ⁴² Quickly getting ready, she took along five of her servant girls as attendants, mounted her donkey, and went with David's messengers. And so she became his wife. ⁴³ David also married Ahinoam from Jezreel, making both of them his wives. ⁴⁴ Saul, meanwhile, had given his daughter Michal, David's wife, to a man from Gallim named Palti son of Laish.

While David has everything together on the outside, his inner life is showing signs of disfunction. David had an underlying need to be validated by the affection of women to compensate for something he was unwilling to deal with. The King of Israel was not supposed to have many wives. This obsession would haunt David all the days of his life and even destroy the lives of his future descendants, because sexual sin is a generational curse.

Sexual sin would plague David's family in the future. Starting from David who sinned with Bathsheba and fully manifesting in Solomon, who had 700 wives and 300 concubines, sexual sin destroyed the family line of David. Kings were forbidden to have many wives in (Deuteronomy 17). This was because Yahweh knew that foreign wives would turn the heart of the king to worship other gods. You can't be united with someone sexually without being united to their gods! Solomon assumed he was being a wise king by marrying princesses from other nations to insure peace treaties. By being married to the daughters of foreign kings, Solomon increased the peace in Israel. However, his foreign wives brought their detestable gods and set them up all over Jerusalem. While our society calls this **tolerance** and **inclusion**, Yahweh called it **blasphemy** and **idolatry**. While Yahweh did allow for multiple wives in the Old Testament, His greater desire was for marriage between one man and one woman. This was a foreshadowing of the unity between Christ and His beloved bride the church.

The Lesson Of Anger



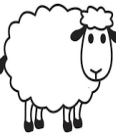
There is a powerful life lesson every emerging leader must learn as they continue training for reigning in the local church. Whenever you are gathered in a large group, people will make you angry. How we deal with our anger will determine the success of our future ministry. The Bible says...

⁹ *Do not be quick in your spirit to anger,
for anger lodges in the bosom of fools. (Ecclesiastes 7)*

David was being baited by Nabal into doing something that would discredit him in the future. However, Nabal was not the source of David's temptation, Satan was. Behind the scenes, Satan was working through a drunken fool to make David sin out of anger and destroy his reputation with the Tribe of Judah. David was building a lifelong relationship with his tribe and Satan desperately wanted to undermine his leadership with an irrational act of anger. When we think about David's emotional vulnerability, this was a perfect trap set before him. David was constantly rejected by older men, whom he served with all his heart. He served Jessie in the sheepfold, who did not consider him equal with the rest of the family. He faithfully served Saul by killing Goliath, who rejected and attempted to murder him many times. To add insult to injury, he showed kindness to Nabal by protecting his many sheep. In return, Nabal called him a runaway slave! Satan intended to manipulate David's mind in this moment of emotional weakness to channel all his pent-up **pain** and **rejection** towards Nabal. Nabal however, was not the person who hurt David greatly, it was Jessie and Saul. But if David could be tricked into taking out his bottled-up rage on a fool like Nabal, Satan would win a great victory.

When we are irritated and angry as leaders, its easy for someone to become a **lightning rod** for our charged emotions. When we lash out on weak, powerless people, we lose our authority as spiritual leaders because weak people are not the real source of our frustration. Satan is always operating in the background attempting to discredit our leadership and often succeeds when we are not paying attention.

Spiritual warfare always surrounds an emerging leader because Satan wants to destroy your destiny before it unfolds. If a young leader does not learn to



We are reminded that anger doesn't solve anything. It builds nothing, but it can destroy everything.

control his/her anger, they will cause themselves a boat load of frustration and additional suffering along the way.

*¹¹ Fools vent their anger,
but the wise quietly hold it back. (Proverbs 29)*



1. David could have taken a shortcut to fulfil the will of the Lord and become king by murdering Saul in the cave. Why did David refuse to “touch the Lord’s anointed”?
2. Does “touching not the Lord’s anointed” mean not speaking out against spiritual abuse and injustice? Did David speak out concerning these subjects?
3. How are you tempted/tested like David to take a short cut to bring about God’s will in your own life?
4. Abigail prevented David from acting foolishly and therefore protected his reputation as a leader. How did she display the attributes of a godly woman and a noble wife?
5. Share about some of the times you were tempted to take justice out of God’s hands and into your own. How can you let David’s example help you let God be the Judge?

place unto wrath: for it is written, **Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.**
20 Therefore if thine enemy

David Spares Saul Again

26 Now some men from Ziph came to Saul at Gibeah to tell him, "David is hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which overlooks Jeshimon."
2 So Saul took 3,000 of Israel's elite troops and went to hunt him down in the wilderness of Ziph. **3** Saul camped along the road beside the hill of Hakilah, near Jeshimon, where David was hiding. When David learned that Saul had come after him into the wilderness, **4** he sent out spies to verify the report of Saul's arrival.

In Saul's mind, he was hunting David, but in reality, it's David who tracked Saul. While Saul clumsily moved around with an army of 3000 men, David hid in the hills with a guerrilla-army of fast and mobile, mighty men. His numerous spies continuously kept an eye on every move Saul made.

5 David slipped over to Saul's camp one night to look around.

This act insightfully demonstrated the confidence David had in his ability to defend himself. To slip into the enemy's camp of 3000 armed soldiers took more than mere confidence. Perhaps, David was now playing with Saul and his magnificently tired army. Once again, the text illustrated that the "hunted is really the hunter". David was always the one in charge of what happened next.



Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of his army, were sleeping inside a ring formed by the slumbering warriors. ⁶ “Who will volunteer to go in there with me?” David asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab’s brother.

“I’ll go with you,” Abishai replied. ⁷ So David and Abishai went right into Saul’s camp and found him asleep, with his spear stuck in the ground beside his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying asleep around him.



David, as the Lord’s anointed, always had the power to kill Saul at any moment. He was so confident in his ability as a soldier, that he was fearless in his disrespect of Saul’s highly trained bodyguards. By going directly into the camp of Israel, David sought to prove yet again, his loyalty to Saul, by proving the inadequacy of his best warriors and their inability to protect the life of the king. To most, this looked like a suicide mission. Who in their right mind would go into the enemy’s camp of 3000 armed men? Nevertheless, David was so skilled at his profession, that this raid was just playful antagonism.

⁸ “God has surely handed your enemy over to you this time!” Abishai whispered to David. “Let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won’t need to strike twice!”

The idea of killing Saul with a single strike was a chilling thought. Saul would be instantly dead, in complete silence, and David could escape into the night before anyone noticed. In the morning, they would find the body of their lifeless king only to assume he was assassinated by one of his own soldiers. This was a perfect opportunity to take the Kingdom of Israel for himself. Additionally, the irony of this situation is unmistakable. The same spear that was used many times in attempts to kill David, was now in David’s hands. He could do unto Saul, as Saul desired to do to him, but this would not please Yahweh. David had to wait for the Hand of Yahweh to destroy his enemies and not do it out of rebellion or pride.

**DAVID SPARES
SAUL TWICE!!**

1 SAMUEL 24, 26



*Abishai made it easy for David: Please let me strike at once with the spear. David would not raise his hand against Saul but Abishai would do it, and not feel bad about it in the slightest way. David could say to himself and everyone else, "I did not kill Saul."*³²

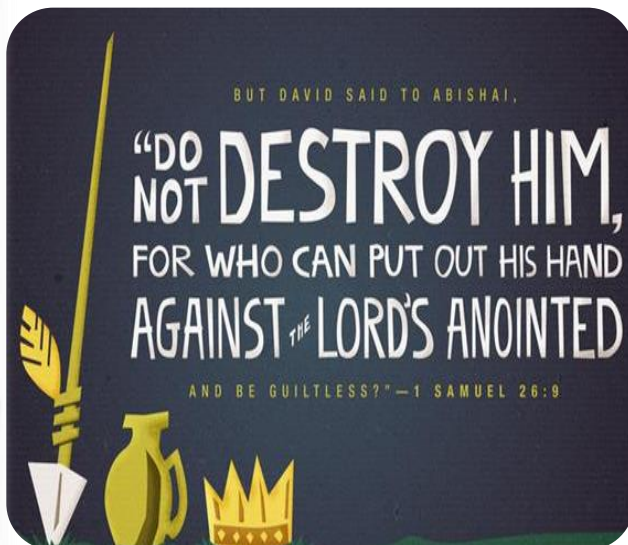
9 "No!" David said. "Don't kill him. For who can remain innocent after attacking the Lord's anointed one? 10 Surely the Lord will strike Saul down someday, or he will die of old age or battle.

*David knew that it wasn't "hard" for God to kill Saul. The LORD was more than able to kill Saul at any time. Every breath Saul took was a gift from God. God could allow a wicked man to kill Saul at any time. When it came to striking down an anointed king of Israel, God did not need the services of a godly, righteous man like David.*³³



11 The Lord forbid that I should kill the one he has anointed! But take his spear and that jug of water beside his head, and then let's get out of here!"

When Saul was in the cave relieving himself, David took the opportunity to demean the King of Israel by cutting off his robe. Nevertheless, the Bible said David's conscience troubled him afterwards. This time, he did not disgrace the king, but took this golden opportunity to embarrass one of the greatest generals in Israel's history. By disarming the king, David intentionally humiliated the head of the royal bodyguard, who was Saul's prideful general named Abner.



³² David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 26

³³ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 26

12 So David took the spear and jug of water that were near Saul's head. Then he and Abishai got away without anyone seeing them or even waking up, because the Lord had put Saul's men into a deep sleep.

13 David climbed the hill opposite the camp until he was at a safe distance. 14 Then he shouted down to the soldiers and to Abner son of Ner, "Wake up, Abner!"

"Who is it?" Abner demanded.

15 "Well, Abner, you're a great man, aren't you?" David taunted. "Where in all Israel is there anyone as mighty? So why haven't you guarded your master the king when someone came to kill him? 16 This isn't good at all! I swear by the Lord that you and your men deserve to die, because you failed to protect your master, the Lord's anointed!"

Incredibly, David took this opportunity to uphold the reputation of Saul before the men of Israel. Instead of degrading him publicly, he protected the character of the monarch as he emphasized the words my **"master"** and the **"Lord's anointed"**. Instead, he openly ridiculed Abner, the mighty general, over his failure to protect the King of Israel. To David, Abner's lack of competence was an indirect act of treason. Therefore, David provided a service to the army of Israel by showing Saul how slack they had become in their service to the king. Wisely, David refused to attack the reputation of Saul, but proved his point in a more subtle way. Indirectly, he implied that he would be a much better general, who would be more dedicated to protect the interest of the king. Abner would take this insult very personally and it would have many consequences in the years to come.

Look around! Where are the king's spear and the jug of water that were beside his head?"

David established once again that he was not a powerless victim of Saul, but the hunted was actually the hunter. By calling out Abner, David honored Saul's position, but made it clear to everyone that he was not a disloyal rebel.

17 Saul recognized David's voice and called out, "Is that you, my son David?"



Temporary

And David replied, "Yes, my lord the king. ¹⁸ Why are you chasing me? What have I done? What is my crime? ¹⁹ But now let my lord the king listen to his servant. If the Lord has stirred you up against me, then let him accept my offering. But if this is simply a human scheme, then may those involved be cursed by the Lord. For they have driven me from my home, so I can no longer live among the Lord's people, and they have said, 'Go, worship pagan gods.' ²⁰ Must I die on foreign soil, far from the presence of the Lord?"



Foreshadowing the next chapter, David asserted that he was being driven out of the land of Israel to a place where other gods are worshipped. David understood that Yahweh was the God of Israel and could only be worshipped correctly in the Promised Land given to the Lord's chosen people. For this reason, David sorrowfully begged Saul not to drive him from his land, and even the worship of his God.

Why has the king of Israel come out to search for a single flea? Why does he hunt me down like a partridge on the mountains?"

In yet another passionate display of David's meekness, he humiliated himself to uplift the position of Saul before his troops. Anyone with any type of military background understood that David could have taken the life of Saul at will. However, in his speech, David honored Saul's position as the King of Israel and compared himself to a mere flea.



²¹ Then Saul confessed, "I have sinned. Come back home, my son, and I will no longer try to harm you, for you valued my life today. I have been a fool and very, very wrong."

In another short instant of sanity, Saul came to his senses and recognized for a brief time that David was not his adversary. But once again, these fleeting moments of clarity would not last, and Saul would be overcome by his demons once again.

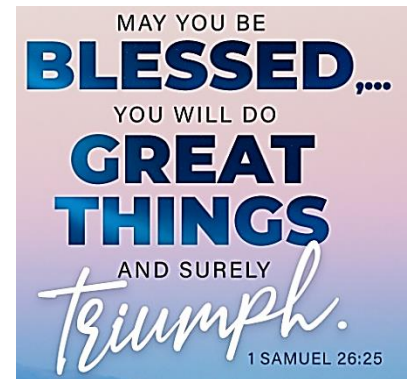
²² "Here is your spear, O king," David replied. "Let one of your young men come over and get it. ²³ The Lord gives his own reward for doing good and for being loyal, and I refused to kill you even when the Lord placed you in my power, for you are the Lord's anointed

Sanity

one. ²⁴ Now may the Lord value my life, even as I have valued yours today. May he rescue me from all my troubles.”

David placed his life securely in the hands of God. He would not use his own strength to do what only the hand of Yahweh could. He could never become the king as a result of his own rebellion. This would only legitimize what Saul had been saying all along. David’s mutiny would only increase the spirit of rebellion among the people. He could only wait until the Lord destroyed his enemies and caused the people of Israel to come to him and beg him to be their king.

²⁵ And Saul said to David, “Blessings on you, my son David. You will do many heroic deeds, and you will surely succeed.” Then David went away, and Saul returned home.



The Lesson Of Suffering

Something tragic happened at the beginning of Chapter 27. After an extended period of testing, David had remained faithful to the call of the Lord on his life. His refusal to **touch the Lord's anointed**, has caused him to become spiritually mature. In the next chapter however, David became increasingly depressed, and a spirit of hopelessness rooted in his mindset. By the end of the chapter, he lost all faith in Saul's ability to repent and stop his mindless commitment to murder him. For the first time, he

begins to think about quitting and leaving the Promised Land. David foreshadowed the idea of leaving Israel when he said...

For they have driven me from my home, so I can no longer live among the Lord's people, and they have said, 'Go, worship pagan gods.' ²⁰ Must I die on foreign soil, far from the presence of the Lord? (1 Samuel 26)

David is essentially on the verge of walking away from his calling. At this point, he is in deep emotional trouble and is also sinking into a pit of deep misery. For the first time in the story, he did not inquire of the Lord, but responded to his own inner longing to be free from the constant suffering and torment of Saul’s relentless pursuit. The only place Saul would not



Lessons From Suffering

“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope” (Romans 5:3-4).

ALWAYS AT WAR?

pursue David was in the region of the Philistines. Incredibly, David believed he would find more rest among the Philistines, instead of being in his own land. For David to decide to leave the Promised Land and live among the idol worshipping Philistines, showed that his intimate relationship with Yahweh had broken. He was not only fighting Saul, but the unseen voices of frustration and depression that nagged him relentlessly. His enemies were much bigger and far more powerful, than mere flesh and blood armies. After almost 7 years of relentless struggle, the giants of discouragement, despair, and depression, loomed larger than Goliath. This chapter will begin the long journey of David going down into a deep pit. It is sobering to realize that even a man after the heart of God, backslid and made some shockingly horrific decisions contrary to the nature of God.

One of the primary lessons an emerging leader needs to learn as they **train to reign**, is to develop the ability to endure suffering and discouragement over a long period of time. This was an essential skill David needed to develop. His ability to suffer well, would carry him through for the rest of his life. Spiritual leaders who have no heart for personal suffering, will not accomplish anything of lasting value for the Lord. Temporary suffering is necessary for achieving greatness in eternity. These principles were long established in the Old Testament, as well as the New Testament. We should not think that suffering is something strange to our spiritual experience. It is actually an essential part of spiritual development that cannot be bypassed.



2 Timothy 3:12
Indeed,
all who
desire to
live a
godly life
in Christ Jesus
will be persecuted.

David among the Philistines



David Amongst the Philistines

1 Samuel 27

27 But David kept thinking to himself, "Someday Saul is going to get me. The best thing I can do is escape to the Philistines. Then



ALWAYS AT WAR?

Saul will stop hunting for me in Israelite territory, and I will finally be safe.”

Like Saul, David began to listen to the unseen voices in his head who assured him that things will remain hopeless. He and his men were on the run from Saul for years now and David’s faith was growing weak.

² So David took his 600 men and went over and joined Achish son of Maach, the king of Gath. ³ David and his men and their families settled there with Achish at Gath. David brought his two wives along with him—Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail, Nabal’s widow from Carmel. ⁴ Word soon reached Saul that David had fled to Gath, so he stopped hunting for him.

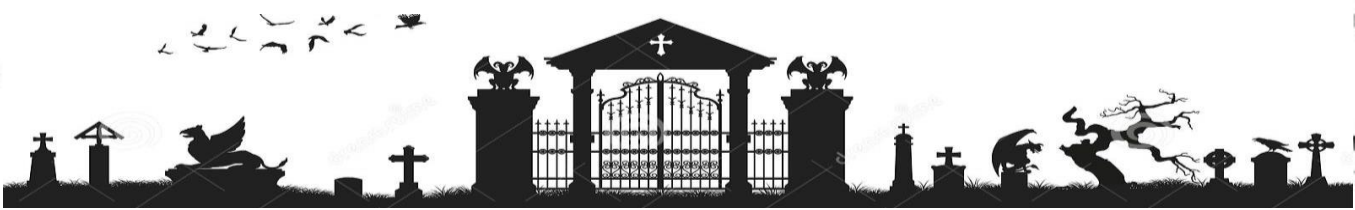
Eventually, David became exhausted of dealing with Saul and his many demons. Instead of being hunted like a fox in his own country, David felt safer with the enemies of Israel. In a stunning turn of events, David and his men vowed to serve the Philistine king, in exchange for his protection. This was a wise, but tragic move for David and his men, because they could never be blessed outside of the Land of Israel.

⁵ One day David said to Achish, “If it is all right with you, we would rather live in one of the country towns instead of here in the royal city.” ⁶ So Achish gave him the town of Ziklag (which still belongs to the kings of Judah to this day), ⁷ and they lived there among the Philistines for a year and four months.

Having their own town, gave David and his men a secure place to live for the first time in many years. There was noticeably less stress living in a comfortable house with warm beds. Finally, their children had a safe place to play, and their wives could plant a vegetable garden. This was a good season for David and his mighty men.

⁸ David and his men spent their time raiding the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites—people who had lived near Shur, toward the land of Egypt, since ancient times. ⁹ David did not leave one person alive in the villages he attacked. He took the sheep, goats, cattle, donkeys, camels, and clothing before returning home to see King Achish.

In the service of King Achish, David was a merciless warrior who practiced the art of conquest, in the service of the Philistines. David was also a profitable investment which benefited the Philistines making them rich at the expense of the surrounding tribes.



The Hebrew word raided comes from the verb to strip, with the idea of stripping the dead for loot. David attacked these villages or encampments, killed some of the men, stripped them for treasure or armor, and robbed the people of the village or encampment. This was no way of life for a man after God's own heart.³⁴

10 "Where did you make your raid today?" Achish would ask.

And David would reply, "Against the south of Judah, the Jerahmeelites, and the Kenites."

11 No one was left alive to come to Gath and tell where he had really been. This happened again and again while he was living among the Philistines.



Intentionally, David was extremely brutal in his conquest of the neighboring territories. He could not let anyone survive to tell the Philistine king, that he was not actually attacking Israel. The only reason Achish trusted David, was because he believed David absolutely hated the people of Israel for despising and rejecting him.

Even though he attacked the enemies of Israel, David was nothing more than an armed robber and murderer. He killed all the people of the village or encampment, took the spoil, and did it without the approval or guidance of God. He now fought wars for profit instead of for God's honor.³⁵

12 Achish believed David and thought to himself, "By now the people of Israel must hate him bitterly. Now he will have to stay here and serve me forever!"

Anyone who hated his own people enough to murder them in cold blood with such brutality, could not possibly go back home and be accepted among their countrymen. Achish assumed David would be his loyal ruthless assassin for the rest of his life.

³⁴ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 27

³⁵ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 27

The Witch of Endor

Saul Consults a Medium

28 About that time the Philistines mustered their armies for another war with Israel. King Achish told David, "You and your men will be expected to join me in battle."

2 "Very well!" David agreed. "Now you will see for yourself what we can do."

Then Achish told David, "I will make you my personal bodyguard for life."

Once again, a familiar story emerged from the biblical text. The two arch enemies come together for another epic battle. However, this time, David was on the enemy's side. Will David fight against the people of Israel? The text was unclear about what his true intentions really were, however, it seemed he was in a very unpredictable place.

3 Meanwhile, Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him. He was buried in Ramah, his hometown. And Saul had banned from the land of Israel all mediums and those who consult the spirits of the dead.

The fact that Samuel was dead is an important detail because King Saul has no way of inquiring of the Lord. By killing the priests, Saul cut himself off from the Word of the Lord. In the absence of Samuel, Saul has no other means to receive divine guidance.

As a good religious king, Saul constantly did things that pleased the Lord before the eyes of Israel. He kept the Law of Moses to a degree and maintained a standard of outward righteousness before the people. As a good politician, Saul understood that appearances were everything. To keep up his appearance, he even killed all of the witches and the mediums that lived within the land of Israel, to outwardly comply with the Law of Moses.

31 "Do not defile yourselves by turning to mediums or to those who consult the spirits of the dead. I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19)

On the other hand, Saul was actually demonized and worshipped the idol of his own success. He served the prestige of his prominent position. It was strange how Saul strictly maintained a "form of godliness", as he displayed an outward morality from a religious perspective, while he was inwardly demonized fighting the will of Yahweh.

HOW TO SPEAK

⁴ The Philistines set up their camp at Shunem, and Saul gathered all the army of Israel and camped at Gilboa. ⁵ When Saul saw the vast Philistine army, he became frantic with fear. ⁶ He asked the Lord what he should do, but the Lord refused to answer him, either by dreams or by sacred lots or by the prophets.

At this point, Saul was desperate to hear from the Lord. However, what he didn't understand was that it was impossible to hear from the Lord, without having a real relationship with Him. Saul was not really seeking the Lord at all, but tried to defend his dying kingdom to the end. When Saul finally grasped that Yahweh would not answer him, he frantically went after any supernatural voice that would hopefully tell him what to do in this dire situation.

⁷ Saul then said to his advisers, "Find a woman who is a medium, so I can go and ask her what to do." His advisers replied, "There is a medium at Endor."

On the surface, people assumed that witches no longer existed in Israel, because they were not recognizable. But under the surface, witchcraft always existed in Hebrew society. Witchcraft will always exist, as long as people have a desire to control spiritual forces and manipulate the power that rightly belongs to God, and God alone.

⁸ So Saul disguised himself by wearing ordinary clothing instead of his royal robes. Then he went to the woman's home at night, accompanied by two of his men.

"I have to talk to a man who has died," he said. "Will you call up his spirit for me?"

In his madness, Saul sought a familiar face to give him comfort in a time of need. He clearly understood that Yahweh was unavailable at this point. So



TO THE DEAD



he sought to speak with his old friend Samuel one last time, in order to receive the spiritual guidance he desperately needed. Saul understood that death was not a state of nonexistence. He knew Samuel was still alive and well, in another dimension, outside of the physical realm.

⁹ “Are you trying to get me killed?” the woman demanded. “You know that Saul has outlawed all the mediums and all who consult the spirits of the dead. Why are you setting a trap for me?”

This is another example of Biblical irony. Saul is the ultimate hypocrite. He took the liberty to break his own laws based on his own best interest. Saul would mercilessly execute another Israelite for doing precisely what he is about to do in secret. Additionally, he would make a public show of the execution to showcase his morality to the people.

This is exactly what manmade religion produces in the human heart. It creates an outward change of behaviour based on the opinions of others, but has no transformative power to change the sinful human heart.

¹⁰ But Saul took an oath in the name of the Lord and promised, “As surely as the Lord lives, nothing bad will happen to you for doing this.”

¹¹ Finally, the woman said, “Well, whose spirit do you want me to call up?” “Call up Samuel,” Saul replied. ¹² When the woman saw Samuel, she screamed, “You’ve deceived me! You are Saul!”

¹³ “Don’t be afraid!” the king told her. “What do you see?” “I see a god coming up out of the earth,” she said. ¹⁴ “What does he look like?” Saul asked. “He is an old man wrapped in a robe,” she replied. Saul realized it was Samuel, and he fell to the ground before him.



What exactly is going on here?

This is one of the hardest Biblical texts to understand because it does not give us all the details we need to understand for sure. Nevertheless, there are 3 major ideas connected to what the text described.

The Story
BEHIND
The Story





(1) *Some believe that this was a hallucination of the medium. But this doesn't make sense because it doesn't explain why the medium was so frightened. It doesn't explain why Saul also saw Samuel and why Samuel spoke to Saul, not to the medium.*

(2) *Some believe that this was a deception by the medium. But this also isn't an adequate explanation, for the same reasons given to the previous suggestion.*

(3) *Some believe that this was a demonic impersonation of Samuel. It is possible that the medium, with her occultic powers, summoned a demonic spirit that deceived both her and Saul. But this suggestion is also inadequate, because it does not speak to the issue of motive. After all, what advantage does Satan gain by "Samuel's" words to Saul?*

(4) *Some believe that this was a genuine (but strange) appearance of Samuel. This is the best explanation because it is supported by the reaction of the medium, who got more than she bargained for. It is also supported by the truth of what Samuel said (and the text says that Samuel said it). Some may say that it is impossible for Samuel to reappear in some way, coming from the world beyond back to this world. But Moses and Elijah also came from the world beyond back to this world when they appeared with Jesus at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3).³⁶*

15 "Why have you disturbed me by calling me back?" Samuel asked Saul.

"Because I am in deep trouble," Saul replied. "The Philistines are at war with me, and God has left me and won't reply by prophets or dreams. So I have called for you to tell me what to do."

This was truly a tragic statement. The anointing of God departed from Saul and rested upon David when young David was anointed to be the King of Israel by Samuel. Nevertheless, the presence of God, did not completely depart from Saul, until Saul repeatedly pushed the presence of God away. Saul still had moments of sanity where he experienced the power of God. In reality, it was Saul who departed from God, not God who abandoned Saul. Saul had a powerful charismatic experience when he lay naked and prophesied all night long. David gave Saul many opportunities to repent and

³⁶ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 28



change his attitude towards God. Sadly, Saul continued to harden his heart and resisted the truth until he came to a point where he lost all ability to ever hear the truth.

16 But Samuel replied, "Why ask me, since the Lord has left you and has become your enemy? 17 The Lord has done just as he said he would. He has torn the kingdom from you and given it to your rival, David. 18 The Lord has done this to you today because you refused to carry out his fierce anger against the Amalekites.

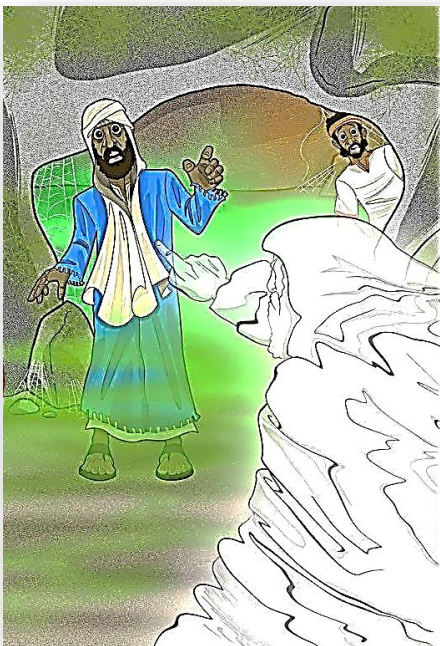


As usual, Saul was blaming the Lord, but Samuel gravely reminded him of his own personal responsibility. He knew what he was supposed to do 20 years ago. However, he willfully chose to obey the political desires of the people, over the revealed Word of the Lord. If Saul refused to obey the Word of the Lord then, what had really changed in his heart over the last 20 years? Saul did not extend repentance or submission to the will of Yahweh with his desperate inquiry. He simply desired to hear a comforting prophetic word which assured him that everything would be ok.

19 What's more, the Lord will hand you and the army of Israel over to the Philistines tomorrow, and you and your sons will be here with me. The Lord will bring down the entire army of Israel in defeat."

In place of a mere blessing, Saul received the hard truth. Samuel was an authentic prophet, and the prophecy given that day was true. Things would not go well for Saul. He and his faithful sons would die that day because of his persistent rebellion against the Lord.

20 Saul fell full length on the ground, paralyzed with fright because of Samuel's words. He was also faint with hunger, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night. 21 When the woman saw how distraught he was, she said, "Sir, I obeyed your command at the risk of my life. 22 Now do what I say, and let me give you a little something to eat so you can regain your strength for the trip back." 23 But Saul refused to eat anything. Then his advisers joined the woman in urging him to eat, so he finally yielded and got up from the ground and sat on the couch. 24 The woman had been fattening a





calf, so she hurried out and killed it. She took some flour, kneaded it into dough and baked unleavened bread. ²⁵ She brought the meal to Saul and his advisers, and they ate it. Then they went out into the night.

At this point, Saul had no need to eat. People eat to have strength and face the day. For Saul, strength was irrelevant. His destiny was sealed and there was nothing he could do to change his future. Like a lamb to the slaughter, Saul would show up to the battle the next day with the intention of dying well in the eyes of the people.

It's a sad note when a practitioner of the occult comforts the King of Israel. But they were two of the same kind; each lived in rebellion to God, and each was under judgment from the LORD.³⁷



1. When David and Abishai entered into Saul's camp, they found the king sleeping. If Abishai killed Saul, would David's conscience be clear?
2. After many years of running from Saul, David sinks into depression and discouragement. How did leaving the land of Israel relate to David backsliding in his faith?
3. In the town of Ziklag, David and his men finally had a place to call home where they could build houses, raise their families and plant gardens. Was this land the blessing of the Lord?

³⁷ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 28

4. Was it really Samuel who spoke to Saul or an evil spirit pretending to be Samuel? What do you think?
5. Was the prophetic message concerning the death of Saul from the Lord? Or was it a evil curse which came to pass?



The Philistines Reject David

29 The entire Philistine army now mobilized at Aphek, and the Israelites camped at the spring in Jezreel. ² As the Philistine rulers were leading out their troops in groups of hundreds and thousands, David and his men marched at the rear with King Achish. ³ But the Philistine commanders demanded, "What are these Hebrews doing here?"

This was the lowest point in David's life so far. He was marching with the sworn enemy of Israel against the people of Yahweh with his 600 mighty men. Ironically, the man who killed Goliath, the champion of the Philistines, is now their new champion. As the leader of the king's bodyguard, David is among the most trusted warriors in the Philistine army. Who would believe that even David could "backslide" into such a dark and distorted place?

And Achish told them, "This is David, the servant of King Saul of Israel. He's been with me for years, and I've never found a single fault in him from the day he arrived until today."

⁴ But the Philistine commanders were angry. "Send him back to the town you've given him!" they demanded. "He can't go into the battle with us. What if he turns against us in battle and becomes our adversary? Is there any better way for him to reconcile himself with



his master than by handing our heads over to him? ⁵ Isn't this the same David about whom the women of Israel sing in their dances, 'Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

This was the hand of Yahweh protecting the destiny of David. Would David turn against the Philistines in the middle of the battle? Was David deceiving the Philistines from the beginning, like when he acted insane before the king? Strangely, the Philistine skepticism protected David's reputation, which would allow the people of Judah to accept him as their rightful anointed king. This would be impossible, if David spilled Israelite blood on behalf of the Philistines. It was the grace of Yahweh that sent David packing on that tragic day, because David was possibly on the verge of touching the Lord's anointed people and destroying his own destiny in the process.

⁶ So Achish finally summoned David and said to him, "I swear by the Lord that you have been a trustworthy ally. I think you should go with me into battle, for I've never found a single flaw in you from the day you arrived until today. But the other Philistine rulers won't hear of it. ⁷ Please don't upset them, but go back quietly."

⁸ "What have I done to deserve this treatment?" David demanded. "What have you ever found in your servant, that I can't go and fight the enemies of my lord the king?"

These words are astonishing, coming from the mouth of David. The Bible says that David was a **man after Gods own heart**, but at this point, we really **don't know where David's heart is**. Would he have fought against the people of Israel for his own advantage and revenge?

⁹ But Achish insisted, "As far as I'm concerned, you're as perfect as an angel of God. But the Philistine commanders are afraid to have you with them in the battle. ¹⁰ Now get up early in the morning, and leave with your men as soon as it gets light."

¹¹ So David and his men headed back into the land of the Philistines, while the Philistine army went on to Jezreel.

All his life, David struggled with a spirit of rejection. His father Jesse rejected him in his childhood. His adopted father Saul betrayed him. And now, Achish plunges another dagger into his heart. While David always found security in God, he continuously sought to have a human father figure. Sinking in rejection and burning with bitterness, David is about to face the greatest trial of his life so far. It's during this time of horrific testing, that God turns

David's heart back to Him and away from the security he found among the Philistine heathens.

David Destroys the Amalekites

30 Three days later, when David and his men arrived home at their town of Ziklag, they found that the Amalekites had made a raid into the Negev and Ziklag; they had crushed Ziklag and burned it to the ground.

On the third day indicates that David and his men covered about twenty-five miles a day on the march south from Apek to Ziklag, where they would have arrived tired, hungry and expecting all the comforts for a welcome home.³⁸

² They had carried off the women and children and everyone else but without killing anyone.

Whenever David found himself outside of the will of Yahweh, there was a consequence that naturally followed his poor decision making. He should have never been with the Philistines in the first place, riding to battle against the people of Yahweh. This neglectful laps in judgment opened up David and his faithful men to a tremendous spiritual attack that nearly destroyed everything he and his men achieved. By being in the wrong place, at the wrong time, David carelessly opened a door for the enemy. In their misguided absence, their wives and families were vulnerable to the attack of the enemy. They were left defenseless because David was outside of the will of Yahweh doing what seemed "right to his men".

³ When David and his men saw the ruins and realized what had happened to their families, ⁴ they wept until they could weep no more. ⁵ David's two wives, Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal from Carmel, were among those captured. ⁶ David was now in great danger because all his men were very bitter about losing their sons and daughters, and they began to talk of stoning him.

At the lowest point in David's life, he officially lost everything. His wives, children and even the loyalty of his mighty men had departed from him. This is the end of a life spent serving something other than God. When everything is said and done, everything will be burned up in judgment and

³⁸ David Guzik, Study Guide for 1 Samuel, Chapter 29

there is nothing that will remain but total loss. This was the reward of David's backslidden condition. He was not only outside of the Land of Israel, but he was also outside of the will of God. The resulting destruction was his fault. David should have never been among the Philistines, serving their pagan god, in their heathen land. He should have remained in Israel where Yahweh called him to be king. He did not inquire of Yahweh, nor did he have permission from the Lord to be in Ziklag in the first place. It's no wonder David lost everything in the process. Nonetheless, unlike Saul, David was a man who knew how to repent and cry out to the Lord for mercy.

But David found strength in the Lord his God.

⁴ The ropes of death entangled me; floods of destruction swept over me. ⁵ The grave wrapped its ropes around me; death laid a trap in my path. ⁶ But in my distress I cried out to the Lord; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears. (Psalm 18)



David humbled himself and genuinely cried out to Yahweh as his Father. The spirit of rejection had almost driven David to total destruction until he repented and called out to God. Nevertheless, Yahweh could never reject David, His son, because he was the Lord's Anointed King of Israel.

This was the ultimate lesson in repentance. Yahweh is not like any earthly father. He is kind and compassionate and quick to bring us back to himself the moment our heart turns to him. In the midst of his crisis, David finally remembered the goodness of God. After being separated from His presence for months at a time, David came to his lowest point and cried to his true and faithful Father. It was only at the point of total brokenness, David realized how far he had fallen from his calling. Still, Yahweh protected him from raising his sword against the people of Israel, which would have ended David's career forever.

***⁷ Hear me as I pray, O Lord.
Be merciful and answer me!***

⁸ My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming." ⁹ Do not turn your back on me. Do not reject your servant in anger. You have always been my helper. Don't leave me now; don't abandon me, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close. (Psalm 27)

⁷ Then he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring me the ephod!" So Abiathar brought it. ⁸ Then David asked the Lord, "Should I chase after this band of raiders? Will I catch them?"

And the Lord told him, "Yes, go after them. You will surely recover everything that was taken from you!"



David was a lifelong warrior and all he knew how to do was fight. However, in this specific situation, David refused to do what was instinctive to him. He had learned a great lesson, from Ziklag. He refused to do what came naturally to him or bow to the desires of his broken-hearted men. David refused to move until he received a Word from the Lord. This proved that his fellowship with Yahweh was restored and his

intimacy with God was once again his highest priority.

Inquiring of the Lord once again proved that David's heart had changed. It was a long time since David inquired anything of Yahweh. Through his time in Ziklag, David realized his own limitations. He could not live without being led by Yahweh any longer. David returned to his roots and what he understood best!

⁹ So David and his 600 men set out, and they came to the brook Besor. ¹⁰ But 200 of the men were too exhausted to cross the brook, so David continued the pursuit with 400 men.

The 600 men who served King David not only served him, but were also serving the Lord. They believed the Lord was with David. Sadly, David had

RETURN TO YOUR ROOTS

taken them off track with his selfish, pitiful decision making. But now that he was again right with the Lord, the confidence of his men was automatically restored. The moment David received a fresh Word from God, he and his men understood they were fighting for the glory of Yahweh, and not for themselves. The same disheartened men who were just about to kill David, now rallied with him in battle to fight for everything they cherished.

This was an amazing sight. David and his 600 faithful soldiers sold themselves to the Philistines like cheap prostitutes for many months now. They shamelessly fought without honor and killed many people for money, profit, and protection. However, this time, they were marching for their wives and children. This battle was personal for David and his entourage because everything was on the line.

¹¹ Along the way they found an Egyptian man in a field and brought him to David. They gave him some bread to eat and water to drink. ¹² They also gave him part of a fig cake and two clusters of raisins, for he hadn't had anything to eat or drink for three days and nights. Before long his strength returned.¹³ "To whom do you belong, and where do you come from?" David asked him. "I am an Egyptian—the slave of an Amalekite," he replied. "My master abandoned me three days ago because I was sick. ¹⁴ We were on our way back from raiding the Kerethites in the Negev, the territory of Judah, and the land of Caleb, and we had just burned Ziklag."

Yahweh provided exactly what David needed in his pursuit of the enemy. The land was huge, and the Amalekites could have gone anywhere. In spite of the impossible situation, this weak and dying slave, who was showed **unexpected kindness**, responded with favor to the grace he received from David.

¹⁵ "Will you lead me to this band of raiders?" David asked. The young man replied, "If you take an oath in God's name that you will not kill me or give me back to my master, then I will guide you to them."

David and his men could have easily killed him for his participation in the burning of Ziklag. However, when kindness was extended to this pathetic Egyptian slave, he willingly gave them the information they needed to accomplish their divine task.

¹⁶ So he led David to them, and they found the Amalekites spread out across the fields, eating and drinking and dancing with joy because



of the vast amount of plunder they had taken from the Philistines and the land of Judah.

It certainly helped the cause of the Israelite men that the Amalekites were in a state of drunken disarray. The Amalekites assumed they were absolutely safe, being in the middle of the vast wilderness. Their drunken state made their slaughter very convenient, because with all the music and dancing, it was difficult for them to recognize they were being massacred.

¹⁷ David and his men rushed in among them and slaughtered them throughout that night and the entire next day until evening. None of the Amalekites escaped except 400 young men who fled on camels.

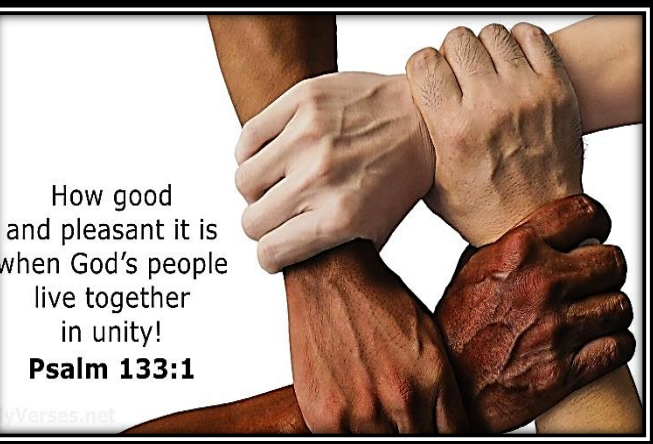
Notice, the supernatural anointing that rested upon David, also came upon all of his mighty men. Reflecting on the previous verse, David's men were near exhaustion after marching nonstop for days at a time. However, when they came upon the Amalekites, they received a supernatural anointing from the Spirit of God which **empowered** them to fight. They butchered the enemy soldiers all night, and into the day. This supernatural anointing allowed 400 men to completely destroy an army of thousands.

The Lesson Of Association



The above text made it clear that the same Spirit Who came upon David, also came upon his mighty men. After being completely exhausted from marching for days without rest, there was nothing left in the tank when they finally encountered the enemy. At just the right time, a **supernatural empowerment** fell upon all of David's men, and they were able to fight all night long and into the next day. They supernaturally butchered endless enemy soldiers, until the Amalekites were completely destroyed.

This is the reward of someone dedicated to serve an anointed man of God. The anointing is the supernatural ability of the Spirit that naturally flowed downward. David wrote about the power of the anointing oil flowing from the beard, to the toes of Aaron.



How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!
Psalm 133:1

**¹ How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!
² For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. (Psalm 133)**



Serving under an anointed leader, allowed the emerging leader to partake in the blessing of the experienced leader's anointing. In essence, the expert leader's tested and established anointing, became the anointing of his disciples. This happened with all of the mighty men who faithfully served David. Specifically, a notable few, did extraordinarily supernatural exploits which are forever recorded in Holy Scripture.

Eleazar

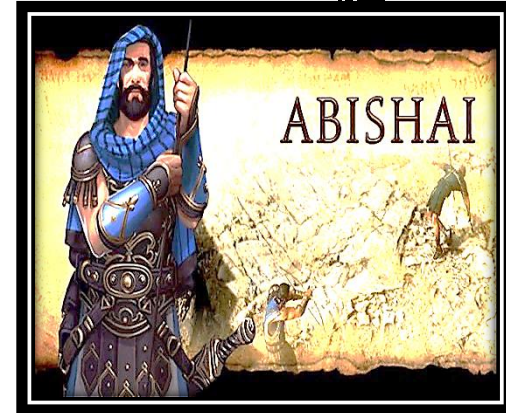
⁹ Next in rank among the Three was Eleazar son of Dodai, a descendant of Ahoah. Once Eleazar and David stood together against the Philistines when the entire Israelite army had fled. ¹⁰ He killed Philistines until his hand was too tired to lift his sword, and the Lord gave him a great victory that day. The rest of the army did not return until it was time to collect the plunder! (2 Samuel 23)



In the Scripture, Eleazar was one of the mighty men who was celebrated for his courage and outstanding service. He staunchly stood side by side with David when all the others retreated, and they both shared in the glory of a great victory.

Abishai

¹⁸ Abishai son of Zeruiah, the brother of Joab, was the leader of the Thirty. He once used his spear to kill 300 enemy warriors in a single battle. (2 Samuel 23)



Abishai was a trusted general in King David's army and also was his nephew. Imagine a single warrior with a wooden spear slaughtered 300 warriors in a single day. This was only possible with the anointing of the Holy Spirit which rested upon him because he faithfully served King David.

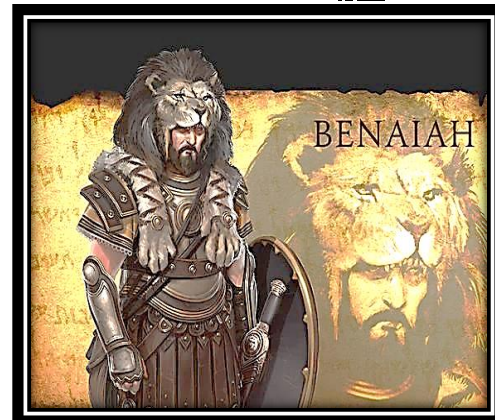
¹⁵ Once again the Philistines were at war with Israel. And when David and his men were in the thick of battle, David became weak and exhausted. ¹⁶ Ishbi-benob was a descendant of the giants; his bronze spearhead weighed more than seven pounds, and he was armed with a new sword. He had cornered David and was about to kill him. ¹⁷ But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to David's rescue and killed the Philistine. Then David's men declared, "You are not going out to battle with us again! Why risk snuffing out the light of Israel?" (2 Samuel 21)

MIGHTY MEN OF DAVID?

On another occasion, Abishai saved King David's life by killing another Philistine giant when David grew weak. After this battle, David was officially removed from the front lines, **because he trained up other mighty warriors who could fight even better than he could.**

Benaiah

²⁰ There was also Benaiah son of Jehoiada, a valiant warrior from Kabzeel. He did many heroic deeds, which included killing two champions of Moab. Another time, on a snowy day, he chased a lion down into a pit and killed it. ²¹ Once, armed only with a club, he killed an imposing Egyptian warrior who was armed with a spear. Benaiah wrenched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with it. (2 Samuel 23)

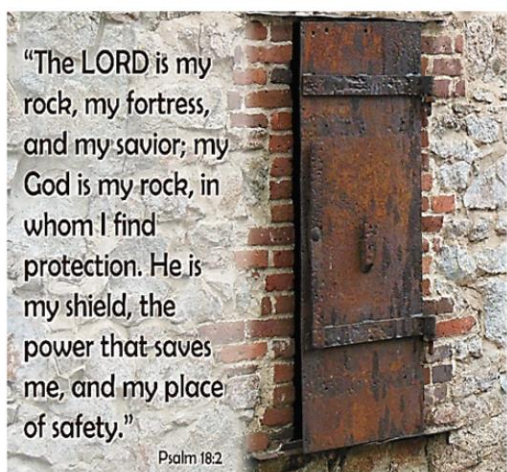



Finally, Benaiah shared in the anointing of the Holy Spirit because he killed 2 giants from Moab, an Egyptian giant and even chased down and killed a lion, perhaps with his bare hands.

Scripture recorded the significant deeds of these heroic men because nothing is lost in the service of the king. Christ said we will receive a reward for even a cup of water offered in faith. As believers in Yahshua, we must remember we are in the service of the King of Kings. Everything we do for the service of our King, will be remembered and rewarded, in the Kingdom to come.

¹⁸ David got back everything the Amalekites had taken, and he rescued his two wives. ¹⁹ Nothing was missing: small or great, son or daughter, nor anything else that had been taken. David brought everything back. ²⁰ He also recovered all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock. "This plunder belongs to David!" they said.

³⁷ I chased my enemies and caught them; I did not stop until they were conquered. ³⁸ I struck them down so they could not get up; they fell beneath my feet. ³⁹ You have armed me with strength for the battle; you have subdued my enemies under my feet. ⁴⁰ You placed my foot on their necks. I have destroyed all who hated me. (Psalm 18)





David obeyed the Lord and the Lord worked with David. He and his men achieved a magnificent victory for all of Israel. When David came to a place of absolute submission, the power of the Spirit manifested in the deeds of his entire army.

²¹ Then David returned to the brook Besor and met up with the 200 men who had been left behind because they were too exhausted to go with him. They went out to meet David and his men, and David greeted them joyfully. ²² But some evil troublemakers among David's men said, "They didn't go with us, so they can't have any of the plunder we recovered. Give them their wives and children, and tell them to be gone."

²³ But David said, "No, my brothers! Don't be selfish with what the Lord has given us. He has kept us safe and helped us defeat the band of raiders that attacked us. ²⁴ Who will listen when you talk like this? We share and share alike—those who go to battle and those who guard the equipment." ²⁵ From then on David made this a decree and regulation for Israel, and it is still followed today.

²⁶ When he arrived at Ziklag, David sent part of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends. "Here is a present for you, taken from the Lord's enemies," he said.

By sending a gift to the elders of Judah, David placed himself in a very favorable position. Judah had suffered greatly under the leadership of Saul, who deeply distrusted the loyalty of their tribe. Judah desperately needed leadership and stability. Furthermore, they had no standing army to protect themselves. At the perfect moment, David stepped in as their tribal provider and protector, when the people needed him most. This foreshadowed the events of the next chapter because Saul would soon be dead, and Israel will need a new king.

²⁷ The gifts were sent to the people of the following towns David had visited: Bethel, Ramoth-negev, Jattir, ²⁸ Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa, ²⁹ Racal, the towns of the Jerahmeelites, the towns of the Kenites, ³⁰ Hormah, Bor-ashan, Athach, ³¹ Hebron, and all the other places David and his men had visited.

The Death of Saul

³¹ Now the Philistines attacked Israel, and the men of Israel fled before them. Many were slaughtered on the slopes of Mount

“How the mighty have fallen!”?

Gilboa. ² The Philistines closed in on Saul and his sons, and they killed three of his sons—Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malkishua. ³ The fighting grew very fierce around Saul, and the Philistine archers caught up with him and wounded him severely.

At least Saul had the courage to show up that day and die with dignity. Unfortunately, his faithful sons also died along side him in battle. Even the noble Jonathan suffered a purposeless death, because of the selfish ambition of his father.

⁴ Saul groaned to his armor bearer, “Take your sword and kill me before these pagan Philistines come to run me through and taunt and torture me.”

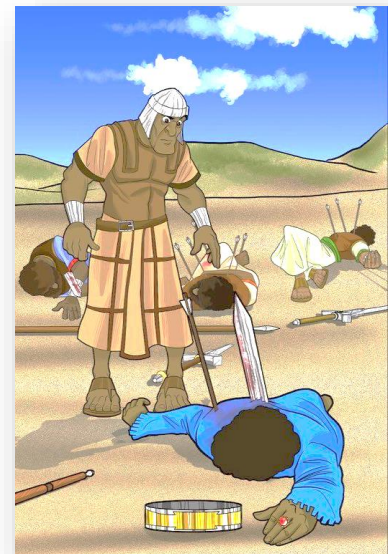
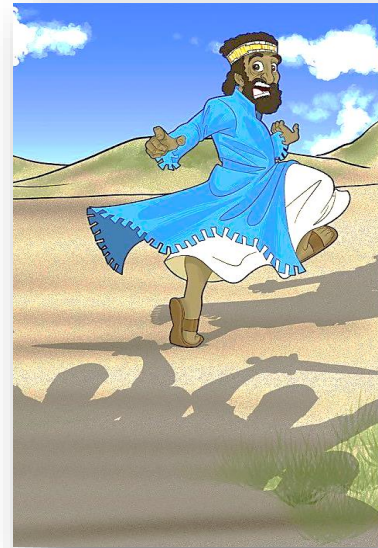
Saul wanted to die with honor instead of suffering a fate similar to Samson. He did not want to be an object of humiliation and ridicule. Saul died in a similar manner to the way he lived. He did things according to his own best interest, even when it came to his final breath.

But his armor bearer was afraid and would not do it. So Saul took his own sword and fell on it. ⁵ When his armor bearer realized that Saul was dead, he fell on his own sword and died beside the king. ⁶ So Saul, his three sons, his armor bearer, and his troops all died together that same day.

For 20 years, Saul struggled with the will of Yahweh. At times, he even believed he was winning the battle. Nevertheless, Saul ran until time caught up with him.

⁷ When the Israelites on the other side of the Jezreel Valley and beyond the Jordan saw that the Israelite army had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their towns and fled. So the Philistines moved in and occupied their towns.

When the champion of Israel lay dead on the battlefield, all of Israel lost their courage and the army fled like cowards in disarray. At this point the nation was defeated, and the people of Yahweh were under Philistine domination. Who would save the nation of Israel now? Where would Israel find another king with both Saul and Jonathan dead?



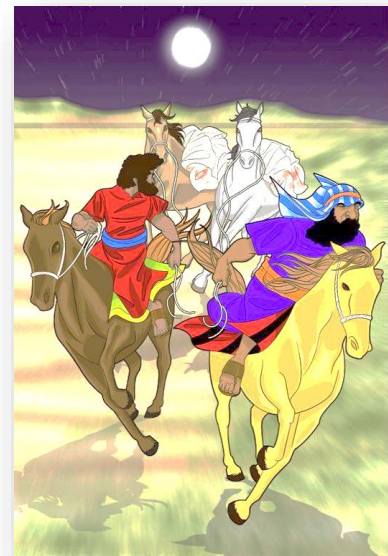
“How the mighty have fallen!”?

⁸ The next day, when the Philistines went out to strip the dead, they found the bodies of Saul and his three sons on Mount Gilboa. ⁹ So they cut off Saul's head and stripped off his armor. Then they proclaimed the good news of Saul's death in their pagan temple and to the people throughout the land of Philistia. ¹⁰ They placed his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and they fastened his body to the wall of the city of Beth-shan.

Remember, David cut the head off of the Philistine champion to dishonor his corpse. Likewise, the Philistines returned the favor, by doing the same to the Israelite champion. Furthermore, just as Yahweh was glorified with the defeat of Goliath, Dagon was now revered for the defeat of Saul.

¹¹ But when the people of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹² all their mighty warriors traveled through the night to Beth-shan and took the bodies of Saul and his sons down from the wall. They brought them to Jabesh, where they burned the bodies. ¹³ Then they took their bones and buried them beneath the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted for seven days.

For the sake of Jonathan, Yahweh honored Saul and his sons with a formal burial. The most dishonorable way for an Israelite to die was to be eaten by dogs.



David Learns of Saul's Death

¹ After the death of Saul, David returned from his victory over the Amalekites and spent two days in Ziklag. ² On the third day a man arrived from Saul's army camp. He had torn his clothes and put dirt on his head to show that he was in mourning. He fell to the ground before David in deep respect. (2 Samuel 1)

As mentioned, David was in Ziklag, in the land of the Philistines, celebrating his great victory. On the other side of the border in the land of Israel, Saul and his beloved friend Jonathan are lying dead in the blazing sun. David was completely unaware of what has already happened. In an instant, his joy will be turned into deep mourning yet again.



HEARTBROKEN

³ “Where have you come from?” David asked.

“I escaped from the Israelite camp,” the man replied.

⁴ “What happened?” David demanded. “Tell me how the battle went.” The man replied, “Our entire army fled from the battle. Many of the men are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead.”

⁵ “How do you know Saul and Jonathan are dead?” David demanded of the young man. ⁶ The man answered, “I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear with the enemy chariots and charioteers closing in on him. ⁷ When he turned and saw me, he cried out for me to come to him. ‘How can I help?’ I asked him. ⁸ “He responded, ‘Who are you?’ “I am an Amalekite,’ I told him. ⁹ “Then he begged me, ‘Come over here and put me out of my misery, for I am in terrible pain and want to die.’ ¹⁰ “So I killed him,” the Amalekite told David, “for I knew he couldn’t live. Then I took his crown and his armband, and I have brought them here to you, my lord.”

We can fairly assume that this man is lying about killing Saul. The previous chapter clearly indicated, “Saul killed himself”. It is probable, that this man robbed the body of Saul for his valuables and then, decided to make a good impression on David by presenting him with the crown of his enemy.

¹¹ David and his men tore their clothes in sorrow when they heard the news. ¹² They mourned and wept and fasted all day for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the Lord’s army and the nation of Israel, because they had died by the sword that day.

In a surprising turn of events, David was not pleased with the news that came from this scheming Amalekite. David’s emotional reaction proves he truly loved Saul, in spite of how he was treated for all those years. The fact that he repented of being offended at Saul, shows that he refused to live in bitterness and unforgiveness. Because he was forgiven of much, he needed to extend the same type of forgiveness to Saul. The fact that David mourned so deeply at this news, is evidence that he had genuinely forgiven Saul. On top of that, he was also deeply heartbroken over the loss of his best friend Jonathan.

¹³ Then David said to the young man who had brought the news, “Where are you from?” And he replied, “I am a foreigner, an Amalekite, who lives in your land.” ¹⁴ “Why were you not afraid to



kill the Lord's anointed one?" David asked. ¹⁵ Then David said to one of his men, "Kill him!" So the man thrust his sword into the Amalekite and killed him. ¹⁶ "You have condemned yourself," David said, "for you yourself confessed that you killed the Lord's anointed one."

David did not respect the person of Saul, but until the end, he showed respect for his position as king. He was the Lord's Anointed King and deserved the honor that came with the appointing. While David carried the **anointing**, he did not receive the **appointing** until the leaders of Judah gathered to officially make him their king.

Remarkably, David did the opposite of what the scheming Amalekite expected. Regardless of if it was true or not, he was executed for his confession because he said he touched the Lord's anointed.

David's Song for Saul and Jonathan

¹⁷ Then David composed a funeral song for Saul and Jonathan, ¹⁸ and he commanded that it be taught to the people of Judah. It is known as the Song of the Bow, and it is recorded in *The Book of Jashar*.

¹⁹ Your pride and joy, O Israel, lies dead on the hills!

Oh, how the mighty heroes have fallen!

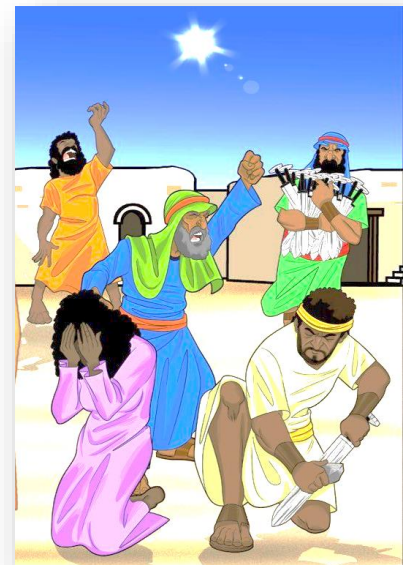
²⁰ Don't announce the news in Gath,
don't proclaim it in the streets of Ashkelon,
or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice
and the pagans will laugh in triumph.

²¹ O mountains of Gilboa,
let there be no dew or rain upon you,
nor fruitful fields producing offerings of
grain.

For there the shield of the mighty heroes was
defiled; the shield of Saul will no longer be
anointed with oil.

²² The bow of Jonathan was powerful,
and the sword of Saul did its mighty work.
They shed the blood of their enemies
and pierced the bodies of mighty heroes.

²³ How beloved and gracious were Saul and Jonathan! They were
together in life and in death.



HEARTBROKEN

They were swifter than eagles,
stronger than lions.

²⁴ O women of Israel, weep for Saul,
for he dressed you in luxurious scarlet clothing,
in garments decorated with gold.

There are two surprising parts to this song. David sang with great compassion and love for his fallen father figure, Saul. He exclaimed that Saul brought great prosperity to the land of Israel. He brought 20 years of safety and security to his beloved nation. These were not the words of a bitter man, but a grieving son who lost his spiritual father. Ironically, with everything Saul did to try and murder David, he could not destroy David's deep desire to make his **father proud of him**. All David wanted was **acceptance** in place of the constant **rejection** he received from people who confessed to love him. Tragically, he would never receive it from Saul, ever.

²⁵ Oh, how the mighty heroes have fallen in battle!
Jonathan lies dead on the hills.

²⁶ How I weep for you, my brother Jonathan!
Oh, how much I loved you!

And your love for me was deep,
deeper than the love of women! ²⁷ Oh, how the
mighty heroes have fallen! Stripped of their
weapons, they lie dead.



YOU SHALL KNOW THE
TRUTH

Some perverted Bible scholars, with severely twisted imaginations, have wrongly suggested that David's love for Jonathan was an indication that he and Jonathan had a homosexual relationship. There is nothing further from the truth. Such a notion is absolute garbage, conceived in the corruption of their perverted thinking. The hero of Israel and the "man after God's own heart", could not possibly be a practicing homosexual and be consistent with the text.

However, David was secretly revealing something tragic about his upbringing. He only understood "masculine relationships" with other men, as soldiers and fellow warriors. He had no history or understanding of any other type of relationships, especially with women.

David anointed "king of Judah"

When it came to marriage, his first wife was forcefully taken from him by Saul. Then, he picked up a few other women along the way to be his wives, but the Bible said nothing about David really loving any of them. To David, women were things to be conquered or captured in battle. He took the wife of Nabal as a prize, but did he really love her? This brokenness in his personal life, would later resurface to haunt him in the near future.

Because David never understood the love of a woman, he was never able to find stability in a functional marriage relationship. This was the central cause of his tormenting insecurity which followed him to his grave. The Anointed King of Israel would go from one broken relationship to another, seeking to find sexual gratification in place of the acceptance he never received from a father figure in his childhood.

David Anointed King of Judah

2 After this, David asked the Lord, "Should I move back to one of the towns of Judah?"

"Yes," the Lord replied.

Then David asked, "Which town should I go to?"

"To Hebron," the Lord answered.

2 David's two wives were Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal from Carmel. So David and his wives ³ and his men and their families all moved to Judah, and they settled in the villages near Hebron. ⁴ Then the men of Judah came to David and anointed him king over the people of Judah.

Under the leadership of Yahweh, David received instructions to return to the Land of Israel and wait on the men of Judah to come to him. As mentioned, David was anointed king, which means he had all the supernatural abilities to complete the task he was given from the time the oil flowed over his dirty locks. However, he needed to wait until the Lord also appointed him as the King of Judah by the hands of the elders. Mysteriously, there was a long



**BEFORE JERUSALEM THERE WAS
HEBRON // KING DAVID'S FIRST CAPITAL**

ANOINTED

Anointed refers to the ritualistic act of pouring or rubbing aromatic oil over a person's head or entire body

APPOINTED

Appointed refers to the act of assigning a job or role to someone

time period between David's anointing and his appointing in Judah, because only Yahweh could complete the task He began.

When David heard that the men of Jabesh-gilead had buried Saul, ⁵ he sent them this message: "May the Lord bless you for being so loyal to your master Saul and giving him a decent burial. ⁶ May the Lord be loyal to you in return and reward you with his unfailing love! And I, too, will reward you for what you have done. ⁷ Now that Saul is dead, I ask you to be my strong and loyal subjects like the people of Judah, who have anointed me as their new king."

The Lesson Of Failure



David endured many years of painful suffering, as he patiently waited for the day Israel would come to him to make him their king. However, things did not work out the way he imagined. Because of the ongoing bitterness and mistrust between the Tribes of Israel and the Tribe of Judah, Abner, Saul's general, turned the people of Israel against David. At first, it was only the Tribe of Judah that came to David and asked him to be their king. Just as he **reigned in the wilderness**, over the 600 mighty men, he

would now **reign in Hebron**, over a single Tribe of Israel, for another seven years. This was yet another stage in his testing, where he would develop the skills he needed to someday become the king of all of Israel.

One of the life lessons we need to learn as developing leaders is to continue to be faithful to the tasks we have been given, even in the midst of failure. What David achieved was limited success. But being the King of Judah was nothing compared to being the King of Israel. David realized there was still a long road of trials and tribulations set before him, until he would fully realize his God-given dream and destiny. Dealing with failure is one of the most important lessons a developing leader must learn. If we don't know how to fail, we can't learn how to win. Many aspiring leaders become discouraged at

failure and are never able to rediscover their dreams afterwards. Learning how to deal with failure is as important as learning how to deal with victory. Partial success is often tricky, because it's not the success we want. Dealing with failure and even partial success, are significant tests that mature us and help us to develop as promising leaders.

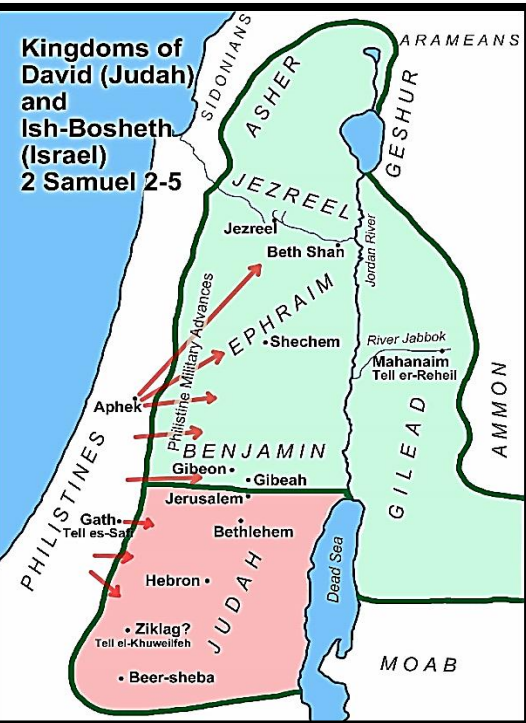


1. As David returned to Ziklag, he faced the darkest moment of his life with the loss of everything he loved. How did the darkest moment of David's life bring him back to God?
2. How has the dark moments of your own life deepened your personal relationship with God?
3. Saul and David had such a twisted history. However, David was crushed with the news of his death. Do you think David still loved Saul as a father figure?
4. After hearing he would surely die, Saul showed up for battle and stood side by side with his faithful son Jonathan. Did Saul die honourably after all?

5. Jonathan was truly a mighty man of God with a horrible father figure. He struggled to respect the “position” of his father, but not the “person”. Have you ever lost respect for the character of a leader, while still respecting the position of that leader.

Ishbosheth Proclaimed King of Israel

Kingdoms of David (Judah) and Ish-Bosheth (Israel)
2 Samuel 2-5



8 But Abner son of Ner, the commander of Saul’s army, had already gone to Mahanaim with Saul’s son Ishbosheth. 9 There he proclaimed Ishbosheth king over Gilead, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin, the land of the Ashurites, and all the rest of Israel.

The sudden introduction of Saul’s mysterious son is amazingly convenient. Abner, the commander of Saul’s remaining army is still resentful towards David, especially after he called him out for sleeping on duty. As a result, Abner “**resurrects**” a long-lost son of Saul who has a suspicious family line. Strangely, the text did not mention him fighting with his brothers to defend Israel at any point. Moreover, his name means “man of shame”. This apparently indicated that Ishbosheth was an illicit son of Saul, which obviously implied he was an illegitimate King of Israel.

10 Ishbosheth, Saul’s son, was forty years old when he became king, and he ruled from Mahanaim for two years. Meanwhile, the people of Judah remained loyal to David. 11 David made Hebron his capital, and he ruled as king of Judah for seven and a half years.

The men of Judah recognized David’s anointing and appointed him on behalf of Yahweh as their king. On the other hand, Abner continued to hate David because of the humiliation he suffered when David stole the spear of his master. After the death of Saul, Abner became his **new enemy**. In place of Saul, he now attempted to prevent the will of Yahweh, to make David king of all of Israel.



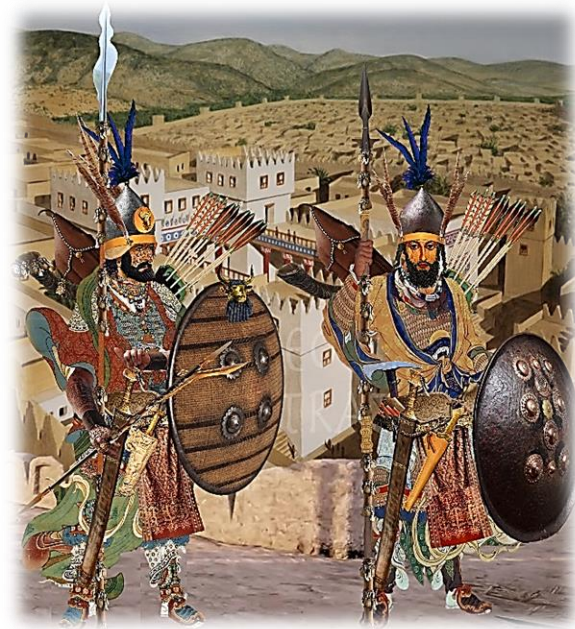
MY NEW ENEMY

War between Israel and Judah

¹² One day Abner led Ishbosheth's troops from Mahanaim to Gibeon. ¹³ About the same time, Joab son of Zeruiah led David's troops out and met them at the pool of Gibeon. The two groups sat down there, facing each other from opposite sides of the pool. ¹⁴ Then Abner suggested to Joab, "Let's have a few of our warriors fight hand to hand here in front of us."

This was the beginning of a tragic rivalry that would endure for many years. The two opposing leaders are extraordinarily talented generals and extremely capable men of war. Abner was the trustworthy cousin of Saul, while Joab was the plotting, manipulative nephew of King David. This brutal encounter foreshadowed the catastrophic consequences of brothers fighting brothers for pointless political gain and tribal power.

"All right," Joab agreed. ¹⁵ So twelve men were chosen to fight from each side—twelve men of Benjamin representing Ishbosheth son of Saul, and twelve representing David. ¹⁶ Each one grabbed his opponent by the hair and thrust his sword into the other's side so that all of them died. So this place at Gibeon has been known ever since as the Field of Swords.



Both sides were overly confident going into this ridiculous contest. This was not a football match, but a fight to the death. In what must have been a supernatural judgment of Yahweh, the young, gifted champions on both sides died simultaneously. This disastrous event remained as a testimony to the foolishness of Israel fighting Judah. They were all sons of Abraham, who were supposed to be fighting the enemies of Yahweh.

¹⁷ A fierce battle followed that day, and Abner and the men of Israel were defeated by the forces of David.

It's obvious to everyone reading the text, that King David was destined to increase as a "man after God's own heart" and King Ishbosheth was destined to decrease as a "man of shame".



The Death of Asahel

18 Joab, Abishai, and Asahel—the three sons of Zeruiah—were among David’s forces that day.

The three sons of Zeruiah were mighty warriors who followed David in the wilderness. David disciplined many fierce fighters in his time in the desert. Keep in mind, you naturally become like the one you choose to serve! Regrettably, Asahel was young, strong, and inexperienced. He desperately wanted to make a name for himself among his brothers and was dripping with prideful confidence.

Asahel could run like a gazelle, ¹⁹ and he began chasing Abner. He pursued him relentlessly, not stopping for anything. ²⁰ When Abner looked back and saw him coming, he called out, “Is that you, Asahel?”

“Yes, it is,” he replied.

²¹ “Go fight someone else!” Abner warned. “Take on one of the younger men, and strip him of his weapons.” But Asahel kept right on chasing Abner.

²² Again Abner shouted to him, “Get away from here! I don’t want to kill you. How could I ever face your brother Joab again?”

In this heartbreaking conversation, the Biblical author highlighted the senseless nature of this civil war. Asahel was a young and promising soldier filled with strength and stamina, but sadly lacking experience and wisdom. Abner actually begged this prideful young man to fight someone in his own league and not fight above his “weight class”. Abner was a hardened, tested heavyweight champion. On the other hand, Asahel was only a promising “middleweight” challenger. This fight was not supposed to happen, and Abner took no pleasure in killing this promising, talented, young fool.





23 But Asahel refused to turn back, so Abner thrust the butt end of his spear through Asahel's stomach, and the spear came out through his back. He stumbled to the ground and died there. And everyone who came by that spot stopped and stood still when they saw Asahel lying there.

The text introduced Asahel as a promising young warrior who could run as fast as a gazelle. His amazing strength was also his greatest weakness. His lack of wisdom caused his disastrous downfall. Running with the speed of a gazelle, he quickly overtook Abner, the old, experienced warrior. However, you don't get to be an old warrior without an extensive bag of tricks. Running so closely behind a veteran fighter like Abner, was a tragic "rookie" mistake. In an instant, the old man planted his feet and thrust his spear backwards with the full force of his bodyweight. The accelerating momentum of the young hero propelled Asahel directly into Abner's spear. The blunt side of the spear penetrated Asahel's stomach and exited out the side of his back because he was running with such great momentum. In the end, Asahel's youthful pride, turned into his unfortunate downfall.

24 When Joab and Abishai found out what had happened, they set out after Abner. The sun was just going down as they arrived at the hill of Ammah near Giah, along the road to the wilderness of Gibeon. 25 Abner's troops from the tribe of Benjamin regrouped there at the top of the hill to take a stand.

The death of his younger brother filled Joab with "bloodlust" as he burned with vengeful hatred for Abner. With nothing of value to truly gain, Judah and Israel slaughtered one another for the entire day until sundown.

26 Abner shouted down to Joab, "Must we always be killing each other? Don't you realize that bitterness is the only result? When will you call off your men from chasing their Israelite brothers?"

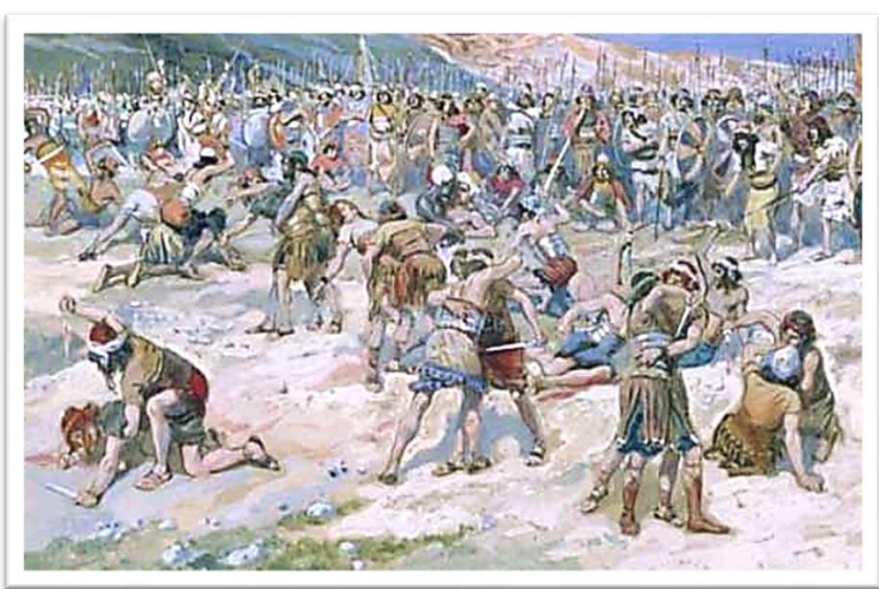
27 Then Joab said, "God only knows what would have happened if you hadn't spoken, for we would have chased you all night if necessary." 28 So Joab blew the ram's horn, and his men stopped chasing the troops of Israel.

As the sun fell that day, a moment of sanity allowed the two mighty generals to re-evaluate the situation. What began earlier as a playful contest between 24 young warriors, evolved into an entire day of slaughter and unnecessary bloodshed. Both men realized the slaughter was great and the victory was



becoming very empty. In a brief moment of rationality, both men realized the pointlessness of this great massacre and decided to call it a day.

Still, Joab would never forgive Abner for the murder of his younger brother and would avenge his death in the most undignified way in the near future.



²⁹ All that night Abner and his men retreated through the Jordan Valley. They crossed the Jordan River, traveling all through the morning, and didn't stop until they arrived at Mahanaim.

³⁰ Meanwhile, Joab and his men also returned home. When Joab counted his casualties, he discovered that only 19 men were missing in addition to Asahel. ³¹ But 360 of Abner's men had been killed, all from the tribe of Benjamin. ³² Joab and his men took Asahel's body to Bethlehem and buried him there in his father's tomb. Then they traveled all night and reached Hebron at daybreak.

This horrific day was perhaps a lost opportunity for the nation of Judah. Victory was at hand if Joab continued to fight all night long, but, his troops were tired, and his men were demoralized by senselessly killing their own brothers. The day began with the tragic loss of 24 warriors from both tribes. It ended in the same way. There was no feeling of victory at the end of the day, just a lingering presence of loss and sadness. It seemed nothing ever came easy for King David. Likewise, gaining the loyalty of the men of Israel would be a long and hard road filled with constant death and bloodshed.

David's Sons Born in Hebron

3 That was the beginning of a long war between those who were loyal to Saul and those loyal to David. As time passed David became stronger and stronger, while Saul's dynasty became weaker and weaker.

As mentioned in the previous chapter, the House of David was destined to grow stronger as the House of Saul was in constant decline. This was a good season in the life of King David. However, there is a dark underside to his



rise to power that is slowly being highlighted. David continues to fortify his own self esteem by conquest. Tragically, this desire to conquer seemed to extend into his personal life as well. Judging from the number of wives David quickly collected, he also had an insecure need to conquer sexually.

² These are the sons who were born to David in Hebron: The oldest was Amnon, whose mother was Ahinoam from Jezreel. ³ The second was Daniel, whose mother was Abigail, the widow of Nabal from Carmel. The third was Absalom, whose mother was Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur. ⁴ The fourth was Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith. The fifth was Shephatiah, whose mother was Abital. ⁵ The sixth was Ithream, whose mother was Eglah, David's wife. These sons were all born to David in Hebron.

On the surface, it appeared to be a fantastic blessing for David to have six sons, but the undertone of this passage reveals something sinister below the surface. As the king, David was in a season of fruitfulness and was multiplying greatly. What David overlooked was that, while having many children was an "Old Testament" blessing, having many wives carried a curse.

**³ Children are a gift from the Lord;
they are a reward from him.
⁴ Children born to a young man
are like arrows in a warrior's hands.
⁵ How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!
He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates. (Psalm 127)**

David rebelliously had six sons with six different wives. This sowed the seeds for future conflict, which would haunt David for the rest of his life.



YOU SHALL KNOW THE
TRUTH

¹⁶ "The king must not build up a large stable of horses for himself or send his people to Egypt to buy horses, for the Lord has told you, 'You must never return to Egypt.' ¹⁷ The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from



the Lord. And he must not accumulate large amounts of wealth in silver and gold for himself.

***18** "When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. **19** He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the Lord his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees. (Deuteronomy 17)*

Yahweh never intended the Kingdom of Israel to be like the pagan nations that surrounded them. Israel was supposed to be a completely different nation who relied solely on their relationship with Yahweh as their God. They were not supposed to put their trust in their military power, their powerful horses, or their talented chariot riders. Furthermore, they were not supposed to trust in their resources to hire foreign fighters to defend them. The King of Israel was expected to have a copy of the Law of Moses at his side at all times. Yahweh instructed him to read the law constantly so that he would know the Word of God, in order to govern the people correctly. Sadly, although David knew the Word of God and was well versed in the teaching of the Torah, there was still a place in his life where he acted in disobedience. The word of the Lord commanded that the King of Israel should not have many wives. For some reason, David overlooked this specific command and had many children with multiple women. This poor decision making would have tragic consequences in the years to come and would be a thorn in David's side until the day he died.

Abner Joins Forces with David

⁶ As the war between the house of Saul and the house of David went on, Abner became a powerful leader among those loyal to Saul. ⁷ One day Ishbosheth, Saul's son, accused Abner of sleeping with one of his father's concubines, a woman named Rizpah, daughter of Aiah.

There is an old expression that says, "**if you can't hang with the dogs, stay off the porch**". Somewhere along the line, Ishbosheth forgot he was really a "shameful" puppet, placed on the throne for the benefit of Abner. In

The Problem of David's 8 Wives



Abner Goes Over to David

the background, Abner was really the King of Israel ruling through this shameful, illegitimate, son of Saul.

Clearly Abner was wrong for sleeping with the ex-wife/concubine of Saul, but, when Ishbosheth confronted him, Abner was severely insulted because Ishbosheth acted like a real king. Consequently, Abner could not have a puppet king on the throne of Israel who would not let him pull the strings.

⁸ Abner was furious. "Am I some Judean dog to be kicked around like this?" he shouted. "After all I have done for your father, Saul, and his family and friends by not handing you over to David, is this my reward—that you find fault with me about this woman? ⁹ May God strike me and even kill me if I don't do everything I can to help David get what the Lord has promised him! ¹⁰ I'm going to take Saul's kingdom and give it to David. I will establish the throne of David over Israel as well as Judah, all the way from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south." ¹¹ Ishbosheth didn't dare say another word because he was afraid of what Abner might do.

It took approximately 7 years, but Abner finally realized he was fighting on the losing side, and he came to his senses. It was simply a matter of time before the Tribe of Judah overcame Israel. David was destined by Yahweh to be the king of the entire nation, and everyone knew it. After being insulted by his "lapdog" king, Abner refused to play the game any longer. In bitter revenge, he vowed to surely hand the Kingdom of Israel over to its anointed king.

¹² Then Abner sent messengers to David, saying, "Doesn't the entire land belong to you? Make a solemn pact with me, and I will help turn over all of Israel to you."

The Lesson Of Forgiveness



David had every reason to hate Abner. He was the driving force behind Saul's quest to kill him. As long as David remained alive, Abner would always be the second-best military general in the nation. Because he wanted to maintain his position of military dominance, Abner could not admit defeat, even after Saul and Jonathan decomposed in the blazing sun. Even after Saul was dead, Abner remained the committed enemy of Judah. It was Abner, who resurrected a fraudulent son of King Saul to sit on the

throne as a puppet king, while he continued his quest to destroy the growing

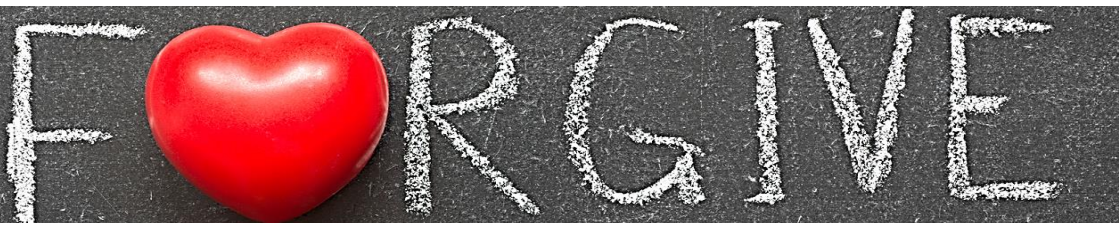
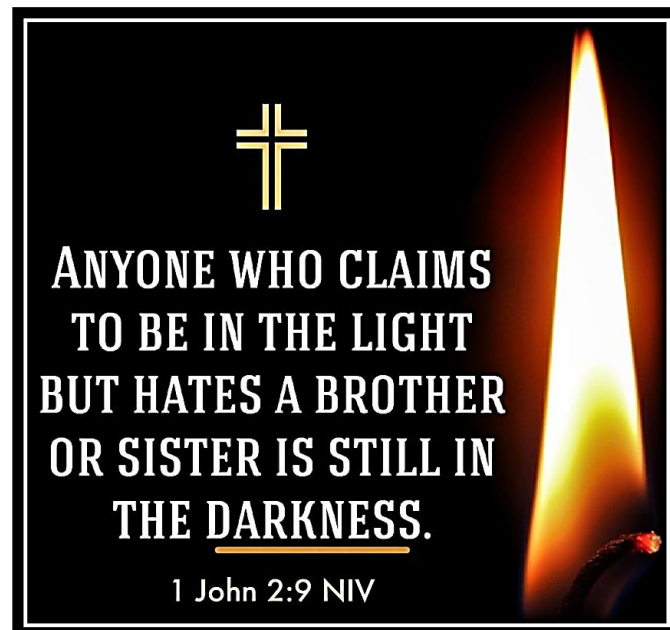
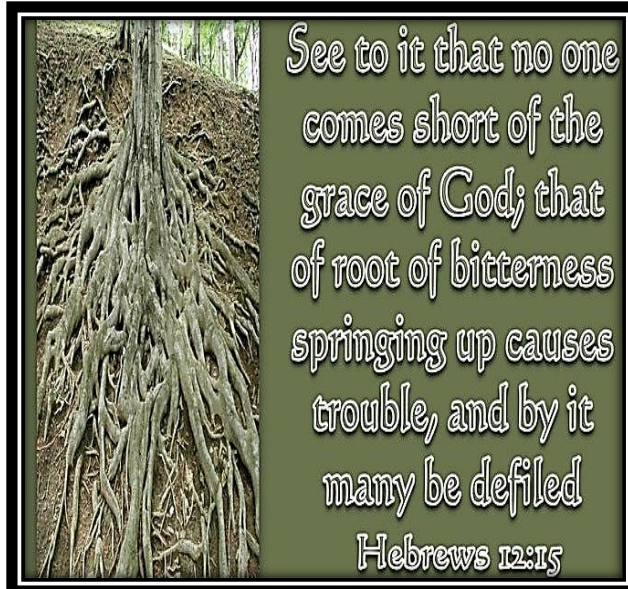


influence of Judah. For seven long years, the forces of Israel, under the guidance of Abner, relentlessly harassed the mighty men of David. This was a personal vendetta, for the insult laid against him when David stole Saul's spear and water bottle. David had every right to demand the head of Abner on a stick for all the personal pain he caused.

However, when Abner came to offer the prospect of potential peace, David decided to put away his personal feelings. As a great leader, he needed to do what was in the best interest of the entire nation, instead of holding a personal grudge. It was a demonically inspired grudge that destroyed the life of King Saul. David learned these life lessons well and did not fall into the same venomous trap. When offered a workable solution to end their difference, David jumped at the opportunity. He humbled himself and made peace with his worst enemy.

An emerging leader, who will be use greatly cannot hold unto personal grudges and unforgiveness. A talented young leader cannot be one who is easily offended. Being easily offended is a sign of spiritual immaturity, self-centredness, and a weak personal character. David demonstrated the spiritual development he achieved in the wilderness when he meekly laid aside his pride, to negotiate his way towards the throne of Israel. If David was a prideful man, he would have resented Abner's offer. He would have perhaps asked, after everything you did to me, now you want peace?

However, David was not fighting for his own personal glory. He was fighting for the glory of Yahweh. As long as Israel was in disunity, their enemies continued to dominate their land. On the other hand, when Israel acted in perfect unity, they pushed the forces of the Philistines away from their border. David would not allow his pride to become a stumbling block to the entire nation he so dearly loved.





13 "All right," David replied, "but I will not negotiate with you unless you bring back my wife Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come."

This negotiation was dark and underhanded. For the first time, we see a spiteful side of King David lurking under the surface. Why would he demand Michal as part of the deal? She was already married to another man for many years. As mentioned, David had a disgusting tendency of collecting trophies as symbols of his many conquests. Like parading the head of Goliath through the streets on a stick, David wanted the daughter of Saul back because she legitimized his claim to the Throne of Israel. He had no concern for her feelings or any desire for her affection. He wanted her for political gain and as another occasional sex toy.

14 David then sent this message to Ishbosheth, Saul's son: "Give me back my wife Michal, for I bought her with the lives of 100 Philistines." 15 So Ishbosheth took Michal away from her husband, Palti son of Laish. 16 Palti followed along behind her as far as Bahurim, weeping as he went. Then Abner told him, "Go back home!" So Palti returned.

The helplessness of Palti is disheartening. He truly loved Michal and perhaps she loved him as well. Nevertheless, it would take very little for Abner to murder him for disobedience, if he continued to follow after his wife. Michal once again, was used as a tool to meet the prideful needs of powerful men. She was first an instrument of King Saul to trap David. Now, she was an instrument of King David, to trap the throne of Israel. It's no wonder she despised David with all her heart, because she would never be loved by him, only exchanged like a possession from one powerful hand to another.

17 Meanwhile, Abner had consulted with the elders of Israel. "For some time now," he told them, "you have wanted to make David your king. 18 Now is the time! For the Lord has said, 'I have chosen David to save my people Israel from the hands of the Philistines and from all their other enemies.'" 19 Abner also spoke with the men of

Harboring unforgiveness is like drinking poison and hoping your enemy will die.



Israel and Benjamin had agreed to support him.

While Abner traveled throughout the Land of Israel, he rallied support for the unification of the nation for the glory of Yahweh. The whole event is an elaborate diplomatic puppet show. The deal was already made behind closed doors. Abner was not selflessly trying to unify Israel for the interest of the nation or for the glory of God. He was handing Israel over to David for his own self-interest, expecting to have a very high position in the new government and thus, ensuring his own political future. However, sometimes things don't work out the way we plan. A unified Israel would only have room for one military commander. Abner and Joab could never coexist peacefully in the same government. Contrary to his expectations, Abner's future will be a lot shorter than he believed.

²⁰ When Abner and twenty of his men came to Hebron, David entertained them with a great feast. ²¹ Then Abner said to David, "Let me go and call an assembly of all Israel to support my lord the king.

Previously, David would not make himself the King of Judah until his time had come. He patiently waited until the elders of Judah came to him and anointed him with oil. Likewise, David will not move to take the throne of Israel by force. He remained silent until the plot of Abner took root and changed the hearts of Israel's tribal leaders. Abner caused the entire nation to come to David, and ask him to be their supreme ruler. It was only when all the tribal leaders of Israel called on David together, that he stepped into the role of the anointed king as Samuel predicted many years ago.

They will make a covenant with you to make you their king, and you will rule over everything your heart desires." So David sent Abner safely on his way.

Notice, David had a secret deal with Abner which guaranteed his safety and a position in the unified nation of Israel. On the other hand, he regrettably underestimated the merciless ambition of his commander and chief Joab. Joab could never live with the looming possibility of being replaced by Abner as the commander of Israel's armed forces. David's backroom plot forced Joab to take matters into his own hands to protect his own self interest. Just as Abner was competing for power and position in the newly formed country, Joab was doing the same. While both men were contending for the same position, only one could emerge victoriously.

MURDER

Joab Murders Abner

22 But just after David had sent Abner away in safety, Joab and some of David's troops returned from a raid, bringing much plunder with them. 23 When Joab arrived, he was told that Abner had just been there visiting the king and had been sent away in safety.

There was an underlying tone of biblical foreshadowing in this passage. David was a masterful politician as well as a soldier. While Joab is out on the battlefield fighting for the empire and bringing back gold and silver to strengthen the economy of Judah, David was politically plotting behind the scenes to unite the entire kingdom. David desperately wanted to make it look like the Kingdom of Israel came together spontaneously, by the Hand of Yahweh. In reality, David and Abner feverishly collaborated in the background to make this treaty possible. This new peace treaty, however, took Joab by complete surprise. He was understandably enraged because he doesn't understand how his most hated enemy, has now quickly become his royal ally.

24 Joab rushed to the king and demanded, "What have you done? What do you mean by letting Abner get away? 25 You know perfectly well that he came to spy on you and find out everything you're doing!"

David also had his unmentioned reasons for treating Abner with such kindness. Nevertheless, Joab had his own underlying motive to seek Abner's ruin. Burning with unforgiveness and bitterness, Joab, as a soldier, could never allow the death of his younger brother to go unavenged and still keep his honour among the troops of Israel.

26 Joab then left David and sent messengers to catch up with Abner, asking him to return. They found him at the well of Sirah and brought him back, though David knew nothing about it. 27 When Abner arrived back at Hebron, Joab took him aside at the gateway as if to speak with him privately. But then he stabbed Abner in the stomach and killed him in revenge for killing his brother Asahel.

Acting in his own best interest, Joab took the matter into his own hands. He obviously wanted to protect his future, as Israel's only general. For such a great and heroic figure as Joab, this was truly an underhanded way to deal with his enemy. It would have been one thing if Joab challenged Abner to a duel to avenge the death of his brother. The two "old-school" champions

MURDER

could have fought toe to toe in “mortal combat” to settle their differences fairly. However, to have such a noble and heroic figure like Abner murdered in cold blood, in the palace of King David, was a political nightmare.

While looking out for his own best interest, Joab was clearly not serving the interest of David or Israel. David had previously guaranteed Abner’s safety and security. With the coldblooded murder of Israel’s peacemaker, David’s reputation before the tribes of Israel was now in jeopardy. How could he be trusted as their national king, if he couldn't even control his own army general?

28 When David heard about it, he declared, “I vow by the Lord that I and my kingdom are forever innocent of this crime against Abner son of Ner. 29 Joab and his family are the guilty ones. May the family of Joab be cursed in every generation with a man who has open sores or leprosy or who walks on crutches or dies by the sword or begs for food!”

David realized he was in a very difficult position. Joab would be a thorn in his side for years to come. Nevertheless, he needed Joab to do his dirty work, especially since Abner, his potential replacement was now dead. Joab had **selfishly reignited** the declining tension between Israel and Judah once again, just as the nation was coming together in unity and reconciliation.

30 So Joab and his brother Abishai killed Abner because Abner had killed their brother Asahel at the battle of Gibeon.

David Mourns Abner’s Death

31 Then David said to Joab and all those who were with him, “Tear your clothes and put on burlap. Mourn for Abner.” And King David himself walked behind the procession to the grave. 32 They buried Abner in Hebron, and the king and all the people wept at his graveside. 33 Then the king sang this funeral song for Abner:

It is unclear in the text if King David tried to hide the circumstances concerning the assassination of Abner. Perhaps, he tried to make it look like a random senseless murder. This was an unlikely explanation because a great warrior like Abner would not be an easy target for a robber or an outlaw. Regardless, it's deeply ironic that the murderer of Abner, walked in his funeral procession, with the two-faced pretence of deep mourning.



A NECESSARY EVIL?

"Should Abner have died as fools die?"

³⁴ Your hands were not bound;
your feet were not chained.

No, you were murdered—
the victim of a wicked plot."



All the people wept again for Abner. ³⁵ David had refused to eat anything on the day of the funeral, and now everyone begged him to eat. But David had made a vow, saying, "May God strike me and even kill me if I eat anything before sundown."

It is unclear if David truly was a friend of Abner or not, but this was totally irrelevant at this point. David needed to put on a powerful performance to distance himself from the murder of his political ally. By publicly refusing to eat and giving such a powerful speech, David won over the confidence of Israel's leaders. This public display of mourning was clearly for his own political best interest.

³⁶ This pleased the people very much. In fact, everything the king did pleased them! ³⁷ So everyone in Judah and all Israel understood that David was not responsible for Abner's murder.

³⁸ Then King David said to his officials, "Don't you realize that a great commander has fallen today in Israel? ³⁹ And even though I am the anointed king, these two sons of Zeruiah—Joab and Abishai—are too strong for me to control. So may the Lord repay these evil men for their evil deeds."

Joab is too strong to control

This statement is an important part of the emerging subplot in the text. King David was a masterful politician and an amazing warrior. However, he will always have a **thorn in his flesh** in the person of Joab. Perhaps somewhere in the subplot there was an underlying implication, that David had every intention of replacing Joab with Abner. Joab was obviously an ambitious man

who could not be trusted because of his rage and emotional instability. While David would not touch Saul, because he was the Lord's anointed, Joab on the other hand, clearly manipulated things behind the scenes to deeply **hurt David in many ways**. However, their codependent relationship forced them to coexist because they needed each other. Joab was a ruthless, uncontrollable, brutal man, but he was still a fantastic asset to King David.

The Story
BEHIND
The Story

A NECESSARY EVIL?

A NECESSARY EVIL?

A NECESSARY EVIL?

He did things for David, that David refused to do for himself. This made Joab a necessary evil.

As mentioned at the end of the chapter, Joab and Abishai were always beyond the control of King David. They worked together to establish their own underlying interests behind the scenes, even at the expense of David. The emerging tension between David and Joab increased as the story unfolded. Unfortunately, his nephew Joab, would be an instrument of tremendous pain in the life of King David, lasting until the day he died.

The Murder of Ishbosheth

4 When Ishbosheth, Saul's son, heard about Abner's death at Hebron, he lost all courage, and all Israel became paralyzed with fear. **2** Now there were two brothers, Baanah and Recab, who were captains of Ishbosheth's raiding parties. They were sons of Rimmon, a member of the tribe of Benjamin who lived in Beeroth. The town of Beeroth is now part of Benjamin's territory **3** because the original people of Beeroth fled to Gittaim, where they still live as foreigners.

4 (Saul's son Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth, who was crippled as a child. He was five years old when the report came from Jezreel that Saul and Jonathan had been killed in battle. When the child's nurse heard the news, she picked him up and fled. But as she hurried away, she dropped him, and he became crippled.)

5 One day Recab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon from Beeroth, went to Ishbosheth's house around noon as he was taking his midday rest. **6** The doorkeeper, who had been sifting wheat, became drowsy and fell asleep. So Recab and Baanah slipped past her. **7** They went into the house and found Ishbosheth sleeping on his bed. They struck and killed him and cut off his head. Then, taking his head with them, they fled across the Jordan Valley through the night. **8** When they arrived at Hebron, they presented Ishbosheth's head to David. "Look!" they exclaimed to the king. "Here is the head of Ishbosheth, the son of your enemy Saul who tried to kill you. Today the Lord has given my lord the king revenge on Saul and his entire family!"



⁹ But David said to Recab and Baanah, "The Lord, who saves me from all my enemies, is my witness. ¹⁰ Someone once told me, 'Saul is dead,' thinking he was bringing me good news. But I seized him and killed him at Ziklag. That's the reward I gave him for his news! ¹¹ How much more should I reward evil men who have killed an innocent man in his own house and on his own bed? Shouldn't I hold you responsible for his blood and rid the earth of you?"

¹² So David ordered his young men to kill them, and they did. They cut off their hands and feet and hung their bodies beside the pool in Hebron. Then they took Ishbosheth's head and buried it in Abner's tomb in Hebron.

David Becomes King of All Israel

⁵ Then all the tribes of Israel went to David at Hebron and told him, "We are your own flesh and blood. ² In the past, when Saul was our king, you were the one who really led the forces of Israel. And the Lord told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people Israel. You will be Israel's leader.'"

³ So there at Hebron, King David made a covenant before the Lord with all the elders of Israel. And they anointed him king of Israel.

⁴ David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in all. ⁵ He had reigned over Judah from Hebron for seven years and six months, and from Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.

The Lesson Of Success



At last, David was the Anointed King, reigning over the entire Nation of Israel. The prophecy of Samuel had finally come to pass. This was the best time in David's life, and everything was going exactly as expected. However, there was an unseen life lesson David had not yet learned. It's often during the most successful time in our life, that we are most vulnerable to the attack of the enemy. When David was in a cave, running from Saul, he was constantly on guard. However, at this triumphant season in his

life, he sees no reason to be guarded. After all, who could possibly touch the

anointed King of Israel? David needed to be **careful during this time of success**, even more so than he was during his time of failure.

As emerging leaders, we need to be careful when our success takes us to high places. We need to ensure that our character has the ability to keep us, where our anointing has brought us. If we fail to have the character to maintain the position we have achieved, everything will come down with a horrendous crash. Just when everything seemed perfect in the life of David, things will go very wrong very quickly. David will make a few bad choices that will change the direction of his kingdom and haunt him for the rest of his life.

The Lesson Of Idleness



For the first time in David's life, he enjoyed a season of rest and relaxation. Nevertheless, this season of blessing quickly became a time of temptation. As David fell into idleness, Satan had more time to exploit his weakness and manipulate his pride. It's been said "Idle hands are the devil's workshop". This is a well-known adage that cautions against the trouble that can result from being lazy or non-productive. Sadly, idleness would be the beginning of the fall of King David which we will study in our next book.

To Be Continued...



- (1) The war between Israel and Judah could have been avoided if David had shown more wisdom in the way he treated Abner. How can we apply this principle in our own life?
- (2) Why did David want Michael back? Was this a wise political move or did this show a malicious side of David we have never seen before?
- (3) In Hebron, David is fruitful and has many sons. How and why will this blessing quickly become a tragic curse in his life?
- (4) What are some of the subtle clues in the narrative that David may be struggling with sexual brokenness?
- (5) Who do you think was a more honorable character, Abner, or Joab?