

C9 - The Life Of David

Study 1 - Chosen as King

BIBLE READING:

1 Samuel 15: 7-29, 35;
1 Samuel 16: 1-23

KEY VERSE:

**He raised up David to be their king,
of whom He testified and said,
“I have found in David the son of
Jesse a man after My heart,
who will do all My will.”**

Acts 13: 22

These studies will focus on the life of David, the second king of Israel. To fully appreciate David's qualities as a man and monarch we need to have some understanding of his predecessor, Saul.

DAVID'S PREDECESSOR

In response to the people's overriding request, God gave them King Saul. (**1 Samuel 8: 6–7, 19–22**) Although Saul looked like a king (**1 Samuel 9: 2**) and possessed great potential as the nation's leader it was never realised. In **chapter 13**, Saul disregarded God's law by sacrificing without the presence of Samuel the prophet. **Chapter 15** is the account of how Saul disobeyed God in his failure to completely destroy the Amalekites, Israel's longstanding enemy. This downward spiral on Saul's part led God to regret that He had made him king, **“for he has turned back from following Me and has not performed My commandments.”** (**verse 11**) When Samuel the prophet confronted Saul with his misdeeds, Saul put the blame on the people (**verse 15**) and made excuses for himself. (**verse 24**) In the end, Samuel had to convey the terrible news, **“The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day”.** (**verse 28**) Saul was a king rejected by God because of his disobedience. As we shall see, the next king chosen by God would contrast with Saul.

DAVID'S HEART

God sent Samuel to Jesse's home at Bethlehem (**1 Samuel 16**) to identify and anoint one of his sons to be the future king. As the inspection began, each son passed before Samuel. It appears that Samuel could easily have made the same mistake in his judgment that the people had made in choosing Saul. Samuel was impressed by the eldest son, Eliab and immediately thought that he was the one! **1 Samuel 16: 7** states a very important principle which God made clear to Samuel. Outward attraction and power are not what impress God. **“I have refused him.”** said God about Eliab. (**16: 6**) God saw beyond the exterior appearance into the heart. In the Bible, the word 'heart' is the inward

spiritual part of us, the core of our being where our emotions and desires dwell. God alone knows our hearts! **Proverbs 4: 23** points to the importance of what goes on in our hearts, **“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”**

DAVID'S DESTINY

When David was called in from tending the sheep, God confirmed to Samuel that he was the one. God knew what David's heart was like; he knew that David was a man after His own heart and that he would continue to be faithful to do His will. (**See Key Verse**) David was not perfect; his faults are recorded in Scripture. But as we shall see, the orientation of his heart was continually towards God. Samuel anointed him with oil in the presence of his brothers. Then the Spirit of the Lord **“rushed upon David from that day forward.”** (**verse 13**) Something great happened in his life that day. David, the shepherd boy was destined to become Israel's greatest king. Nothing could change God's plan for his life.



Sheep in Israel.

DAVID'S SERVICE FOR KING SAUL

As the Spirit came upon David, we learn that the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul. Saul's refusal to submit to God meant that **“a harmful spirit tormented him.”** (**1 Samuel 16: 14**) At this point David entered Saul's life for the first time. Saul's servants recognised the benefit of music in soothing the King's depressive moods, and one of them immediately recommended David and his ability in playing the harp. Note the servant's description of David in **verse 18** which gives a list of David's assets and in particular, the final credential that **“the Lord is with him.”** David, the young musician came into the service of Saul. The fact that **“Saul loved David greatly”** indicates that Saul valued his music and company very much. He also appointed David as armour bearer. (**verse 21**) This promising relationship between the two was not to last and soon strife would drive David into rejection. David, however, was God's chosen one and God's plans for his life and kingship would prevail.

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Study 2 - Confident in God

BIBLE READING:

1 Samuel 17

KEY VERSE:

David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts...”

1 Samuel 17: 45

THE CHALLENGE (VERSES 1-11)

The Philistines and Israelites were engaged in a standoff, with Goliath, a giant warrior, taunting the Israelite army. The Philistines had established their camp on a mountain on one side of the valley and the Israelites on a mountain on the other. The Philistines were dominating in their attacks, and their strength in battle terrified the Israelites. The mighty giant, Goliath, defied Israel's ability to fight. In his arrogant challenge the giant set the issues clearly. If Goliath won, Israel became enslaved. If Israel's man won, then the Philistines would submit. Goliath's imposing presence and challenge to send out a warrior to fight him created fear and intimidation among the Israelites.

We are unlikely to run up against any physical giants such as a Goliath, but each of us face giants of a different sort - we all face obstacles, problems and challenges in life which are threatening, dangerous, fearful and intimidating. But don't give up because there are some powerful lessons to be learned from...

DAVID'S CONFIDENCE IN GOD (VERSES 12-39)

David was sent by his father to bring food to his brothers in the Israelite army. Leaving his sheep with a keeper, he sets off early in the morning and arrives at the scene of the battle. He hears Goliath's threats and witnesses the fear and discouragement of the Israelite soldiers. David responds, **“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”** (verse 26) Saul and the armies had lost sight of God, and therefore the giant looked terribly big. But David saw how great God was and so the giant got smaller and smaller. Like David, we can trust in God as we face the 'giants' in our lives: **Romans 8: 31** says, **“If God is for us, who can be against us?”**

David then volunteers to fight the giant. (verse 32) Despite his youth and lack of experience in battle, David believed that God would empower him to defeat Goliath. He then

goes on to tell Saul how, in protecting his sheep, he was enabled by God to kill a bear on one occasion and a lion on another, and declares confidently in **verse 37: “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion, and from of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”**

DAVID'S COURAGE (VERSES 40-51)

After David tried on Saul's armour and couldn't use it, **“he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch...”** (verse 40) With sling in hand he approached the Philistine. When David heard Goliath's taunts against His God, he didn't cower in fear like the rest of the Israelites. Instead, he boldly proclaimed, **“You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied”.** (verse 45). David knew that his strength came from God, and he trusted in Him to deliver him from the giant. God and one stone with a shepherd-boy was more powerful than all the might of the giant. For David's time in the hills alone with his sheep and his God had taught him faith - and deadly accuracy with the sling. Therefore, David's trust now was in his God and He did not fail him - the victory was assured. The giant didn't stand a chance! (verses 49-50) With only a sling and a stone, David defeated Goliath and saved the Israelites from their enemy. It was a miraculous victory that could only be attributed to God's power and faithfulness.



David and Goliath, by Michelangelo, 1509 (Source: Wikipedia)

The defeat of Goliath marked a turning point in the war of the Philistines with Israel. When they saw that their champion was dead the Philistines scattered and fled. There was a great victory that day. God has answered all the arrogance and defiance of evil Goliath, through David, the man whose heart was right with Him. Israel began to enjoy freedom - a freedom which, in the later years of David's reign, was to be extended.

Answer Sheet

C9 - The Life Of David

Study 1 - Chosen as King

Return address on back of answer sheet

Name: _____

Address: _____

1. Saul was rejected by God because of his disobedience.

a) What evidence is there in **1 Samuel 15** that Samuel was unfit to be king? _____

b) What does God view to be more important than sacrifices? (**verse 22**) _____

c) As Christians, what is obedience to God evidence of? (**John 14: 15**) _____

d) How will obedience show itself in our lives? (**Luke 6: 47-48; 1 Peter 1: 14-15**) _____

/6

2. God teaches Samuel a very important principle.

a) Complete the missing words from **1 Samuel 16: 7**.

"For the Lord sees not as _____ : man looks on _____
but the Lord looks on _____."

b) What did Jesus teach about this in **John 7: 24**? _____

/2

3. Write TRUE or FALSE beside each statement:

a) Samuel was afraid that Saul would kill him if he anointed a new king. _____

b) God told Samuel to invite Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice. _____

c) The second son presented by Jesse was Shammah. _____

d) Jesse had seven sons. _____

e) David was the last son presented to Samuel. _____

/5

4. Complete this profile of David. Use the information in **1 Samuel 16: 12, 16: 18** and **Acts 13: 22**.

Family	Son of
Outward Appearance	
Skills	
Character	
Relationship with God	

/10

5. What do we learn from these verses about the kind of heart God wants us to have?

a) **Psalms 51: 10** _____b) **Matthew 22: 37** _____

/2

THINK: God knows your 'heart'. Think about the condition of your heart before God. In what ways can you keep or guard your heart? (**Proverbs 4: 23**)

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

C9 - The Life Of David

Study 2 - Confident in God

Return address on back of answer sheet

1. Complete the following profile of Goliath:

Height _____
 Helmet _____
 Coat _____
 Spear _____

□ /4

2. Read verses 8-11 again.

- a) What was Goliath's challenge to the Israelites? _____

- b) How did they react? _____

□ /4

3. Answer the following questions:

- a) Why do you think David was willing to fight Goliath when none of the Israelite soldiers were?

- b) Why was King Saul sceptical about David's ability to defeat Goliath?

- c) Why did David use the example of killing a lion and a bear when he was speaking to King Saul?

□ /6

4. How does David's speech to Goliath before the battle demonstrate his faith and courage? (verses 45-47)

□ /3

5. Give two examples of 'Goliaths' that Christians might face in their life.

- i. _____
- ii. _____

□ /2

6. Explain in your own words how God equips us for the spiritual battles that we face in life. (Ephesians 6: 10-17)

□ /4

7. Read verses 51-53 again and briefly describe in your own words the effect that Goliath's death had on the Philistines and the Israelites.

□ /2

THINK: Think about a time when you experienced God's faithfulness in your life. How can this incident inspire you to trust God in the future.

TOTAL = □ /25

Answer Sheet

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Study 3 - Helped by a friend

Return address on back of answer sheet

1. Answer the following from 1 Samuel 18:

a) What were the symbols (signs) of the covenant between David and Jonathan? _____

b) Why did they make this covenant? _____

/4

2. Read Proverbs 17: 17 (Key Verse) again. How does this verse apply to the friendship between Jonathan and David?

/2

3. Answer the following:

a) Why was Saul so angry about the song of the women when the men returned from battle? _____

b) What did it lead Saul to do? _____

c) Why was Saul afraid of David? _____

/6

4. How does Jonathan show his loyalty to David in chapter 19: 1-7?

/2

5. Read 1 Samuel 19: 13-17 again and give details of the way in which Michal helped David to escape.

/4

6. Briefly describe the secret code that Jonathan used in 1 Samuel 20 to warn David of danger.

/3

7. Read John 15: 12-14. What do these verses teach us about friendship?

a) With each other? _____

b) With God? _____

/4

THINK: Do you have a good Christian friend that you can share with? Ask God to help you develop godly friendships in your life.

TOTAL = /25

Answer Sheet

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Study 4 - King-in-waiting

Return address on back of answer sheet

1. Read again *1 Samuel 24*.

a) How many men did Saul take with him to pursue David? _____ /1

b) How does David show respect to Saul? (**verses 6-8**) _____ /2

c) In which two verses does David mention that God is his judge in his treatment of Saul? _____ /1

d) Explain the two ways that David has shown his kindness to Saul in this chapter. _____ /2

2. *Psalm 57* was written by David when he fled from Saul into a cave.

a) How does David cope with this episode? (**verses 1-2**) _____

b) What attributes of God is he depending on? (**verses 3, 10**) _____

c) To what does David compare his circumstances? (**verse 4**) _____ /5

3. *1 Samuel 26* recounts another opportunity for David to kill Saul.

a) Why did David not permit Abishai to do as he suggested? _____

b) What were the items which David took from Saul? _____

c) Why did Saul nor any of his men wake? _____

d) How should Christians treat those who persecute them? (**Matthew 5: 44; Romans 12: 14**) _____ /6

4. David repeatedly found strength in the Lord. (Key Verse)

a) What happened in *1 Samuel 30: 1-6* that brought distress to David? _____

b) Why is it important for us as Christians to be strong in the Lord? _____

c) How can we ensure that we are tapping into His strength rather than our own? _____ /5

5. David in his rejection is 'a picture' of the Lord Jesus.

a) Explain two similarities between David and the Lord Jesus. _____

b) What was the essential difference between them? _____ /3

THINK: Look again at *Psalm 57* and how it depicts David strengthening himself in the Lord. What encouragement can you find in it for your own circumstances?

Return your completed answer sheet to:

TOTAL = /25 UNIT TOTAL = /100

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Study 3 - Helped by a friend

BIBLE READING:

**1 Samuel 18:1-16; 1 Samuel 19: 1-17;
1 Samuel 20: 1-42**

KEY VERSE:

**A friend loves at all times, and a brother
is born for adversity.**

Proverbs 17: 17

A GOOD FRIEND AND A JEALOUS KING

(1 SAMUEL 18: 1-16)

After the battle with Goliath, Saul decided to keep David in his service full-time. David became a close friend of Saul's son Jonathan. David and Jonathan loved each other, and they both loved and respected the Lord. Jonathan made a covenant (promise) with David **"because he loved him as his own soul."** (verse 3) The bond between them was made all the more amazing by the fact that, humanly speaking, David was destined to rob Jonathan of the throne. We will see that their friendship lasted throughout both of their lifetimes. A friendship of two people that centres around a love for God will be strong and will last a long time.



Mosaic of David playing the harp found in a synagogue in Gaza and dating to 508AD.
(Source: Wikipedia)

When the Israelite men returned home from battle, the women ran out to greet them. They began to dance and sing praises. They sang, **"Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."** (verse 7) In other words, they were saying David was a greater warrior than Saul. This song made Saul very angry. He was jealous of David's success and fearful of his own failure. He was concerned that David would take the kingdom from him and began to watch him closely. (verses 8-9) The following day while David was playing his harp Saul hurled a spear thinking he would pin David to the wall, but David escaped twice.

Then Saul made David commander of 1,000 men in his army. Saul realised that the Lord was with David and David's success and popularity made him fearful. David continued in battle against the Philistines and each time he had more success against them than the rest of Saul's officers. (verses 28-30) David was favoured in the sight of all the people and in the sight of Saul's servants. In everything he did, he prospered. In contrast to this Saul was desperately trying to hold on to his place as king of Israel, but Saul had rejected God and so God rejected him from being king. As he watched David rise to fame he was filled with fear and jealousy.

MICHAL HELPS DAVID ESCAPE

(1 SAMUEL 19: 1-17)

Chapter 19: 1 tells us that Saul gave instructions to Jonathan and to all his servants that they should kill David. This was a test of Jonathan's loyalty, but because he, **"delighted much in David"**, he warned David of the danger, and pleaded with Saul for David's life.

David continued to serve in Saul's army and once again he battled the Philistines bravely. And again, David went to soothe Saul with music when a harmful spirit was making him very upset. But just as he had done before, Saul threw a spear at David. (19: 11) David ran away. Saul sent men to David's house and told them to kill him in the morning, but David's wife Michal warned him and helped him to escape.

JONATHAN HELPS DAVID ESCAPE

(1 SAMUEL 20)

Notice the desperation in David's words in **verse 1: "What have I done?"** Saul's hatred of him was vicious. David's absence at the New Moon Feast gives us an insight into the cost of Jonathan's loyalty to David. Jonathan promised David that he would find out what his father was planning. When Jonathan asked what David had done to deserve Saul's death threat, Saul threw a spear at Jonathan – his own son! Jonathan came up with a secret code to tell David if he was in danger or not. There is no doubt that Jonathan's actions saved David's life. Then the two young men made a vow that they would always be kind to one another, doing good even to their children and grandchildren, as long as they both lived.

There are very few friendships which compare with the depth of that of Jonathan and David. These men would risk their lives for one another. It was a friendship based on trust and obedience to God.

C9 - The Life Of David

Study 4 - King-in-waiting

BIBLE READING:

1 Samuel 23: 14-18, 26-29;
1 Samuel 24; 1 Samuel 26: 1-12, 17-28;
1 Samuel 27: 1-2; 1 Samuel 30: 1-6

KEY VERSE:

**But David strengthened himself in the
Lord His God.**

1 Samuel 30: 6

Our previous study showed how Saul was determined to put an end to David's life. In this study, we will discover that David continues to bear the brunt of this hostility and learn how he responds.

GOD'S PROTECTION

1 Samuel 23 describes how Saul was plotting against David. David enquired of God about these circumstances and as a result moved from place to place in the company of those men who were loyal to him. Saul's searching was futile – **"God did not give David into his hand"**. (**verse 14**) Then Jonathan turned up and **"strengthened his hand in God"**. (**verses 15-18**) Later, Saul's near capture of David was halted when Saul had to deal with a Philistine attack. (**verse 27**)

GOD'S TIMING

In **chapter 24**, Saul's pursuit of David recommences. David and his men were hiding at the back of a cave which Saul unwittingly entered to rest himself. David's men viewed this as a God-given opportunity for him to kill Saul. David crept up and cut off the corner of his robe but was immediately conscience-stricken! His deeply held respect for Saul as the Lord's anointed one (**verses 6-7**) kept him from making any further assault. Later David confronted Saul with the corner of his robe and the potential danger he had been in. In response to Saul's request, David made an oath that he would not kill Saul's descendants or wipe out his name. In this incident we see not only David's kindness to Saul but his trust in God's purpose and timing for his future kingship.

DAVID'S BLAMELESSNESS

Chapter 26 recounts another opportunity when David could have taken Saul's life. David's companion, Abishai, was convinced that this was the day that God had given Saul into David's hands. (**26: 8**) David, however, was resolute that it was God who would be in control of the events which would lead to him becoming king. Until that future day, Saul was **"the Lord's anointed"** (**26: 9**) and David would bear no guilt in his dealings with him. David later presented Saul

with the evidence of what could have happened. (**verse 22**) The reality was that David had valued Saul's life. He was not revengeful in any way. His prayer in **verse 24** is worth noting. It comes with a challenge - do I value the life of all people, even those who act contrary to God's purposes? It should humble us that God values our lives and is active in our times of trouble.

DAVID'S STRENGTH

Although Saul appeared to be repentant (**26: 21**), he was unchanged in his heart. In **chapter 27**, fear of Saul overcame David, and he devised his own plan for self-protection. He seemed to temporarily lose his grasp of God's promise (**verses 1-2**) and the fact that it would have been impossible for Saul to destroy him! Like us, David was human! How important for us to hold fast to God's promises and immerse ourselves in His Word. **1 Samuel 30: 1-6** records a particularly distressing situation for David when his men turned against him. David's response is further evidence that he was a man after God's heart; he turned to his only source of help and **"strengthened himself in the Lord His God"**. (**Key Verse - 1 Samuel 30: 6**)



Ein Gedi, the location of the caves where David hid from Saul. (Source: Wikipedia)

DAVID'S REJECTION

We have seen that during this period of waiting for his coronation, David was rejected by Saul and the majority of Israel. He acted without hatred or retaliation and the beauty of his character is revealed.

David in his rejection is 'a picture' of the Lord Jesus. David wrote about those **"who hate me without cause"** (**Psalms 35: 19**) and Jesus used these same words to describe the treatment He received at the hands of His enemies. (**John 15: 25**) The Lord Jesus experienced to an even greater degree the sorrow that David knew as he was hounded by Saul. Like David, Jesus is a king-in-waiting; the day will come when every knee will bow before Him. (**Philippians 2: 10**) In making these comparisons we must always remember the essential difference: the Lord Jesus is the sinless Son of God whereas David was human and imperfect. The comparisons help us in our study of David but also to appreciate in a deeper way, the Lord Jesus.

This is the first of two units on **The Life of David**.

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