



Pastor's Bible Study

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Week Twenty-Four 1 Samuel 16-21

Review

Literary Period Covered: 1030 - 1010 B.C.E.

Review

What's going to happen to Saul and Israelites?

- He's afraid of his own men
- He backs down when confronted
- Thou he started our ok, he does not have the heart of a king
- The Philistines are growing stronger and he does not know what to do

Lecture Segment

1 Samuel 16-21

THE RISE OF FAITHFUL DAVID (1 SAM 16:1–31:13)

The book's final section focuses on the personalities of Saul and David. Although Saul is king until the end of the book, the story turns to his successor's rise (1 Sam 16–17). David's story is told from the viewpoint of Saul's continued failures. Saul's reign was chaotic, marred by personal problems and the threat of Philistine oppression. While it became clearer that Saul was unfit for leadership, David emerged before the nation as God's champion to defeat the Philistines and rule the land (1 Sam 18–30). In the end Saul would take his own life (1 Sam 31).

16:1–23 God Anoints David

The LORD instructed Samuel to go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem to anoint Israel's new king. Although frightened that he might be found out by Saul, Samuel went to Bethlehem to offer a sacrifice. There he was joined by the family of Jesse (16:1–5). Samuel looked upon Jesse's seven older sons and was impressed by their appearance. But God rejected them and looked instead for one who had a faithful heart (16:6–10). David, the youngest, was called to the house, and the LORD instructed Samuel to anoint him. David was empowered by the Spirit from that day forward (16:11–13).

Since the LORD rejected Saul as king, He withdrew His Spirit; and Saul received an "evil spirit" (16:14). The identity of this "evil" spirit has been disputed. Some believe that it was a demon. Others argue that it was a troubling spirit causing emotional disturbance (compare Judg 9:23). Some have suggested that the LORD permitted Satan to afflict Saul as punishment for his sin (compare 2 Sam 24:1 with 1 Chr 21:1). What is clear is that this spirit was sent by the LORD (compare 1 Kgs 22:20–23) to show that Saul had been

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rejected. It caused Saul to experience bouts of rage and despondency (16:15; 18:10–11; 19:9–10; 20:33). Christians do not have to fear that the LORD will remove his Spirit from them, since the Spirit is the believer's permanent possession (Rom 8:9, 12–17; Eph 1:13; 4:30).

Saul's attendants sought a musician to soothe troubled Saul (16:15–17). David was selected to enter into the service of the king (16:18–23).

17:1–58 David Defeats Goliath

The Philistines were at war with Saul. Their greatest champion, Goliath (who stood over nine feet tall) taunted the Israelites for their cowardice. In ancient times it was common for champions of opposing armies to face off in a personal duel. No Hebrew had the courage to face Goliath (17:1–11).

Jesse's older sons were in the battle lines, and Jesse sent David to the field with provisions (17:12–20). David heard the defiant words of Goliath and was zealous to defend the name of the LORD by challenging the giant to combat (17:21–47). With the weapons of a lowly shepherd but armed with the power of God, he killed Goliath, and the Philistines scattered in defeat (17:48–54).

The stunning victory caused Saul to inquire of Abner, the captain of Israel's army, about the lineage of David (17:55–58). Since David was already in the service of Saul (16:14–23), the inquiry of Saul and his address to David seem out of place. Some scholars have suggested that the two accounts of David's introduction to Saul come from separate sources. This conclusion is reasonable, but this does not mean that the stories are two garbled accounts of the same event. Since Saul would reward David with his daughter in marriage (17:25), David's lineage became particularly important. Saul, therefore, investigated David's background anew.

18:1–30 Saul's Fear of David

David's success in battle and the people's love for him made Saul wildly fearful for his kingdom (18:8, 12, 29). Saul's son Jonathan loved David and entered a covenant of loyalty with him. Whenever David returned from battle, the women of the city exclaimed, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands" (18:7). Saul in a fit of rage attempted to spear David twice. Saul feared him because he realized that God had turned to David (18:10–16).

Saul plotted to kill David by the hands of the Philistines. He offered his daughter Michal in marriage if David would kill one hundred Philistines. When David and his men killed two hundred, Saul feared David all the more. Saul knew that God favored David (18:17–30).

19:1–24 God's Spirit Saves David

Saul instructed his men to kill David, but Jonathan intervened. Saul, however, could not control his anger, and again he threw a javelin at David (19:1–10). David fled to his house, where Michal warned him that the king's men planned to kill him in the morning. She



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helped him escape unseen and then deceived her father about David's whereabouts (19:11–17).

David took refuge with Samuel at Ramah. The Spirit of God protected him from the king by mysteriously causing the king and his men to act “crazy” like the prophets (19:18–24).

20:1–42 Jonathan's Selfless Love

David met his friend Jonathan and appealed for his help (20:1–11). Jonathan knew that he would never be king of Israel because the LORD had chosen David to succeed his father. He loved David (18:1; 20:17), and they covenanted together to spare each other's lives (20:12–17). Jonathan agreed to signal David in the field if his father again planned to kill him (20:18–23).

At the Feast of the New Moon, David's absence caused Saul to become enraged, and he charged Jonathan with treachery. He tried to kill his own son, but Jonathan escaped to warn his friend David (20:24–42).

21:1–22:5 David's Deceptions at Nob and Gath

For fear of his life, David took matters into his own hands. At Nob he lied to the priest Ahimelech to save himself by receiving food and Goliath's sword (21:1–9). His deception would cost many innocent lives (compare 22:18–19).

David mistakenly thought he could find refuge as a mercenary soldier in the Philistine city Gath, but Achish the king discovered his identity. David pretended to be a madman to save himself (21:10–15).¹

Conclusion

What's going to happen to David?

- David is a wanted felon on the run
- He's approximately 20 years old
- He will spend the next 10 years on the move
- What will he do?

Scripture for next week

Read 1 Samuel 22-31

¹ Dockery, D. S., ed. (1992). [Holman Bible Handbook](#) (pp. 229–231). Holman Bible Publishers.

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