

DAVID

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Pastor's Bible Study 2019

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Episode 4: David and Jonathan (and Saul): The Covenant Surrender

I Samuel 13:1- 20: 42

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I. SAUL'S SIN (13:1-23)

- a. Saul's wickedness (13:1-14)
 - i. Saul's son Jonathan and his army destroy the garrison of Philistines at Geba, so the enemy mobilizes its entire army of chariots, horsemen, and soldiers against Israel. Saul and his men tremble in fear at the sight! (13:1-7)
 - ii. To rally his frightened troops, Saul unlawfully assumes the role of priest and offers up the burnt offering.(13:8-9)
 1. Saul's Impatience: Saul waited the appointed time; but,
 2. He did not wait for Samuel. He overstepped his orders. He tried to take control of the situation. Authority struggle between the old order (Judge/ Prophet) and the new order (king)
 3. What was God doing? Why delay the attack? Was it a test for Saul, or was God making a "Gideon" –like demonstration (Judges 6-8, see judges 7:2. *"The LORD said to Gideon, 'The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'"*)
 - iii. The consequence: Samuel arrives and rebukes Saul for his actions. He pronounces that the Lord will punish Saul by ending his dynasty (13:1 0-14). *"But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own **heart** and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."* NIV 1 Samuel 13:14
- b. Israel's weakness (13:15-23) Saul's army dwindles to only 600 men. There are no blacksmiths in all Israel, so the only soldiers who have a sword or spear are Saul and Jonathan!
- c. Jonathan and his armor bearer attack the enemy by themselves and initiate a great victory! (14:1-23) Jonathan and his armor bearer attempt to single-handedly defeat an entire Philistine garrison! They kill 20 Philistines while scaling a cliff! The Lord sends an earthquake, throwing the Philistines into terrified panic.
- d. Saul is securely in control of the throne, he vigorously attacks his enemies in every direction. (14:47-52)

II. SAUL'S FAILURE (15:1-35)

- a. The Lord commands Saul to attack and totally destroy the Amalekites and all their animals. Saul attacks and captures them, but he spares King Agag and some of the animals.
 - i. The Lord tells Samuel that he is sorry he ever made Saul king.
 - ii. Saul and Samuel meet on the morning following the battle with King Agag. Samuel condemns Saul's disobedience, refusing to accept his miserable excuse that he saved the animals so he can sacrifice them to God. He tells Saul that the Lord has rejected him as king. Saul admits his sin and begs Samuel to forgive

him and give him another chance. Samuel tells Saul his kingdom will be given to someone better than he. (God may have forgiven Saul personally, but there is no professional forgiveness—he still gets sacked!)

- iii. Samuel carries out what should have been Saul's responsibility and kills Agag as repayment for all the violence he committed against Israel.(15:32-35)

III. DAVID THE CHOSEN (16:1-13)

- a. The selection of Jesse's youngest son (16:11-13): The Lord tells Samuel to anoint David, Jesse's youngest son. When he does so, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon David.
 - i. *“When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before him.”⁶ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”* (13:6-7)
 - ii. The Internal v. the External.
 - 1. David’s only externally recognized quality: His looks. *“Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome.”* (16:12)
 - 2. Other qualifications (recognized by his friends if not his family): *“Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him.”* (16:18)
- b. The Importance of Anointing (It is God who establishes the King, not the people)

IV. THE KING AND THE COURT MUSICIAN (16:14-23)

- a. The misery and Affliction of King Saul (16:14-20) A tormenting spirit from God causes Saul to become depressed and fearful. Saul's servants encourage him to bring in a good musician who can soothe him with harp music. Saul agrees, and they send for David.
- b. David's music quickly brings relief to the troubled king.
- c. Mental Illness and the Affliction of God
 - i. *“¹⁴Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and **a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him.**¹⁵ And Saul’s servants said to him, “Behold now, **a harmful spirit from God** is tormenting you.”*
 - ii. Divine judgment, execution of a plan, or both?
 - iii. Did Saul suffer from character flaws (personality) or mental illness?
 - iv. What is the cause of his mental illness: supernatural or natural? Caused by God or not caused by God? Did God ever afflict people with physical problems?
 - v. **Notice that Saul was not left in a neutral state. He had the spirit of the Lord, and it departed from him.** But that is not all that happened. The scripture also says that God sent a tormenting spirit to him.
 - vi. **The scripture does not say that he was afflicted with a demon, but rather that he was afflicted from a spirit from God.**
 - 1. Saul’s spiritual harassment was not simply a means to punish Saul. It was also part of God’s divine plan to put Israel back on the right track.
 - 2. Objective #1: King from Judah
 - a. God intended for Israel to have a King one day (Deuteronomy 17:14-15)
 - b. But the King was to come from the tribe of Judah, not Benjamin (see Genesis 49:8-10)

3. Objective #2: Train David

V. DAVID AND GOLIATH (17:1-58): David kills the Philistine giant named Goliath and spurs the Israelites on to victory.

- a. **For David’s Reputation,**
- b. **For God’s Glory (17:45-47):** *“that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.”*

- VI. **SAUL SINKS INTO MADNESS: THE WAR OF DAVID AND SAUL (18-26):** Saul becomes jealous of David and tries to kill him.
- a. David's rise (18:1-7): After David's victory over Goliath, David gains great favor in the eyes of others. After David's victory the people sing, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!"(18:5-7) Saul attacks David twice with a spear! (18:11, 19:10)
- VII. **JONATHAN, DAVID AND SAUL: The Historical Dimension (18-20)**
- a. David and Jonathan: Jonathan, Saul's son, becomes David's closest and most beloved friend.
- i. The Friendship of David and Jonathan (18:1-5): *"Jonathan loved him as his own soul."*
 - ii. Jonathan Recognizes David as the true king, surrenders completely and gives David everything he has: Robe, armor, weapons, loyalty and Kingdom. (20:16)
 - iii. Jonathan gives his loyalty to David and effectively Surrenders His Throne to David (20:30-33): *³⁰Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman, do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? ³¹For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established."*
- b. Saul and Jonathan: The people loved Saul, until David came along. Saul's son loved him most, until David came along
- VIII. **JONATHAN, DAVID AND SAUL: The Spiritual Dimension**
- a. Compare Saul to Jonathan. Jonathan surrenders to David. Saul cannot accept that he is no longer in control. We don't want to admit that we are not the kings of our lives any more than Saul did.
 - i. Saul is the king the people chose for themselves.
 - ii. David is the king God chose for them
 - b. The story of Saul is a story about a man who is forced to come to terms with the fact that he is no longer King. He never surrenders to David.
 - c. Compare Jonathan and Saul: Jonathan surrendered to God's anointed. Saul rebelled against God by despising his anointed.
 - d. Ends his life in despair. The spirit of rebellion controlled him all the days of his life until he ended in self-destruction.