

I. SAMUEL COMES TO BETHLEHEM TO ANOINT DAVID – CHAPTER 16**A. Samuel visits David's family (16:1–11)**

- 1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."
- 2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"
- 3 "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."
- 4 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"
- 5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.
- 6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is before Him."
- 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
- 8 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."
- 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."
- 10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."
- 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

B. David chosen by God (16:12–13)

- 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"
- 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

C. Rejected Saul is oppressed (16:14–18)

- 14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.
- 15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you."
- 16 "Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."
- 17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me."
- 18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."

D. Anointed David brings refreshing (16:19–23)

- 19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."
- 20 And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul.
- 21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.
- 22 Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."
- 23 And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

II. DAVID CONFRONTS GOLIATH – CHAPTER 17**A. Philistines invade Judah at Sochoh (17:1–3)**

- 1 Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered together at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim.

- 2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.
 - 3 The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.
- B. Description of Goliath (17:4–7)
- 4 And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.
 - 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.
 - 6 And he had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.
 - 7 Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.
- C. Goliath defies Israel (17:8–11)
- 8 Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.
 - 9 "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."
 - 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."
 - 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.
- D. Jesse sends David to the Valley of Elah (17:12–22)
- 12 Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul.
 - 13 The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.
 - 14 David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul.
 - 15 But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.
 - 16 And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.
 - 17 Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp.
 - 18 "And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."
 - 19 Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.
 - 20 So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle.
 - 21 For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army.
 - 22 And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers.
- E. David hears Goliath (17:23–27)
- 23 Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them.
 - 24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.
 - 25 So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."
 - 26 Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
 - 27 And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man
- F. Eliab rebukes David (17:28–30)
- 28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."
 - 29 And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"
 - 30 Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did.
- G. David speaks with Saul (17:31–39)
- 31 Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him.

- 32 Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."
- 33 And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."
- 34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,
- 35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.
- 36 "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."
- 37 Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"
- 38 So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail.
- 39 David fastened his sword to his armor, and he tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.

H. David defies Goliath (17:40)

- 40 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

I. David defeats Goliath (17:40–47)

- 40 Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.
- 41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.
- 42 And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.
- 43 So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.
- 44 And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"
- 45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, 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.
- 46 "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.
- 47 "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands."

J. Saul inquires about David (17:48–54)

- 48 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.
- 49 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.
- 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.
- 51 Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.
- 52 Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.
- 53 Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents.
- 54 And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

III. DAVID MOVES TO GIBEAH TO SERVE UNDER SAUL/SAUL PROVOKED TO ENVY – CHAPTER 18

A. David and Jonathan's relationship (18:1–4)

- 1 Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.
- 2 Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.
- 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.
- 4 And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

B. Saul's jealousy (18:5–16)

- 5 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.
- 6 Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments.
- 7 So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands."
- 8 Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"
- 9 So Saul eyed David from that day forward.
- 10 And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand.
- 11 And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.
- 12 Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul.
- 13 Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.
- 14 And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him.
- 15 Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him.
- 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

C. Saul plans David's death (18:17–30)

- 17 Then Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles." For Saul thought, "Let my hand not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him."
- 18 So David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my life or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?"
- 19 But it happened at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife.
- 20 Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.
- 21 So Saul said, "I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall be my son-in-law today."
- 22 And Saul commanded his servants, "Communicate with David secretly, and say, 'Look, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now therefore, become the king's son-in-law.'"
- 23 So Saul's servants spoke those words in the hearing of David. And David said, "Does it seem to you a light thing to be a king's son-in-law, seeing I am a poor and lightly esteemed man?"
- 24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, "In this manner David spoke."
- 25 Then Saul said, "Thus you shall say to David: 'The king does not desire any dowry but one hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.
- 26 So when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to become the king's son-in-law. Now the days had not expired;
- 27 therefore David arose and went, he and his men, and killed two hundred men of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full count to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him Michal his daughter as a wife.
- 28 Thus Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him;
- 29 and Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul became David's enemy continually.
- 30 Then the princes of the Philistines went out to war. And so it was, whenever they went out, that David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed.

IV. SAUL ATTEMPTS TO KILL DAVID – CHAPTERS 19–20

A. Jonathan helps David (19:1–7)

- 1 Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David.
- 2 So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide.
- 3 "And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father about you. Then what I observe, I will tell you."
- 4 Thus Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been very good toward you.
- 5 "For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?"
- 6 So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed."
- 7 Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things. So Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as in times past.

B. Michal helps David escape (19:8–17)

- 8 And there was war again; and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a mighty blow, and they fled from him.
- 9 Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand.
- 10 Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night.
- 11 Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed."
- 12 So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped.
- 13 And Michal took an image and laid it in the bed, put a cover of goats' hair for his head, and covered it with clothes.
- 14 So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick."
- 15 Then Saul sent the messengers back to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him."
- 16 And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats' hair for his head.
- 17 Then Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?'"

C. David flees to Samuel at Ramah (19:18–19)

- 18 So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.
- 19 Now it was told Saul, saying, "Take note, David is at Naioth in Ramah!"

D. Spirit of prophecy hinders Saul's attack (19:20–24)

- 20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.
- 21 And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.
- 22 Then he also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is at Sechu. So he asked, and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And someone said, "Indeed they are at Naioth in Ramah."
- 23 So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah.
- 24 And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

E. Jonathan helps David again (20:1–40)

- 1 Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?"
- 2 So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so!"
- 3 Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death."
- 4 So Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you yourself desire, I will do it for you."
- 5 And David said to Jonathan, "Indeed tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat. But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third day at evening.
- 6 "If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked permission of me that he might run over to Bethlehem, his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.'
- 7 "If he says thus: 'It is well,' your servant will be safe. But if he is very angry, then be sure that evil is determined by him.
- 8 "Therefore you shall deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. Nevertheless, if there is iniquity in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?"
- 9 And Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! For if I knew certainly that evil was determined by my father to come upon you, then would I not tell you?"
- 10 Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me, or what if your father answers you roughly?"
- 11 And Jonathan said to David, "Come, and let us go out into the field." So both of them went out into the field.
- 12 Then Jonathan said to David: "The LORD God of Israel is witness! When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, or the third day, and indeed there is good toward David, and I do not send to you and tell you,
- 13 "may the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan. But if it pleases my father to do you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father.
- 14 "And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die;
- 15 "but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."
- 16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "Let the LORD require it at the hand of David's enemies."
- 17 Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.
- 18 Then Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow is the New Moon; and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty.

- 19 "And when you have stayed three days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid on the day of the deed; and remain by the stone Ezel.
- 20 "Then I will shoot three arrows to the side, as though I shot at a target;
- 21 "and there I will send a lad, saying, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I expressly say to him, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you; get them and come'— then, as the LORD lives, there is safety for you and no harm.
- 22 "But if I say thus to the young man, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you'— go your way, for the LORD has sent you away.
- 23 "And as for the matter which you and I have spoken of, indeed the LORD be between you and me forever."
- 24 Then David hid in the field. And when the New Moon had come, the king sat down to eat the feast.
- 25 Now the king sat on his seat, as at other times, on a seat by the wall. And Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty.
- 26 Nevertheless Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has happened to him; he is unclean, surely he is unclean."
- 27 And it happened the next day, the second day of the month, that David's place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has the son of Jesse not come to eat, either yesterday or today?"
- 28 So Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked permission of me to go to Bethlehem.
- 29 "And he said, 'Please let me go, for our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. And now, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me get away and see my brothers.' Therefore he has not come to the king's table."
- 30 Then Saul's anger was aroused 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?"
- 31 "For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die."
- 32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?"
- 33 Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.
- 34 So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully.
- 35 And so it was, in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad was with him.
- 36 Then he said to his lad, "Now run, find the arrows which I shoot." As the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.
- 37 When the lad had come to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried out after the lad and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?"
- 38 And Jonathan cried out after the lad, "Make haste, hurry, do not delay!" So Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows and came back to his master.
- 39 But the lad did not know anything. Only Jonathan and David knew of the matter.
- 40 Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, "Go, carry them to the city."

F. David and Jonathan separate permanently (20:41–42)

- 41 As soon as the lad had gone, David arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so.
- 42 Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.'" So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.