

Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – After God's Heart

Lesson 7 – October 26, 2021

David Under Fire – 1 Samuel 18 – 23

*Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. – Psalm 119:67*

[Read Study Questions Book, page 31, #2]

Introduction

God has given us a detailed and interesting narrative of the leadership of Israel as it transitioned from the 300 years of Judges to the time of having an earthly king. Samuel was the judge God used to guide this change.

We now come to the decade of David's life (his twenties) leading up to him becoming king, which will be covered by this lesson and lesson 8 next week. We see three main characters in this drama:

Saul – the first king, disqualified by his own rejection of God and His will; now reaching his seventies.

Jonathan – Saul's godly son, now middle-aged; David's friend. They were such close friends because they both had a real relationship with God.

David – the newly anointed king-to-be, now in his twenties. He was a teenager when he was privately anointed King by Samuel, and soon after defeated Goliath.

Hopefully, the chart of the timeline "David's Life – First 30 Years" will help you, if you want to follow the events chronologically. NOTE that I have not put dates or specific ages of the details because commentators vary in their placing of exact dates.

As we have progressed through our studies, we keep coming back to Saul. The comparison between Saul and David is stark, and the reasons are equally so. Saul was very influential in David's life; he was erratic, manipulative, and jealous. David's popularity (18:2) made Saul hate David and want to kill him. Saul's root problem was his determination to go against God. Everything Saul tried against David backfired. So from Saul we learn:

*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. – Pr. 16:18*

And we see that Saul did not understand:

*A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps. – verse 9*

And Saul did NOT want to do this:

*Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established. – verse 3*

So Saul did things his way and it destroyed him, his kingship, and his family. NOT a "man after God's heart."

On the other hand, David experienced much adversity; it is part of growing in the Lord and walking in His ways: *James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh*

*patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

When David tried his own ways, it caused great troubles. But when he followed the truths in *James 1*, he was safe and blessed by God. In this study, we will see a great turning point for David when he began to do this.

Indeed, a “man after God’s heart.”

### The Narrative

Note that I will cover from *1 Samuel 18* through *1 Samuel 23*, including some on the chapters the study question book skips. It will be easier to follow the order of events, and some of the “skipped” chapters have information that relates to our included chapters.

#### 1 Samuel 18

David did well and was more popular than Saul. Saul was very angry, and the evil spirit came on him. He tried to kill David, and David escaped. READ vs. 12.

Then there was a series of Saul’s attempts on David’s life: (13-16) sent David to the front lines of battle so he would be killed; (20-27) tried to use his daughter Michal against David; (25-27) required a “dowry” of David killing 100 Philistines and bringing the proof.

Saul ended up having to give Michal as bride to David.

READ 28-30.

#### 1 Samuel 19

(1-7) Jonathan intervened for David with Saul. A few years earlier Jonathan and David had made a pact, so now Jonathan wanted to help David. At this point in *1 Samuel 19* Saul agreed: READ 6-7. But it did not last long.

(8) Saul sent David to war again.

(9-10) Then when David was back with Saul, Saul tried to kill him with his javelin. (One of several attempts.)

(11-17) David escaped to his house, and Saul sent men there to kill him. But David’s wife Michal helped him escape.

(18-24) David fled to Samuel who took him to Naiboth in Ramah, to be with the prophets. Perhaps Samuel instructed David at that time. Saul pursued David there. When men sent by Saul went, the Holy Spirit came on them and stopped them. Then the same happened to Saul when he tried.

Look at all the ways God protected David: success in battle; Jonathan; Michal; Samuel; the Holy Spirit. The Lord does the same for us, often in unexpected ways. *1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

### 1 Samuel 20

Jonathan and Saul's conflict over David: David knew Saul wanted to kill him, but Jonathan did not think so. Both were confused, so they made an agreement for Jonathan to find out and let David know. Indeed, David's life was in danger, Jonathan told him, they parted, and David fled.

We will see as we continue that now David became fearful and reckless.

### 1 Samuel 21

David fled to Nob, to the priest at the tabernacle.

READ 1-9 We know that this was on the Sabbath because of the way Jesus used this account to teach about the Sabbath. READ *Mark 2:25-28*

(2) It was alright to take the bread to save the lives of the men; it was NOT alright to lie.

This disobedience to God later cost the lives of the priests – David later regretted that he had forgotten to trust God. At this time his fear clouded his thinking.

(10-15) Another blunder – David fled to the land of the Philistines! If they had taken him in, he would have had to fight against his countrymen.

He was saved from this by the lords of the Philistines, who saw David as the enemy. This is only one of the times that God used the enemy to save David.

Yet David had to act crazy to get away.

### 1 Samuel 22

(1-2) David hid in a cave in Adullam with “malcontents.” He was still in Philistine territory.

He went to Moab to get the Moabites to keep his parents there for safety.

(5) \*\* Then the prophet Gad went to David and told him to leave the cave and go back to Judah. David did so; this was a turning point for him.

(6-8) Saul hunted for David.

Doeg the Edomite told Saul about David at Nob; Saul called the priests to him; we see David's great regret now: READ 18-23

Lessons from this passage:

(1) David lost faith in God and became reckless: lied at Nob, and the priests were killed; deceit with Achish, almost cost him his life; despair, had lost hope.

(2) We also learn that one cannot stop the consequences, even though one repents.

So when you begin to stray or falter, stop and seek God – don't just keep going until it gets very bad. AND when you repent, listen to God and go on.

(3) Yet David did the right thing in protecting and providing for his parents.

David almost always followed the Lord's will; when he strayed he repented; and he NEVER rejected the Lord.

Truly, a “*man after God's heart.*”

## 1 Samuel 23

(1-2) David turned back to following God's will.

Keilah was attacked and robbed by the Philistines; David was asked to help.

(2-4) David asked God repeatedly what to do.

(5) "...so David saved the inhabitants of Keilah."

(6) David had taken with him Abiathar, the priest with the *ephod*, and turned to him to seek God's will. The *ephod* was part of the high priest's garments that was used to seek God's will. (Ex. 28 and elsewhere)

(7-12) Saul was still pursuing David, who was in the fortified city of Keilah. The men of Keilah would have given David to Saul.

(13-26) David left Keilah and stayed in the wilderness of Ziph.

Jonathan came to David one last time and encouraged him. READ 16-18. Jonathan, Saul, and David all knew that David would be king after Saul.

(19-26) The Ziphites betrayed David; Saul came and surrounded David and his men.

But Saul was called away to fight the Philistines before he could attack David – again God protected David using his enemies.

Then David went to En-gedi.

*To be continued...*

At this point David truly wanted to follow the Lord. *Psalms 31* expresses his trust in the Lord after the events of *1 Samuel 23*. Let's READ verses, 1, 8, 12, 21, and 23-24. Many of the Psalms were written in times of trial or adversity, and David wrote a number of his Psalms during this time "Under Fire" and "On the Run."

Next week the narrative will continue – Saul hunted David, and David grew in the Lord and was protected by Him.

This week we saw a major turning point in David's life. He realized the tragic consequences of his wrong actions and turned back to following the Lord. His repentance and dedication to God can be seen in his psalms. Here is one example:

*Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.  
Delight thyself also in the LORD;  
and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.  
Commit thy way unto the LORD;  
trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

– *Psalms 37:3-5*

Ruth 4:22	David is born.
1Sam. 16:1–17	David is anointed by Samuel (at age 15 by Bible Truth 4U).
1Sam. 16:18–23	David plays music for King Saul.
1Sam. 17	David defeats Goliath.
1Sam. 18:1–9	Jonathan's love for David.
1Sam. 18:10–16	Saul's attempts to kill a young David.
1Sam. 18:17–28	Saul persuades David to war against the Philistines.
1Sam. 19	Saul sends soldiers to David's house to kill him; David escapes and leaves Gibeah.
1Sam. 20	Jonathan and Saul's conflict over David. Jonathan and David make a pact.
1Sam. 21:1–9	David goes to Nob and endangers the priests there.
1Sam. 21:10–15	David escapes to Gath in Philistia.
1Sam. 22:1–6	David goes to the cave of Adullam.
1Sam. 22:7–23	Saul kills the priests of Nob; one priest escapes to David.
1Sam. 23:1–14	David saves Keilah from the Philistines. The men of Keilah betray David over to Saul.
1Sam. 23:15–29	David and the men of Ziph.
1Sam. 23:19–29	The Ziphites betray David to Saul
1Sam. 24	Saul continues to pursue David; David chooses not to kill Saul.
1Sam. 25	Samuel dies. David marries Abigail.
1Sam. 26	David again spares Saul's life.
1Sam. 27:1–5	David goes to the King of Gath for refuge. Bible Truth 4U estimates his age to be about 28.
1Sam. 27:6–12	David is assigned the city of Ziklag by the King of Gath. 1Sam. 27:7 And the number of days that David lived in the field of the Philistines was a year of days and 4 months.
1Sam. 28	Saul goes to a medium.
1Sam. 29	God keeps David from warring against Saul.
1Sam. 30	The Amalekites raid David's camp; David defeats the Amalekites.
1Sam. 31:1–10 1Chron. 10:1–12	The deaths of Jonathan and Saul (at ages 58 and 80, respectively <sup>1</sup> ); the Philistines defeat the Israelites. 2Sam. 4:4 And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was 5 years old when the news of Saul and Jonathan came out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up and fled. And as she made haste to flee he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

## Timeline of David's Life

### First 30 Years