



## **LESSON NINE**

### The History Concerning David – Prepared by God to be a Man according to the Heart of God

Scripture Reading:

#### **1 Samuel 16:12-23 Section 1**

- 16:12** So he sent for him and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And Jehovah said, Arise; anoint him, for this is he.
- 16:13** And Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and the Spirit of Jehovah rushed upon David from that day forward. Then Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.
- 16:14** And the Spirit of Jehovah departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from Jehovah terrorized him.
- 16:15** And Saul's servants said to him, See now, an evil spirit from God is terrorizing you.
- 16:16** Let our lord speak. Your servants are before you; they will seek out a man who is skilled in playing the lyre. And when the evil spirit from God is upon you, he will play it by hand, and you will be well.
- 16:17** And Saul said to his servants, Select for me a man who can play well, and bring him to me.
- 16:18** And one of the attendants answered and said, I have just seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skilled in playing and a mighty man of valor and a man of war and prudent in speech and of good presence, and Jehovah is with him.
- 16:19** So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, Send me David your son, who is among the sheep.
- 16:20** And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a kid, and sent them by David his son to Saul.
- 16:21** And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor bearer.
- 16:22** And Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, Let David enter my service, for he has found favor in my sight.
- 16:23** So whenever the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, David took his lyre and played it by hand, and Saul was refreshed and was well; and the evil spirit departed from him.

#### **1 Samuel 17:12-54 Section 2**

- 17:12** Now David was the son of that Ephrathite from Bethlehem-judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. And the man was an old man in the days of Saul, advanced in years among men.
- 17:13** And the three oldest sons of Jesse had gone after Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who had gone into the battle were Eliab the firstborn and the second to him Abinadab and the third Shammah;
- 17:14** And David was the youngest. And the three oldest went after Saul,
- 17:15** But David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.
- 17:16** And the Philistine approached morning and evening, and he presented himself forty days.
- 17:17** And Jesse said to David his son, Take an ephah of this parched grain for your brothers and these ten loaves, and take them quickly to your brothers' camp.
- 17:18** Also bring these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand; and see how your brothers are doing, and take some token from them.
- 17:19** Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.
- 17:20** And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper. And he took up the goods and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the entrenchment as the army was going forth to the battle line and shouting for the battle.
- 17:21** And Israel and the Philistines set the battle in array, array against array.
- 17:22** And David left the things he had in the hand of the keeper of the equipment, and he ran to the array and went and greeted his brothers.

- 17:23** And just as he was speaking with them, the champion, whose name was Goliath, the Philistine from Gath, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and he spoke according to the same words; and David heard.
- 17:24** And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from before him; and they were very afraid.
- 17:25** And the men of Israel said, Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he comes up to defy Israel. But as for the man who strikes him down, the king will make him rich with great riches; and he will give him his daughter and make the house of his father free in Israel.
- 17:26** Then David spoke to the men who were standing with him, saying, What shall be done for the man who strikes down this Philistine and turns away reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the ranks of the living God?
- 17:27** And the people spoke to him according to these words, saying, Thus shall it be done to the man who strikes him down.
- 17:28** And Eliab his oldest brother heard him speaking to the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the evil of your heart, that you came down to see the battle.
- 17:29** And David said, What have I done now? Is there no cause?
- 17:30** And he turned around from him to another and spoke according to the same words, and the people responded to him according to the first words.
- 17:31** And when the words that David spoke were heard, they were reported to Saul; and he had him brought.
- 17:32** And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.
- 17:33** But Saul said to David, You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth and he has been a man of war since his youth.
- 17:34** And David said to Saul, Your servant has been tending his father's sheep; and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock,
- 17:35** I would go out after it and strike it and deliver the lamb from its mouth. And when it rose up against me, I would seize it by its beard and strike it and kill it.
- 17:36** Both the lion and the bear did your servant strike; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the ranks of the living God.
- 17:37** And David said, Jehovah, 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 may Jehovah be with you.
- 17:38** And Saul put his own garment on David, and he placed a bronze helmet on his head and put his armor on him.
- 17:39** And David girded his sword over his garment and tried to go, for he had not tried the armor. Then David said to Saul, I cannot go in these because I have not tried them. And David took them off.
- 17:40** Then he took his staff in his hand, and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook and put them into the shepherd's bag that he had, that is, in his pouch; and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.
- 17:41** And the Philistine came on and approached David, and the man who bore the shield was before him.
- 17:42** And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he scorned him; for he was but a youth and ruddy and handsome in appearance.
- 17:43** And the Philistine said to David, Am I a dog, that you come to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.
- 17:44** And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of heaven and to the beasts of the field.
- 17:45** Then David said to the Philistine, You come to me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of Jehovah of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied.
- 17:46** On this day Jehovah will deliver you up into my hand, and I will strike you and remove your head from you. And I will give the corpses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of heaven and to the animals of the earth on this day. And all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel;
- 17:47** And all this congregation will know that it is not by sword or spear that Jehovah saves, for the battle is Jehovah's and He will deliver you into our hand.

- 17:48** And when the Philistine rose up and came and drew near to meet David, David hurried and ran toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.
- 17:49** And David put forth his hand into his bag and took a stone from there. And he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.
- 17:50** Thus David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him; but there was no sword in David's hand.
- 17:51** Then David ran and stood beside the Philistine, and he took the Philistine's sword and drew it out of its sheath and made certain he was dead by striking off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their mighty man was dead, they fled.
- 17:52** And the men of Israel and Judah rose up and shouted and pursued the Philistines until you come to Gai and to the gates of Ekron. And the Philistines lay slain along the way to Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.
- 17:53** And the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camps.
- 17:54** And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

#### **1 Samuel 18:1-9 Section 3 & Section 4**

- 18:1** Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan became knit with the soul of David; and Jonathan loved him like his own soul.
- 18:2** And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house.
- 18:3** Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him like his own soul.
- 18:4** And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and he gave it to David, as well as his armor and even his sword and his bow and his belt.
- 18:5** And David went forth; on every mission that Saul sent him he acted prudently. Therefore Saul set him over the men of battle, and it was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.
- 18:6** But when the men came home, as David returned from striking the Philistine, the women came out of all the towns of Israel singing and dancing to meet Saul the king, with tambourines and joyful songs and stringed instruments.
- 18:7** And the women sang to one another as they played, and they said, Saul has struck down his thousands; / But David, his ten thousands.
- 18:8** And Saul was very angry, for this saying displeased him. And he said, They ascribe ten thousands to David, but to me they ascribe only thousands. And what more can he have except the kingdom?
- 18:9** So Saul eyed David from that day on.
- 18:10** Then on the next day an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul; and he prophesied in the midst of the house while David played the lyre by hand, as he had day by day. And the spear was in Saul's hand.
- 18:11** Then Saul threw the spear; for he said, I will strike David even to the wall. But David fled from him twice.
- 18:12** And Saul was afraid of David, for Jehovah was with him and had departed from Saul.
- 18:13** So Saul removed him from being with him and made him the captain of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people.
- 18:14** And David acted prudently in all his campaigns, and Jehovah was with him.
- 18:15** And when Saul saw that he acted very prudently, he stood in awe of him.
- 18:16** And all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.
- 18:17** And Saul said to David, See, my oldest daughter Merab I will give to you as wife; only be valiant for me and fight Jehovah's battles. For Saul said, Let not my hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.
- 18:18** And David said to Saul, Who am I, and what is my life or my father's family in Israel, that I should be a son-in-law to the king?
- 18:19** But at the time when Merab the daughter of Saul was to be given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as wife.
- 18:20** Now Michal the daughter of Saul loved David, and it was told Saul; and the matter pleased him.

**18:21** And 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 upon him. Therefore Saul said to David, For the second time, you may be my son-in-law today.

**18:22** Then Saul commanded his servants, Speak to David privately, saying, See, the king is pleased with you, and all his servants love you. So now become the king's son-in-law.

**18:23** And Saul's servants spoke these words in David's ears. And David said, Is it such a light thing in your sight for me to become a son-in-law to the king, since I am a poor man and lightly esteemed?

**18:24** And Saul's servants told him, saying, This is what David said.

**18:25** Then Saul said, Thus shall you say to David, The king has no desire for a dowry but for a hundred Philistine foreskins, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies. For Saul planned to have David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

**18:26** So when his servants told David these things, David was pleased to become the king's son-in-law. And when the time had not yet expired,

**18:27** David rose up and went, he and his men; and he struck down two hundred Philistine men. And David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter as wife.

**18:28** And Saul saw and knew that Jehovah was with David. And Michal the daughter of Saul loved him.

**18:29** And Saul was even more afraid of David, and Saul was David's enemy from then on.

**18:30** Then the princes of the Philistines went forth; and as often as they went forth, David succeeded more than all the servants of Saul. So his name was very highly esteemed.

## **QUESTIONS:**

### **Section 1:**

1. How was David chosen and trained by God?
2. How did God tested both Saul and David by placing them together? How can this be applied to our daily living?

### **Section 2:**

1. What are the proofs that David was chosen and anointed by God? How can we learn from David through this incident?
2. All that happened in chapter 16,17 of 1 Samuel is under God's sovereignty. What can we learn from these things?

### **Section 3:**

1. How could David pass through all the trials? How does it apply to us today?
2. What are the examples to illustrate that there are many "Sauls" in the church life today?

### **Section 4:**

1. What did David do when Saul attempted to kill him? What should be Saul's response when he knew that Jehovah was with David?
2. How did David flee from Saul? What lesson should we learn from that?

----- [INTRODUCTION] -----

First Samuel 16 begins the history concerning David as one prepared by God as a man according to the heart of God. Chapters sixteen and seventeen show us how David was chosen, trained, anointed, tested, and approved by God.

Chapter fifteen ends with a miserable situation. God had abandoned Saul, rejecting him from being king over Israel. Then in the first verse of chapter sixteen, God sent Samuel to contact a young boy, who was perhaps only about fifteen years old. This shows that while Saul was abusing the God-given kingship, God knew the whole situation and was doing something marvelous to prepare the right person. God went secretly to David, the great grandson of Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 4:21-22).

God gave Saul the kingship for the purpose of building up His own kingdom. Saul should have been God's acting king, reigning over the people for God. Yet he behaved as a king absolutely for himself. He usurped and even abused the gifts given to him by God—the kingdom, the people, and the kingship—in order to build up his own monarchy. But while Saul was openly abusing, God was secretly preparing. Eventually, God's preparation was completed in David, the youngest of Jesse's sons. David was the eighth son, and in the Bible the number eight signifies resurrection. In the scriptural sense, David was one in resurrection; hence, he was the one whom God could use.

David was prepared by God to be a man according to the heart of God. Otherwise he could not have been such a man. In a very real sense, he was created by God to be such a man. However, he still needed to pass through the process of being chosen, trained, anointed, tested, and approved. To be chosen is wonderful, but to be trained by God is to go through suffering. To be anointed also is very good, but after being anointed we must be tested. Second Samuel 5:4 tells us that David was thirty years old when he began to reign. After David, a boy of about fifteen, was anointed by Samuel, he was tested for about fifteen years. In particular, he was bothered and troubled by Saul. Eventually, David passed the test and was approved by God.

## **I. CHOSEN BY GOD**

David was chosen by God (1 Sam. 16:1-10). "Jehovah said to Samuel, How long will you mourn for Saul, though I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite; for I have selected for Myself a king from among his sons" (v. 1). Jesse had seven of his sons pass by Samuel, but Jehovah had not chosen them. David's family seemed not to care for him, but God was determined to use him, for He had chosen him. David was God's unique choice among the children of Israel.

## **II. TRAINED BY GOD IN HUMILITY**

David was trained by God in humility through his circumstances. God purposely caused him to be born as the youngest one, the last one, to make him humble. Furthermore, David was assigned to go to the field to take care of the sheep. None of his seven brothers would do that; they all wanted a better job.

## **III. ANOINTED**

First Samuel 16:12-23 relates how David was anointed.

### **A. By Samuel with Oil**

Because David was God's choice, Samuel, God's acting representative, came purposely to anoint him with oil (v. 13a).

### **B. Confirmed by the Spirit of Jehovah Rushing upon Him from That Day**

Samuel's anointing David with oil was confirmed by the Spirit of Jehovah rushing upon him from that day (v. 13b). This rushing of the Spirit was related not to life for salvation but to power for outward activities.

### **C. Confirmed from the Negative Side**

In verses 14 through 23 we see that the anointing of David was confirmed also from the negative side.

#### ***1. By the Spirit of Jehovah Departing from Saul and an Evil Spirit from Jehovah Tormenting Him***

Verse 14 says that the Spirit of Jehovah departed from Saul and that an evil spirit from Jehovah terrorized him. That was a further confirmation

that God had chosen someone other than him. From that time onward Saul no longer had any peace, and he became jealous of David. The more he saw the good points of David, the more he realized that the kingdom would not go to his son Jonathan but to David. Therefore, Saul tried to kill David a number of times. On the one hand, Saul was terrorized by an evil spirit. On the other hand, he was troubled by his realization concerning David. Saul realized that the kingdom would not be a monarchy passed on to Jonathan but instead would go to David.

## ***2. By David Being Selected and Becoming an Attendant of Saul***

When Saul's servants saw that an evil spirit from God was terrorizing him, they suggested that they seek out a man who was skilled in playing the lyre and who could play it when the evil spirit was upon Saul. Saul agreed, and David was brought to Saul to serve as his attendant. David played the lyre to refresh Saul at home (v. 23), and he also became Saul's armor bearer (v. 21c). Saul loved him greatly.

Under God's sovereignty, David was selected to become an attendant of Saul. God put these two together to live and work together very closely. Eventually, however, the closer they became, the more Saul hated David. Saul and David became a test to each other. Simply by being put together, these two were fully tested. Saul was exposed as a person who was opposite to God's will, and David was manifested to be a man according to God's heart. This was God's sovereignty.

For David to be tested in his relationship with Saul meant that David was continually put on the cross. This may also be our experience in the church life and in our married life. The saints in the church life, especially the elders, may become a test, a cross, to us. Likewise, in married life our spouse will be a cross to us. Since there should be neither divorce nor separation, the only way for us in our married life is to go to the cross and remain there, allowing the cross to terminate our flesh and our particular kind of ambition.

----- [SECTION 2] -----

## **IV. TESTED AND APPROVED IN TRUSTING GOD AND DEFEATING GOLIATH**

In chapter seventeen David was tested and approved in trusting God and defeating Goliath.

### **A. The Armies of the Philistines and the Men of Israel Being Assembled in Array**

The armies of the Philistines and the men of Israel were assembled in array and were ready to engage in a war against one another (vv. 1-3). This was a test to both Saul and David.

### **B. A Champion by the Name of Goliath Coming Forth from the Camp of the Philistines to Defy the Armies of Israel**

A champion by the name of Goliath came forth from the camp of the Philistines to defy the armies of Israel (vv. 4-11, 16). Goliath was six cubits and a span tall.

#### ***1. Being Arrogant in His Valor***

Goliath was arrogant in his valor, in his kind of strength and power (vv. 8-10). In his arrogance he said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, and let us fight together" (v. 10).

#### ***2. Saul and All Israel Being Dismayed***

When Saul and all Israel heard Goliath's words, they were dismayed and greatly afraid (v. 11).

#### ***3. Goliath's Defying Lasting Forty Days***

Goliath's defying lasted forty days, morning and evening (v. 16).

### **C. David's Defeating of Goliath**

Verses 12 through 54 give us a detailed account of David's defeating of Goliath.

#### ***1. David's Status and Occupation***

In verses 12 through 15 we have a word regarding David's status and occupation. His three older brothers went after Saul to the battle. David, the youngest of the eight sons of Jesse, was an attendant of Saul and a shepherd of his father's sheep.

**2. David Being Sent by His Father to  
Strengthen  
His Brothers with Food and to Greet Them**

David was sent by his father to strengthen his brothers with food and to greet them and to get some news about them (vv. 17-22).

**3. David Hearing Goliath's Defiance**

David heard Goliath's defiance and found out that Saul would make the man who killed the defier rich and give him his daughter and make the house of his father free from tax and duty (vv. 23-27). David considered that Goliath was defying the armies of the living God (v. 26b). He also considered that to kill such a defier was to turn away the reproach from Israel (v. 26a).

**4. The Anger and the Despising Word  
of David's Oldest Brother**

Verses 28 through 30 tell us about the anger and the despising word of David's oldest brother, who mocked him, saying that he should have remained to take care of those few sheep in the wilderness. He condemned David by accusing him of having pride and evil in his heart. David responded by indicating that there was a cause for his coming there (v. 29). David realized that the cause was that he had been sent there by God to defeat the defier.

**5. David Gaining the Agreement of Saul  
for Him to Fight against Goliath**

David gained the agreement of Saul for him to fight against Goliath (vv. 31-39). At first, Saul discouraged David from fighting with Goliath, saying that David was but a youth and that Goliath had been a man of war since his youth (v. 33). However, David had the assurance that Jehovah would deliver him from the hand of Goliath. David's assurance was based upon his experience of Jehovah delivering him from the paw of the lion and of the bear in his shepherding of his father's sheep. Because his experience as a shepherd had trained him to trust in the Lord, David could say to Saul, "Jehovah, 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" (v. 37a). When Saul heard this, he said to David, "Go, and may Jehovah be with you" (v. 37b). Then Saul put his armor on him, but David tried it and took it off (vv. 38-39).

**6. David Going to Fight against Goliath**

David went forth to fight against Goliath (vv. 40-48). He took his staff, chose five smooth stones from the brook, and held his sling in his hand (v. 40). Goliath scorned him for being but a youth and considered that his coming to him was as one with staves coming to chase away a dog. Goliath then cursed David by his gods and said that he would give David's flesh to the birds of heaven and to the beasts of the field (vv. 41-44). David said to Goliath, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of Jehovah of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied. On this day Jehovah will deliver you up into my hand; and I will strike you and remove your head from you. And I will give the corpses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of heaven and to the animals of the earth on this day. And all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel; and all this congregation will know that it is not by sword or spear that Jehovah saves, for the battle is Jehovah's and He will deliver you into our hand" (vv. 45-47).

**7. David Killing Goliath  
and Defeating the Philistines**

David killed Goliath and defeated the Philistines (vv. 49-54). He killed Goliath by slinging a stone into Goliath's forehead and beheading Goliath with his own sword (vv. 49-51a). The Philistines fled, and the men of Israel and Judah pursued them to slay them and plunder their camps (vv. 51b-53). David took the head of Goliath and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put Goliath's armor in his tent (v. 54).

**8. A Strong Confirmation  
to God's Choosing and Anointing of Him**

David's victory over Goliath and the Philistines was a strong confirmation to God's choosing and anointing of him.

**D. Saul Finding Out That David  
Was the Son of Jesse**

Saul found out that David, who held Goliath's head in his hand, was the son of Jesse the Bethlehemite (vv. 55-58).

What happened to David in chapters sixteen and seventeen was altogether under God's sovereignty. We all need to realize that because we are pursuing Christ today, every aspect of our

environment is absolutely under God's sovereign hand. Eventually, those who defy the church life will be defeated. Therefore, we should trust in the Lord, have confidence in Him, and be at peace.

----- [SECTION 3] -----

As we read the Bible, we should not interpret it in a loose way. We surely need guidance from the Lord, and we also need to know the controlling principles. Otherwise, we may be careless in our interpretation. In studying the books of history in the Bible, we need to be poor in spirit and we need a seeking spirit. We need to pray, "Lord, there is something here that I do not know, but You know. Lord, reveal to me the intrinsic significance of this portion of the Word." This should be our prayer as we continue to consider the history concerning David as one prepared by God to be a man according to the heart of God.

### **V. JONATHAN'S LOVE FOR DAVID**

David was persecuted and tried by Saul. Saul was nearly the unique source of all David's trials. In the trials that God gave to him in His sovereignty, God prepared a provision for David. God prepared Jonathan, Saul's son, who loved David (18:1-5).

Jonathan loved David like his own soul (vv. 1b, 3b). While the father was persecuting David and plotting to kill him, his son was loving David to the uttermost. It seems that there was discord in the family over David, with the father hating him and the son loving him. If God had not provided Jonathan in such a way, it is doubtful that David could have endured the trials under Saul. David could pass through these trials mainly because of the help that Jonathan rendered to him. From this we see that when we are under God's trial, God knows that we need some provision. On the one hand, we have the trials; on the other hand, we have God's provision to support us and sustain us in the trials.

Jonathan and David made a covenant, something that was to be kept and fulfilled to the uttermost (v. 3a). In order to equip David, Jonathan gave him his robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt (v. 4). Saul took David and would not let him return to his father's house (v. 2). This is a further indication that God had prepared all the details concerning David's environment.

David was successful in every mission that Saul sent him on (v. 5a). The secret of David's success was his wisdom. Even as a youth, he behaved in a very wise way. For example, when his oldest brother condemned him for coming to the camp of the Israelites, he asked his brother, "Is there no cause?" (17:29). He realized that there was a cause from God and that God had prepared him and sent him. God had sovereignly put him in the field to take care of sheep, and God used the attack of the lion and the bear to train, prepare, and equip him to kill Goliath. David was also very experienced in speaking and in confronting people. His youth had been full of experiences which were the basis for his assurance in relation to Goliath. It is not an insignificant thing for a teen-ager to kill a lion or a bear. As a youth David gained this experience. Therefore, he was not afraid of Goliath.

Because David acted wisely, Saul set him over the men of battle, and it was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants (18:5b). Whatever Saul did to David became a good opportunity for David to gain favor with the people.

### **VI. SAUL'S ENVY OF DAVID**

In 18:6-9 we see Saul's envy of David.

#### **A. David's Return from Striking the Philistines**

Saul became envious of David after David's return from striking the Philistines (v. 6a).

#### **B. The Women's Welcome and Praise**

As David returned from striking the Philistines, the women came out of all the towns of Israel to meet Saul and they said, "Saul has stricken down his thousands;/But David, his ten thousands" (v. 7). When Saul heard this praise, he was displeased and said, "They ascribe ten thousands to David, but to me they ascribe only thousands. And what more can he have except the kingdom? So Saul eyed David from that day on" (vv. 8-9). Saul was angry and was envious of David.

There are many "Sauls" in the church life today. We may become envious when others are approved and we are not. For example, suppose you share in a meeting and hardly anyone says amen. Then someone else shares, and he receives many amens. You may say to yourself, "Why



were so many amens spoken to him and so few to me?" If you say this, you are today's Saul.

Let us take as another illustration of the Sauls in the church life the matter of appointing elders. In appointing elders we must be fair and pure, and we must not be political. Suppose that in a particular church five brothers are taking the lead, but thus far no one has been officially appointed to be an elder. Eventually, only three of these brothers are appointed. The other two are very good brothers, but they do not have the capacity to be elders. These two may be stumbled and wonder why the other three were appointed to be elders and they were not. These two brothers might say, "The five of us have been laboring together to take care of the church, but we two have been set aside. Why were the others appointed to be elders and we were not?" These brothers need to receive grace in order to put their flesh on the cross. Otherwise, they may become cold to the church and withdraw, no longer continuing faithfully in the church life.

The hardships in the church life are related to the flesh. All the flesh in the church life needs to be diminished. Galatians 5:17 says, "The flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh." In the whole universe there is only one war—the war between man and God. The man warring against God is the flesh. The flesh wars against God as the Spirit, and God who is the Spirit is warring against our flesh. Our flesh is the real enemy of God. However, Galatians 5 not only speaks of this war but also says, "They who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts" (v. 24). Christ has crucified the flesh, and now we must apply this to ourselves.

David was very different from Saul. David knew only to behave and to have his being according to God's heart. He had no feeling for himself. Rather, he knew only to labor and conduct himself for God's people and God's kingdom.

----- [SECTION 4] -----

## **VII. SAUL'S DEVICE TO KILL DAVID**

In 1 Samuel 18:10—20:42 we have Saul's device to kill David. Saul went from being envious of David to plotting how he might kill him without damaging his own name.

### **A. Attempting to Kill David by Striking Him with a Spear Even to the Wall**

Saul attempted to kill David by striking him with a spear even to the wall (18:10-11a). When Saul attempted to kill him, David did nothing to avenge himself. He only fled (v. 11b). Saul was afraid of David, for Jehovah was with David and had departed from Saul (v. 12). If Saul had learned to know the flesh, he would have worshipped the Lord for choosing David. He would have realized that the Lord was sovereign and that He, not Saul, should be the originator.

Saul removed David from being with him and made him the captain of a thousand (v. 13). In all his campaigns David acted wisely, and Jehovah was with him. When Saul saw that David acted wisely, he was in awe of him (v. 15). All Israel and Judah loved David (v. 16).

### **B. Plotting to Cause David to Be Killed by the Philistines**

Saul plotted to cause David to be killed by the Philistines (vv. 17-30). Saul's plot was to give his oldest daughter, Merab, to David as wife; however, Saul did not keep his word (vv. 17-19). When Saul learned that another daughter, Michal, loved David, Saul plotted to give her to David as wife that she might be a snare to him (v. 21). Saul's giving of Michal to David was on the term that David would give him a hundred Philistine foreskins (vv. 22-25). Saul intended that this would fulfill his plan to kill David through the hand of the Philistines.

David brought the full number of foreskins to Saul, and Saul gave him Michal as wife. When Saul saw that Jehovah was with David and that his daughter Michal loved him, he was more afraid of David and became his enemy from then on (vv. 28-29). Furthermore, when the princes of the Philistines went forth against Israel, David succeeded more than all the servants of Saul. So David's name was very highly esteemed (v. 30).

### **C. Determining to Kill David**

Saul not only plotted to have David killed but determined to kill him (19:1-7). He told Jonathan his son and all his servants to kill David.

#### ***1. Jonathan's Protection of David because of His Great Delight in David***

Because of his great delight in David, Jonathan protected him (vv. 1b-3). Jonathan informed David that his father was seeking to kill him. Also, Jonathan promised David that he would speak about him to Saul and then tell David anything that he might learn.

### ***2. Jonathan's Appeasing of Saul***

Jonathan appeased Saul concerning David by relating all the marvelous deeds David had done for Saul and for all Israel (vv. 4-5). As a result, Saul was appeased not to kill David, and David was in Saul's presence as before (vv. 6-7).

### **D. Attempting Again to Kill David**

Saul was appeased only temporarily, for he attempted again to kill David (vv. 8-24; cf. Psa. 59, title).

#### ***1. By Trying to Strike David to the Wall***

Saul tried to strike David to the wall while David was playing the lyre to Saul when Saul was troubled by an evil spirit from God (vv. 9-10a). Some readers of this book may be bothered by the fact that an evil spirit from Jehovah came upon Saul. They may wonder how such a thing could happen. In matters such as this, we need to realize that God is sovereign and that everything is under Him and everything is for Him to carry out His eternal plan.

#### ***2. David Fleeing from Saul with the Help of His Wife Michal, Saul's Daughter***

David fled from Saul with the help of his wife Michal, Saul's daughter (vv. 10b-17). The very one whom Saul thought would be a snare to David was a help to him.

#### ***3. David Fleeing and Coming to Samuel at Ramah***

David fled and came to Samuel at Ramah (vv. 18-24). In doing this David went to the proper source to receive consolation. Saul sent messengers three times to seize David, and each time the Spirit of God came upon the messengers to cause them to prophesy (vv. 19-21). Then Saul himself went to Ramah, and the Spirit of God came upon him as well to cause him to prophesy, even to strip off his clothes and prophesy before Samuel, laying naked all that day and all that night (vv. 22-24).

### **E. Jonathan's Help to David**

Chapter twenty describes Jonathan's help to David. David entreated Jonathan to save him (vv. 1-10), and Jonathan helped David to flee from Saul (vv. 11-41a). Eventually, David and Jonathan departed from each other in the covenanted love (vv. 41b-42a), and David fled from Saul (v. 42b). This was all that David could do.