



LESSON TEN

The History Concerning David – Persecuted and Tried by Saul

Scripture Reading:

1 Samuel 21-22 Section 1 & 3

- 21:1** And David went to Nob to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came trembling to meet David and said to him, Why are you alone, and no one with you?
- 21:2** And David said to Ahimelech the priest, The king has charged me with some matter, and he said to me, Let no man know anything about the matter that I have sent you on and charged you with. So I have made an appointment with my young men at such and such a place.
- 21:3** Now then what do you have on hand? Give five loaves of bread into my hand, or whatever there is to be found.
- 21:4** And the priest answered David and said, There is no common bread on hand; yet there is holy bread, but only if the young men have kept themselves from women.
- 21:5** And David answered the priest and said to him, Women have indeed been kept from us, as previously when I went forth; and the vessels of the young men were holy, even if it was a common journey. How much more then today will their vessels be holy!
- 21:6** So the priest gave him what was holy, for there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence, which was taken from before Jehovah, to be replaced by hot bread at the time it was taken.
- 21:7** Now one of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before Jehovah. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of the shepherds that belonged to Saul.
- 21:8** And David said to Ahimelech, And is there not a spear or a sword here on hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my equipment with me, for the king's matter was urgent.
- 21:9** And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the valley of Elah, is here, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take it, take it; for there is no other here but that one. And David said, There is none like it; give it to me.
- 21:10** Then David rose up and fled that day from before Saul, and he went to Achish the king of Gath.
- 21:11** But the servants of Achish said to him, Is this not David the king of the land? Is this not him of whom they sang to one another in dances, saying, Saul has struck down his thousands; / But David, his ten thousands?
- 21:12** And David took these words to heart and feared Achish the king of Gath greatly.
- 21:13** So he disguised his sanity in their sight and acted like a madman before them, and he made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard.
- 21:14** And Achish said to his servants, Look, you see that the man is mad. Why have you brought him to me?
- 21:15** Do I lack madmen that you have brought this one to me to be a madman before me? Shall this one come into my house?
- 22:1** Then David went from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard of it, they went down to him there.
- 22:2** And everyone who was in distress and everyone who was in debt and everyone who was discontented gathered to him, and he became captain over them. And with him were about four hundred men.
- 22:3** And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, Let my father and mother go forth and be with you until I know what God will do for me.
- 22:4** And he brought them before the king of Moab, and they remained with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.
- 22:5** And Gad the prophet said to David, Do not stay in the stronghold; depart and go into the land of Judah. So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

- 22:6** Then Saul heard that David and the men with him had been discovered. Now Saul was sitting in Gibeah, under the tamarisk tree on the height; and his spear was in his hand, and all his servants were standing around him.
- 22:7** And Saul said to his servants standing around him, Hear now, you Benjaminites: Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make every one of you captains of thousands and captains of hundreds,
- 22:8** That every one of you has conspired against me, so that no one discloses it to me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse, and none of you is sorry for me or discloses it to me when my son stirs up my servant against me to ambush me as on this day?
- 22:9** Then Doeg the Edomite, who was set over Saul's servants, answered and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub at Nob.
- 22:10** And he inquired of Jehovah for him and gave him provisions, and he gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.
- 22:11** Then the king sent men to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were in Nob. And all of them came to the king.
- 22:12** And Saul said, Hear now, you son of Ahitub. And he said, Here I am, my lord.
- 22:13** And Saul said to him, Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him food and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, so that he rises up against me to ambush me as on this day?
- 22:14** And Ahimelech answered the king and said, And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law and has access to your council and is honored in your house?
- 22:15** Was it just today that I began to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! May the king not impute anything to his servant nor to all my father's house, for your servant knows nothing of this matter, small or great.
- 22:16** But the king said, You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house.
- 22:17** Then the king said to the runners who were standing around him, Turn, and kill the priests of Jehovah, because their hand is also with David, and because they knew that he was fleeing and they did not disclose it to me. But the king's servants would not put forth their hand to attack the priests of Jehovah.
- 22:18** And the king said to Doeg, You turn, and attack the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he attacked the priests. And on that day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod.
- 22:19** And he struck Nob, the city of the priests, with the edge of the sword, both men and women, infants and sucklings, and oxen and asses and sheep, with the edge of the sword.
- 22:20** But one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub escaped, whose name was Abiathar, and he fled after David.
- 22:21** And Abiathar told David that Saul had slain the priests of Jehovah.
- 22:22** And David said to Abiathar, I knew on that day when Doeg the Edomite was there that he would surely tell Saul. I am responsible for all the lives of your father's house.
- 22:23** Remain with me, and do not be afraid; for he who seeks my life seeks your life, for you will be kept safe with me.

1 Samuel 23-24 Section 2 & 4

- 23:1** And some told David, saying, The Philistines are now fighting against Keilah and robbing the threshing floors.
- 23:2** And David inquired of Jehovah, saying, Shall I go and strike these Philistines? And Jehovah said to David, Go and strike the Philistines, and save Keilah.
- 23:3** And David's men said to him, Here we are, afraid here in Judah; how much more if we go to Keilah against the ranks of the Philistines!
- 23:4** So David inquired yet again of Jehovah. And Jehovah answered him and said, Rise up; go down to Keilah, for I am delivering the Philistines into your hand.
- 23:5** Then David and his men went to Keilah and fought against the Philistines and carried off their cattle and struck them down with a great slaughter. And David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.
- 23:6** Now it so happened that when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, he came down with an ephod in his hand.
- 23:7** Then it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, God has delivered him into my hand; for he is shut in, because he has entered a city with gates and bars.
- 23:8** And Saul summoned all the people to battle, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.

23:9 But when David learned that Saul was planning evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring the ephod here.

23:10 And David said, O Jehovah the God of Israel, Your servant has heard for certain that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah in order to destroy the city on my account.

23:11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O Jehovah the God of Israel, do tell Your servant. And Jehovah said, He will come down.

23:12 And David said, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And Jehovah said, They will deliver you.

23:13 So David and his men, about six hundred men, rose up and went forth from Keilah; and they went about wherever they could. And when it was told Saul that David had slipped away from Keilah, he ceased his going forth.

23:14 And David remained in the wilderness in strongholds, and he remained in the hill country in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

23:15 And David saw that Saul went forth to seek his life, and David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh.

23:16 Then Jonathan the son of Saul rose up and went to David at Horesh, and he strengthened his hand in God.

23:17 And he said to him, Do not be afraid, for the hand of Saul my father will not find you; and you will become king over Israel, and I will be second to you; and even Saul my father knows that.

23:18 And the two of them made a covenant before Jehovah. And David remained in Horesh, and Jonathan went to his house.

23:19 Then some Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, David is indeed hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of the desert!

23:20 Now then, O king, come down, according to all your soul's desire to come down; and we will deliver him into the hand of the king.

23:21 And Saul said, Blessed are you of Jehovah, for you have had compassion on me.

23:22 Go now, and make sure once more; and find out and look into his place, where he sets foot, who has seen him there; for I am told that he is very cunning.

23:23 And look about and learn of all his hiding places where he lurks, and come back to me with sure information; then I will go with you, and if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah.

23:24 And they rose up and went to Ziph before Saul. And David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of the desert.

23:25 And Saul and his men went to seek him. And when some told David this, he went down to the rock and remained in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard of it, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon.

23:26 And Saul went on one side of the mountain, while David and his men went on the other side of the mountain. And David hurried to get away from Saul, while Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men in order to capture them.

23:27 Then a messenger came to Saul, saying, Hurry and come, for the Philistines have raided the land.

23:28 So Saul returned from pursuing after David, and he went to meet the Philistines; therefore they call that place the Rock of Escape.

23:29 And David went up from there and remained in the strongholds of En-gedi.

24:1 And when Saul returned from following the Philistines, some told him, saying, David is now in the wilderness of En-gedi.

24:2 And Saul took three thousand choice men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men upon the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

24:3 And he came to the sheepfolds along the way, and a cave was there. And Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost part of the cave.

24:4 And David's men said to him, The day is here of which Jehovah said to you, I am about to give your enemy into your hand. Do then to him according to what seems good in your sight. So David rose up and cut off a corner of Saul's cloak without being noticed.

24:5 But afterward David's heart smote him because he had cut off a corner of Saul's cloak.

24:6 And he said to his men, Jehovah forbid that I should do such a thing to my lord, Jehovah's anointed, as stretch out my hand against him; for he is Jehovah's anointed.

24:7 So David checked his men with these words and would not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul rose up out of the cave and went on his way.

24:8 Then David rose up afterward and came out of the cave. And he called after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and paid him homage.

24:9 And David said to Saul, Why do you listen to men's words that say, David now seeks your harm?

24:10 Just this day your eyes have seen that Jehovah gave you into my hand today in the cave. And though some told me to kill you, I spared you and said, I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is Jehovah's anointed.

24:11 Now my father, look, indeed, look at the corner of your cloak in my hand; for in that I cut off the corner of your cloak and did not kill you, know and see that there is no harm or transgression in my hand. And though I have not sinned against you, you hunt after my life in order to take it.

24:12 May Jehovah judge between me and you, and may Jehovah avenge me of you; but my hand will not be against you.

24:13 As the proverb of the ancients says, Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness; but my hand will not be against you.

24:14 After whom does the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog; a single flea.

24:15 May Jehovah then be Judge and decide between me and you. And may He see and plead my cause and release me through His judgment out of your hand.

24:16 And when David finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, Is this your voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

24:17 And he said to David, You are more righteous than I; for you have repaid me with good, while I have repaid you with evil.

24:18 And you have declared today how you did good to me, because Jehovah delivered me up into your hand, but you would not kill me.

24:19 For if a man finds his enemy, will he send him away safely? May Jehovah therefore reward you with good for what you have done to me this day.

24:20 And now I indeed know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

24:21 Now therefore swear to me by Jehovah that you will not cut off my seed after me and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house.

24:22 So David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his house, and David and his men went up to the stronghold.

QUESTIONS:

Section 1:

1. What is the relationship between 'the flesh' and 'the kingdom of God'? How do we see this in David's experience?
2. What kind of person was Saul?

Section 2:

1. Why did David's heart smite him when he cut off a corner of Saul's cloak?
2. What stopped Saul's pursuing of David?

Section 3:

1. What does 'God's sovereignty' mean? How is this applied to Saul and David's relationship?
2. What is the strength for us to bear the cross?

Section 4:

1. What did David do when he was persecuted by Saul?
2. What makes David a winner? What can we learn from this lesson?

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

In this message we will continue to see how David was persecuted and tried by Saul.

Through all of Saul's persecution, David did not fight or do anything to avenge himself. The only thing he did was flee. As Saul was seeking to kill David, Jonathan and Michal helped him flee. Through them God sovereignly provided David with certain kinds of information. In everything related to David, God was sovereign.

From David's experience under Saul's persecution, we need to learn an important lesson. This lesson is that in the church life there should not be anything of the flesh; there should be no anger, no devices, no conspiracies, and no plots. The church is the kingdom of God (Rom. 14:17), and in the church there must be the divine authority with the proper order. No one should overthrow this order. As we will see, David feared God and did not dare to overthrow the order arranged by God... Rebellion and fighting annul the church life. With us there should be no rebellion, no anger, and no fighting. We should just live Christ in the spirit that we may live a church life according to the divine, ordained order.

We need to learn the lesson of crucifying the flesh. Avenging and fighting back are matters of the flesh. In Ephesians 4:26 Paul said, "Do not let the sun go down on your indignation." This means that when the sun sets our anger should also set. No anger should linger. This is the revelation in the Bible, and we should practice it.

In the kingdom of God the flesh has to be ruled out. Galatians 5:17 says that "the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh." Verse 24 says that "they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts." Verse 21 says that those who partake of the things of the flesh "will not inherit the kingdom of God." If we are partakers with the flesh, we are through with the kingdom and will have no share in it. Things such as jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, and divisions are foreign articles in the kingdom. In the church life, therefore, there should not be any foreign articles.

Let us now see what is recorded in 1 Samuel 21 through 24 concerning David's being persecuted and tried by Saul.

----- [SECTION 1] -----

**I. SUPPLIED WITH THE HOLY BREAD
OF THE PRESENCE AND WITH THE
SWORD OF GOLIATH
BY THE PRIEST AHIMELECH**

When David was fleeing from Saul, he and his companions were supplied with the holy bread of the presence and with the sword of Goliath by Ahimelech the priest (21:1-9). The Lord Jesus referred to this when the Pharisees came to Him, saying, "Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath" (Matt. 12:2). He answered them by reminding them that David and his companions had eaten of the holy bread of God's presence. He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he became hungry, and those who were with him; how he entered into the house of God, and they ate the bread of the presence, which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, except for the priests only? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here" (vv. 3-6). Christ is greater than David and greater than the temple. Without Christ, we should not do anything. Without Christ, whatever we do is wrong. With Christ, whatever we do is right. This is God's kingdom.

**II. FLEEING FROM SAUL AND GOING
TO ACHISH KING OF GATH**

A. Suspected by the Servants of King Achish

David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath (1 Sam. 21:10-15; cf. Ps. 56, title). The servants of Achish suspected him and said to him, "Is this not David king of the land? Is this not him of whom they sang to one another in dances, saying, Saul has stricken down his thousands; But David, his ten thousands?" (v. 11).

**B. Disguising Himself as a Madman
to Escape from Gath**

When David was suspected by the servants of King Achish, he disguised himself as a madman to escape from Gath (vv. 12-15; cf. Ps. 34, title). Saul's persecution of David was so severe that David was forced to disguise himself as a

madman. It seemed as if there was no place for him in the land of Christ. In Isaiah 8 the good land was called the land of Immanuel. There was no place for this God-fearing and God-loving man to remain in the land of Immanuel, the land of Christ.

III. STAYING IN THE CAVE OF ADULLAM AND IN MIZPEH OF MOAB AND IN THE FOREST OF HERETH OF JUDAH

David went from Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam (1 Sam. 22:1-2; cf. Ps. 57, 142, titles). From there he went to Mizpeh of Moab (1 Sam. 22:3-4). But when Gad the prophet told him to depart and go into the land of Judah, David went into the forest of Hereth of Judah (v. 5).

IV. SAUL KILLING AHIMELECH THE PRIEST AND HIS FAMILY BECAUSE OF DAVID

When Ahimelech's supplying of David was reported to Saul, he killed Ahimelech and his family (vv. 6-23; cf. Ps. 52, title). This shows that Saul was utterly rebellious toward God. He had no subordination to God, nor did he take God as his King and Head. He was constituted with rebellion, which equals the worship of idols (15:23). Every case of rebellion is a matter of presumption, a matter of daring to do things without God.

V. DEFEATING THE PHILISTINES AND STAYING IN KEILAH

According to 23:1-12 David defeated the Philistines and stayed in Keilah. Even though David was persecuted, he could still fight against the Philistines. However, instead of staying in the proper place, the good land, he stayed in Keilah.

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

VI. REMAINING IN THE WILDERNESS OF ZIPH

David remained in the wilderness of Ziph (vv. 13-28; cf. Ps. 54, 63, titles).

A. Saul Seeking Him Every Day, but God Not Delivering Him into Saul's Hand

Even though Saul sought for David every day, God did not deliver him into Saul's hand (1 Sam. 23:14).

B. David Being Strengthened by Jonathan the Son of Saul to Trust in God

David was strengthened by Jonathan the son of Saul to trust in God (vv. 15-18). There was an occasion when Jonathan could leave Saul and come to David for the purpose of strengthening him. Jonathan was surely a great provision for David.

C. David Hurrying to Get Away from Saul

David hurried to get away from Saul, while Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men in order to capture them. Then a message came to Saul that the Philistines had raided the land. So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went to meet the Philistines (vv. 25-28).

VII. DAVID GOING UP FROM THE WILDERNESS OF ZIPH AND REMAINING IN THE STRONGHOLDS OF EN-GEDI

David went up from the wilderness of Ziph and remained in the strongholds of En-gedi (v. 29). When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told where David was, and Saul took three thousand choice men and went to seek David (24:1-2).

VII. SAUL FALLING INTO THE HAND OF DAVID, BUT DAVID NOT KILLING HIM

A. This Being God's Discipline on Saul in His Pursuing of David

When David and his men were hiding in a deep cave, Saul fell into David's hand (vv. 3-4a). This was God's discipline on Saul in his pursuing of David.

B. David Not Killing Saul but Only Cutting Off a Corner of Saul's Cloak

David would not kill Saul but only cut off a corner of Saul's cloak. However, even for this David's heart smote him, because of his fear of God in that Saul was God's anointed (vv. 4b-7). In God's kingdom there is a divine order of authority. Saul was not a self-appointed king; he was the king appointed and anointed by God.

Saul was therefore the divine authority, and David feared God in this. David kept the God-ordained order of authority among God's elect. By so doing, David laid a good foundation for himself to be the king of God's elect in the coming days. If he had rebelled against Saul, then he would have been to the people an example of rebellion against the God-ordained, appointed king.

C. David Pleading with Saul

David pleaded with Saul, and Saul was somewhat influenced by David's appeal (vv. 8-15). What David did here was exactly what the New Testament teaches concerning not repaying evil for evil but overcoming evil with good (Rom. 12:17, 21).

D. David's God-fearing and God-honoring Life Subduing the Reckless Saul

Finally, David's God-fearing and God-honoring life subdued the reckless Saul and stopped Saul from pursuing him (1 Sam. 24:16-22). In his relationship with Saul, David is a very good pattern for us in the church life today.

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

In the long section concerned with David's being persecuted and tried by Saul, there are two striking points—God's sovereignty and David's taking the lessons of the cross.

VIII. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

The first striking point in this portion of 1 Samuel is God's sovereignty. It is crucial for us to have a vision of God's sovereignty. As the sovereign One, God is above everything, behind everything, and in everything.

A. Preparing Saul to Perfect David

On the one hand, God prepared David to be a man according to His heart for His kingdom. On the other hand, God prepared a Saul to perfect David by testing him and putting him on trial. Saul was produced and prepared through God's sovereignty. Without Saul, David would have been greatly lacking in perfecting. David's father and brothers did not care very much for him. David received only a limited perfecting through his experience with the lion and the bear. The greatest part of David's perfecting took place

through Saul. Under God's sovereignty, Saul was an excellent perfecter.

B. Preparing Jonathan and Michal to Help David

In His sovereignty God not only prepared Saul to perfect David but also prepared Jonathan, the son of Saul, and Michal, the daughter of Saul who became David's wife, to help David. Apart from the help rendered by Jonathan and Michal, David could not have endured being persecuted and tried by Saul. The sovereign God prepared David and, for David's sake, He also prepared Saul, Jonathan, and Michal.

C. DAVID'S TAKING THE LESSONS OF THE CROSS

The second striking point in this section of 1 Samuel is David's taking the lessons of the cross.

1. Always under the Cross

Although David was persecuted and suffered so much, he never fought, reacted, or responded. Using the New Testament term, he was always under the cross. He bore the cross every day under any kind of situation. He did not complain, criticize, oppose, or condemn. He was just under the cross to suffer the dealing.

2. Christ within Us Being the One Who Bears the Cross

The New Testament speaks of bearing the cross, but who is able to do this? Philippians 3:10 indicates that the strength for us to bear the cross is the power of Christ's resurrection. We have One who is not only resurrection power—we have One who Himself is the resurrection (John 11:25). He is our Jonathan and our Michal. He is much greater than Jonathan and Michal, and He is nearer to us. We have a Christ who is in us. While we are bearing the cross, actually we are not the ones who are doing this. The Christ who is within us is the One who bears the cross.

In the New Testament there are two crucial "ins." The New Testament revelation emphasizes the fact that, on the one hand, Christ is in us (Rom. 8:10; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Col. 1:27) and that, on the other hand, we are in Christ (John 14:20; 15:4; Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:17; 12:2; Gal. 3:27-28). How wonderful it is that we are in Christ and that Christ is in us! The entering of Noah and his family into the ark, a type of

Christ, illustrates that our Christ today is enterable. However, this illustration is limited, because although Noah could enter into the ark, the ark could not enter into Noah. We therefore must go on to see that Christ is not only the enterable One—He is also the entering One, the One who has come into us to live in us and to bear the cross within us.

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

3. God's Provision

As David was taking the lessons of the cross, he enjoyed God's provision. Jonathan was a type of Christ as God's provision, and Michal was a type of God's provision. We have seen that when David was persecuted by Saul, he did not react in a negative way, and he did not complain, condemn, criticize, or oppose. The only thing he did was flee. As God's provision to David, both Jonathan and Michal helped David to flee. Without them, David would not have had a way to escape from Saul (1 Sam. 20:1-42; 19:11-18). Eventually, David "graduated" from his trials under Saul. If God had graded David, He surely would have given him the highest mark.

4. David Being the Gainer and the Enjoyer

Under God's sovereignty, David took the lessons of the cross. Because of this David eventually was not a loser but a gainer, not a sufferer but an enjoyer. Whereas David became the winner, Saul was the loser and also the sufferer.

The situation should be the same with us today. We need to learn two vital lessons—the lesson of God's sovereignty and the lesson of taking the cross with the power of resurrection. If we would be quiet, remaining in a situation under the cross, we may apparently be the losers and the sufferers, but actually we are the gainers and the enjoyers. The more we learn the lessons of God's sovereignty and of taking the cross, the more we will be the gainers and the enjoyers.

IX. READING 1 AND 2 SAMUEL WITH A VIEW OF GOD'S ECONOMY

We need to read the books of 1 and 2 Samuel with a view of God's economy. In particular, we need to have the view of one who sees God's sovereignty and who has received the grace to learn to suffer under the cross while enjoying all the provisions afforded by the processed,

consummated Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

In the New Testament we have the pure revelation, but we do not have very many illustrations. However, the books of history in the Old Testament, especially 1 and 2 Samuel, contain many stories that actually are illustrations of the New Testament revelation. There are a number of lessons that we cannot learn adequately without these illustrations. As we read the stories in these books, we need to pray with Paul that "the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory," would give us "a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him" (Eph. 1:17). If we have such a spirit, then in the record concerning David's trials under Saul we will see the Triune God, the cross of Christ, and the power of His resurrection.