

Lesson 2

1 Samuel 16 - 21

In our last study, we talked about how Samuel anointed Saul as king. Saul had sinned against God three times. Saul had failed as king. God was sorry that he had made Saul king. Samuel was very sad about all that had happened with Saul.

God appeared to Samuel and told him that it was time to choose another king to take Saul's place. (1 Sam. 16:1) God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem. God was going to show Samuel who the next king would be.

There was a man in Bethlehem named Jesse. Jesse had 8 sons. God had chosen one of Jesse's sons as the next king. (1 Samuel 16:1) God told Samuel that He judged a man by his heart, not by his outward appearance. Jesse's sons walked before Samuel. God did not give Samuel a sign to show him who would be king. Samuel asked Jesse if that was all of his sons. Jesse told Samuel that his youngest son, David, was tending the sheep. Samuel told Jesse to send for his youngest son.

David was a shepherd. He took care of his father's sheep. While David watched the sheep, he would play his harp. David wrote poems and songs. These songs and poems showed how much he loved and trusted the Lord. Jesse sent for David like Samuel had told him to do.

David went to Samuel. The Lord spoke to Samuel and said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" (1 Sam. 16:12)

David was chosen by God to be the next king.

Samuel took his horn of oil and poured it on David's head. He anointed David as king. David's brothers were there with them. (1 Sam. 16:13) Samuel left and went back home.

King Saul became more and more unhappy. One of King Saul's servants knew that Jesse had a son who played the harp. (1 Sam. 16:18) The servant knew that David was honest and kind. He knew that David was special to God. The servant sent for David.

David played his harp for Saul. It made Saul feel better when David was around. Saul was so pleased with David that he made him his armor bearer. Saul and David became good friends.

There was a man in the Philistine army named Goliath. He was a very big man. He was nine feet tall. Every day Goliath would yell out to the Israelites. He told them to send someone out to fight him. Goliath said that if an Israelite came out to fight and killed him, the Philistines would be their servants. But, if Goliath killed the Israelite, they would be servants for the Philistines. (1 Sam. 17:9)

The Philistines gathered their army to fight the Israelites again. The Philistines were camped near Sochoh. Saul's army was camped at the Valley of Elah.

The Philistines were up on the mountain on one side of the valley. The Israelites were on the mountain on the other side of the valley. The valley was between them. (1 Sam. 17:3) David's brothers, Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah, had gone with Saul into battle. (1 Sam. 17:13) Goliath went out and yelled at the Israelites every day for 40 days. The Israelites were afraid.

David had returned home to help his father with his sheep. Jesse went to David and asked him to take food to his brothers at the camp. David got up early in the morning to travel to the Valley of Elah where the men were fighting. David found his brothers.

As David was talking to his brothers, the giant came out from the Philistine camp. Again he yelled to the Israelites. The men of the Israelite army were afraid. David heard the words the giant spoke. He started to ask questions. (1 Sam. 17:23)

A man went to tell Saul the things David was saying. Saul sent for David. David wanted to fight the giant. Saul told David that he was too young to fight the Philistine giant. David told Saul how he had killed a lion and a bear to protect his father's sheep. (1 Sam. 17: 34-35) The Lord had helped David kill the lion and bear. David knew that the Lord would be with him to fight the giant. Saul told David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!" (1 Sam. 17:37)

Saul put his armor and bronze helmet on David. David tried to walk in the armor. David told Saul, "I cannot walk with these". Then David took them off. (1 Sam. 17:39)

David chose 5 smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. (1 Sam. 17:40) Then the giant came closer to David. The giant laughed at David. David told the giant, "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..." (1 Sam. 17:45) David knew that the Israelites were God's people. He knew God would be with him to win over the Philistine.

The giant came towards David. David took a stone out of his shepherd's pouch. He put it in his sling. David sent the stone flying in the air towards the giant.

The stone hit the giant right on his forehead and killed him. (1 Sam. 17:49) David did not have a sword, so he took the sword from the giant and cut off his head. (1 Sam. 17:51)

When the Israelites saw the giant was dead, they ran towards the Philistines. The Philistines saw their champion was dead and they were scared. They ran away. The Israelites ran after them and defeated them.

The Israelites knew it took a lot of courage for David to do what he did. Saul asked his chief soldier, Abner, who David's father was. Abner did not know. After the battle, Abner took David into Saul's tent. David told Saul that he was the son of Jesse. Saul would not allow David to go home to his father. (1 Sam. 18:2) He wanted David to stay with him. Saul was so thankful for what David had done. He made David an officer in his army. Saul had a son named Jonathan. David and Jonathan became best friends.

The people were talking about the great things David had done. One day when David and Jonathan were coming home from a battle, some women came out of the cities of Israel and were singing a song about David. They sang, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." (1 Sam. 18:7) Saul was very angry and jealous because the people loved David so much.

The next day, David went to play his harp for Saul as he had done many times before. Saul was so jealous of David that he tried to kill him with his spear. But David got away from Saul. (1 Sam. 18:11) Saul sent David into many battles hoping he would be killed. But God was with David and kept him safe.

Saul had a daughter named Michal. Saul had a plan. He told David that he could marry Michal if he would go into battle and kill 100 Philistines. Saul was really hoping David would get killed. Instead, David killed 200 Philistines. (1 Sam. 18:27) Saul had to let David marry Michal. Michal loved David very much. That made Saul even more jealous.

When Saul's plan did not work, he told Jonathan and some of his servants to kill David. They would not do it. Jonathan talked to Saul. He reminded Saul that David had been a very faithful servant to him. Jonathan brought David to Saul. Things were better for a short time. But Saul was still so jealous of David.

Jonathan loved David like a brother. He was afraid that Saul might kill David. Jonathan told David to hide in the fields because Saul wanted to kill him. (1 Sam. 20:31) Saul asked Jonathan to get David and bring him to him. Jonathan would not tell Saul where David was hiding. Saul was very angry at Jonathan. He threw a spear at him.

The next morning Jonathan went out in the field to see David. He told David to go away so Saul could not kill him. Jonathan and David made a covenant with each other. They agreed to always be friends. They agreed to always be kind to the children they would have. They both agreed to stay faithful to God. (1 Sam. 20:42) Jonathan went back to the city. David went away to another city so Saul would not kill him.