

Lessons from the Life of King David

Welcome to our new Bible series which will examine the life of King David! I'm sure that you will find this study to be an exciting and enlightening one! King David's life has a little bit of everything in it—success, failure, betrayal, adultery, triumph, sin, shame, friendship and war. Our goal for this eight-week adventure into David's life is to take lessons from his life and apply the things we've learned to our own lives. Let's get started...

Lesson One: A Heart that is Pleasing to God...

- As we begin this series, it is important to give you some background information about the story of David before we actually meet him...
 - The Lord calls Samuel to be a prophet.
 - I Samuel 3: 10-11
 - Samuel grows up in the Lord and later becomes a key leader in Israel because of he is a prophet of the Lord.
 - I Samuel 3: 19-21
 - God leads the people of Israel, but Israel seeks to be like other nations and have a king reign over them. God instructs his prophet, Samuel, to warn the people of Israel that a king will rule over them and force them into hard labor and take the best of their portions for himself and his attendants.
 - I Samuel 8: 6-7

Background Information

- The people refuse to listen to Samuel, and thus, the Lord instructs Samuel to give the people what they have asked for and to begin a search for a king.
 - I Samuel 8: 19-20
- The Lord instructs Samuel to anoint Saul as King.
 - I Samuel 9: 17
- The Spirit of God came upon Saul and enabled him to be Israel's king.
 - I Samuel 10: 9-10
- After some success, Saul begins to gradually not follow the commands of the Lord exactly as they have been given to him. The more success he has, the more that Saul becomes conceited and full of himself.
 - I Samuel 13: 13
- As a result of Saul's disobedience and arrogance, the Lord rejects him as king and instructs Samuel to begin a new search for the leader of the people of Israel.
 - I Samuel 13: 14

King Saul



The Story of David

- I Samuel 16: 1-13
 - I Samuel 16: 7
 - In his search, Samuel assumes that the oldest and tallest son of Jesse's is the person the Lord wants him to anoint as king, but the Lord responds and says, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
 - Question for Thought: What does the scripture tell us about how the Lord views us as individuals? How should we evaluate the people who are in our lives or who we are considering making an important part of our lives?

David



The Story of David

- I Samuel 16: 14-23
 - The Lord has put His plan in action. He is putting everything in place to have David meet Saul and begin the transfer of power.
Question for Thought: Isn't it amazing how the Lord uses his power to bring people into our lives? Just as the Lord made a way for David to be the person selected to be in service to Saul, He can also bring the right person into your life to carry out His divine plan.

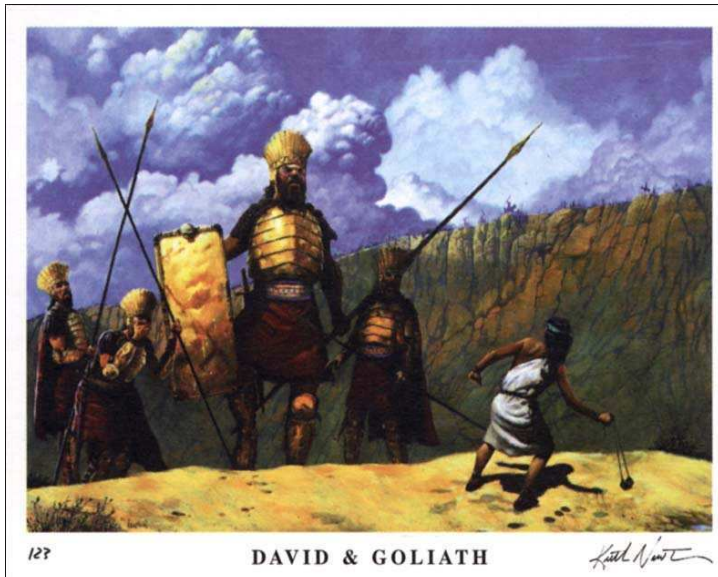
The Story of David

- Questions to Consider:
 1. We learn that King Saul is rejected by the Lord because of his disobedience and arrogance. What is the message for us as Christians today?
 2. The people of Israel insist upon appointing a King despite the warnings the Lord sent through His prophet. The Bible also warns us about consequences for our actions. Sometimes we heed His warnings and other times we go against the advice of the Lord. Why do we go against His advice when we know there are consequences for our actions?

The Story of David

- Questions to Consider:
 3. The more successful King Saul becomes, the further he seems to grow away from the Lord. Can success be a hindrance for the Christian in terms of having a strong relationship with Christ?
 4. The Lord instructs Samuel to anoint David as the future king. If you had to speculate based upon why King Saul was rejected by the Lord, what qualities do you think the Lord was looking for in His search for a new king. What qualities would you expect David to possess?
 5. David is later described as a “*man after God’s own heart*”. If we are trying to be men and women after God’s own heart, what qualities should we strive to have?

David faces Goliath



Next Week's Lesson

- David begins his journey to the kingship and faces his first major test—Goliath. We all have encountered a Goliath in our lives. Sometimes problems are just too big for us to handle, but with the help of the Lord, we can be victorious. Next week, we will explore David's approach in handling Goliath and how we might handle the Goliath-sized problems in our own lives.

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