

From Shepherd to King: David

The Story: part 11

November 20, 2016

After the national and spiritual disaster of Israel during the three hundred years in the book of Judges, and the disaster of King Saul, there finally comes one of Israel's golden eras – the kingship of David. We'll look at the high points this week.

DAY 1: A man after God's heart

1. The prophet Samuel gets an assignment to anoint a new king. He is sent to the grandson of Ruth and Boaz, a man named Jesse who has seven grown sons. Samuel thinks he has spotted the next king. God gives Samuel these instructions.

*1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks on the heart.**"*

2. Jesse lines up his seven grown sons. Samuel looks at them one-by-one.

1 Samuel 16:8 Then Jesse called Abin'adab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."¹⁰ And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he comes here."¹² And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he."

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

*Acts 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king; of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse **a man after my heart, who will do all my will.**'*

3. Notice what God was looking for: "a man after my heart, who will do all my will."

4. This does not mean he has a perfect heart. It doesn't mean that he wins every battle with sin. He values what God values above what he values and the culture values. God's priorities became his priorities. How do you know that? Just read the book of Psalms.

1 Chronicles 17:7 "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people Israel.'

5. Think about your own heart. Is it committed to the things of God? Is it committed to doing His will in spite of the temptations and difficulties of life?

DAY 2: David v. Goliath

1. Meanwhile, the Philistine army has invaded the land. They are on one ridge, the Hebrew army on the facing ridge, a valley in between.

1 Samuel 17:4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall.

1 Samuel 17:8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. ⁹ If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." ¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." ¹¹ On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

2. This occurred every day for forty days!

3. While this is going on, young David delivers the family groceries to his older brothers who are soldiers. He hears the taunting and abruptly volunteers to fight Goliath! Saul is less than enthusiastic but NO ONE else has volunteered. David reminds King Saul that though he might think David young and inexperienced, he has killed a lion and a bear.

1 Samuel 17:37 The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

4. David leaves the sword behind. Instead he arms himself with five stones and a sling.

1 Samuel 17:41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. ⁴² He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. ⁴³ He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

⁴⁶ This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

⁴⁸ As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

1 Samuel 17:49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

5. Go back and underline every word or phrase that deals with David's attitude. What strikes you most from David?

DAY 3: Waiting on God; dealing with King Saul; “The Fugitive”

1. There is a difference between being *anointed* king and being *inaugurated* king. David had to wait many years before he could become king.

2. After killing Goliath, David became a national hero! King Saul was furious. In the following verses, underline the sin you see in King Saul.

1 Samuel 18:6 When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes.

⁷ As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

⁸ Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" ⁹ And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

¹⁰ The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand ¹¹ and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

3. Eventually, David would have to flee for his life, becoming a fugitive.

4. Imagine you were David.

- a. You became a national hero,
- b. Samuel, the prophet anointed you king.
- c. You can't take the throne until King Saul dies.
- d. King Saul has already tried to kill you,
- e. You flee for your life,
- f. You live the life of a fugitive out in the desert and wilderness wasteland...
- g. ... for years.

5. What questions would you ask God?

6. How would you “process” or think about the situation? What would anchor you?

DAY 4: God's plan, God's way

1. David had a band of six hundred men. King Saul had three *thousand* men! David's men were constantly on the run, fleeing for their lives.

2. David's men are hiding out in a deep cave, unnoticed by King Saul. Saul enters the dark cave to do "personal business."

3. David's men see this as an "opportunity" to kill Saul and rid them all of this nemesis! How would David respond?

1 Samuel 24:4 The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁵ *Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.*

⁶ *He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD."*

⁷ *With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.*

4. What values drove David's decisions?

5. After Saul and his men had traveled down the mountain ...

⁸ *Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. ⁹ He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'? ¹⁰ This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD's anointed.'*

6. David takes a big risk here. King Saul could have just ordered an attack! He doesn't. David continues...

¹¹ *See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. ¹² May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.*

¹³ *As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you. ¹⁴ "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? ¹⁵ May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand."*

7. What values in verses 11-15 are driving David's decisions and actions?

DAY 5: Highlights of David's reign

1. The book of 1 Samuel ends with King Saul in a battle with the Philistines. Israel loses. Just before Saul is captured he commits suicide so as not to be taken alive.

2. Shortly afterward, David becomes king over Judah (not yet the whole country) The golden years of Israel are about to unfold!

3. Here is a brief history and timeline of “the glory years.”

a. King Saul commits suicide rather than be taken alive in battle. (1 Sam. 31)

b. David grieves Saul's and Jonathan's death. (2 Sam. 1)

c. David is anointed king over Judah, but not the whole country, yet (2 Sam. 2)

d. David marries several women (a bad idea), and has six sons. (2 Sam. 3)

e. David becomes king over all Israel (2 Sam. 5)

f. David reigned seven years just over Judah. He reigned another thirty-three years over all Israel, including Judah, a total of forty years.

g. The ark of the covenant is brought back to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6)

h. David wants to build the temple (2 Sam. 7)

i. David's many military victories; the territory expands (2 Sam. 8)

j. David is kind to the descendants of Saul, including Mephibosheth (2 Sam. 9)

k. The Psalms of David are written.

4. Let's finish this week with the most well-known of David's writings, the 23rd Psalm.

Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;

² he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

5. God chose David as king because of what was in his heart! What was in his heart drove his values, priorities, shaped his character, and was the driving force behind his decision-making.

6. What things strike you about David, and his heart?