

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 43 – Samuel Is Seeking Out David Through Saul’s Servants Prophesying (I Samuel 16-20)

1. Where did God tell Samuel to go to find a new king?
 - “And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, **I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons**” (I Samuel 16:1).
2. Why was Samuel reluctant to go and seek the new king God has chosen and how did God deal with his concern?
 - “And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD. And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee” (I Samuel 16:2-3).
3. What does the fear of the elders of Bethlehem tell us (I Samuel 16:4)?
 - Since Samuel was a prophet, they feared he came to pronounce a judgment upon them. This tells us that there were things going on to cause that fear (cf. **Judges 6:8-10, I Kings 16:7, and Jeremiah 7:25-26**).
4. What did the Lord instruct Samuel to do as he mistook Eliab as God’s choice?
 - “And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD’S anointed is before him. But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart” (I Samuel 16:6-7).
5. Which of Jesse’s sons was chosen as the next king?
 - “Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon **David** from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah” (I Samuel 16:10-13).
6. As the Spirit of the Lord comes upon David, what happens to Saul?
 - “But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him” (I Samuel 16:14).
7. What events take place to remove the evil spirit from Saul?
 - “And Saul’s servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, **to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is**

upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well. And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me. Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him” (I Samuel 16:15-23).

8. As the Philistines gathered their armies to battle, what challenge was made defying the armies of Israel?

- *“And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span [9’ 9” - Clarke; Barnes; 9’ 2” K&D]. And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver’s beam; and his spear’s head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together” (I Samuel 17:4-10).*

9. What was the response of Saul and all Israel to the challenge made unto them?

- They were dismayed, and greatly afraid (I Samuel 17:11).

10. How often and how long did the Philistine make his challenge to Israel?

- *“And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days” (I Samuel 17:16).*

11. How does David become involved in the challenge made by the Philistine?

- David had gone back to his father’s sheep in Bethlehem and three of his eight brothers went to war (I Samuel 17:13-15).
- *“And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as*

the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren. **And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them.** And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. **And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?** And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner. And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. **And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine” (I Samuel 17:17-32).**

12. What did David say to convince Saul that he could go up against the Philistine?

- “*And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.* And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee” (I Samuel 17:33-37).

13. Did David wear Saul’s armor as he went to the Philistine?

- No: “*And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine” (I Samuel 17:38-40).*

14. As David and the Philistine meet, what does David’s response to the Philistine show us?

- David knew God was the deliver as he shows us through his statements of faith: “*And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he despised him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. **This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand;** and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that **the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands**” (I Samuel 17:42-47).*

15. Who is victorious in the battle between David and the Philistine?

- The Lord as David did as he said he would with God’s aid: “*And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron” (I Samuel 17:48-52).*

16. Does Saul’s inquiry about the death of the Philistine show us that Saul believed in David or not?

- Saul did not think about David defeating the Philistine. Saul had become oblivious to who David even was for David was not wearing the armor (I Samuel 17:54-58).

17. Who was knit with the soul of David?

- Jonathan (I Samuel 18:1), the son of Saul (I Samuel 13:16).

18. Was David obedient to Saul?

- Yes: “*And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants” (I Samuel 18:5).*

19. What made Saul very wroth as the women came out singing to him?

- “*And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. And the women*

answered one another as they played, and said, **Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.** And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, **They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom**” (I Samuel 18:6-8)?

20. Did Saul’s anger against David cause Saul to take any action against David?

- “**And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.** And it came to pass on the morrow, **that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul,** and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and **there was a javelin in Saul's hand.** And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, **I will smite David even to the wall with it.** And **David avoided out of his presence twice.** And **Saul was afraid of David,** because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. Therefore **Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand;** and he went out and came in before the people” (I Samuel 18:9-13).

21. Did David play into Saul’s hand?

- No: “**And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.** Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them” (I Samuel 18:14-16).

22. What daughter of Saul was first promised to David?

- “**And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles.** For Saul said, **Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.** And David said unto Saul, **Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king? But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife**” (I Samuel 18:17-19).

23. Why was Saul so willing to give David the hand of his daughter Michal?

- “**And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.** And Saul said, **I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.** Wherefore Saul said to David, **Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.** And Saul commanded his servants, saying, **Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.** And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, **Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed? And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David.** And Saul said, **Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies.** But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired” (I Samuel 18:20-26).

24. Did David fulfill Saul’s requirement to have his daughter as his wife?

- Yes: “Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife. And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually. Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by” (I Samuel 18:27-30)

25. Who warned David of Saul’s intentions to kill him?

- “And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself: And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee” (I Samuel 19:1-3).

26. What did Saul tell Jonathan as Jonathan tried to save David?

- “And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good: For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause? And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain” (I Samuel 19:4-6).

27. As Saul once again wanted to kill David, how far was he willing to go to do so?

- “And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past. And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him. And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand. And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night. Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain. So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped. And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth. And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick. And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him. And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster. And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee? So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt

*in Naioth. And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah. **And Saul sent messengers to take David:** and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. And **when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise.** And Saul **sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also**” (I Samuel 19:7-21).*

28. Did God allow Saul’s servants to kill David?
 - No, they prophesied instead (I Samuel 19:20-24).
29. Did David understand why Saul wanted to kill him?
 - No, (I Samuel 20:1).
30. Was Jonathan willing to allow David to be delivered into the hands of Saul?
 - No, he made a plan to let David know if there was safety or danger (I Samuel 20:2-40).
31. What did Saul try to do to Jonathan in his anger?
 - He tried to smite him with a javelin (I Samuel 20:33).
32. What did David and Jonathan swear between themselves?
 - “*And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city*” (I Samuel 20:42).
 - We’ll later see that David even cares for the son of Jonathan in years to come.