

David Anointed King of Israel

1 Now the Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with olive oil and come. I will send you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have seen someone among his sons to reign for Me.” 2 And Samuel said, “How can I go? Saul will hear it and he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer in your arms and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” 3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You shall anoint the one I tell you.” 4 So Samuel did everything the Lord said to him and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town were astonished at meeting him, and they said, “Seer, do you come in peace?” 5 And he said, “Peaceably I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Sanctify yourselves and rejoice with me today.” Then he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and he invited them to the sacrifice. 6 And it came to be when they entered that Samuel looked at Eliab and said, “Surely the anointed of the Lord is before Him.” 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Have no regard for his outward appearance, nor for the maturity of his stature, because I have refused him. For man does not see as God sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord sees into the heart.” 8 So Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And Samuel said, “The Lord did not choose this one either.” 9 Then Jesse brought Shammah. But Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” 10 Thus Jesse brought seven of his sons before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” 11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are there any other young men here?” Then Jesse said, “There remains yet the youngest, keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.” 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, “Arise, anoint David; for he is good!” 13 Then Samuel took the horn of olive oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

David in the Court of Saul

14 But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. 15 And Saul’s servants said to him, “Behold, an evil spirit from the Lord is tormenting you. 16 Now let your servants speak before you, and let them seek for our lord a man who knows how to play the harp. And it will come to pass when the evil spirit is upon you, he will play his harp, and it will be good for you and give you rest.” 17 So Saul said to his servants, “Indeed, seek out for me a man who plays skillfully and bring him to me.” 18 Then one of his servants answered and said, “Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who understands playing on the harp, a prudent man, a man of war, wise in speech, handsome; and the Lord is with him.” 19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, “Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.” 20 And Jesse took a homer of bread, a skin of wine, and one young goat, and sent them by the hand of his son David to Saul. 21 So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. 22 Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David stand here before me, for he has found favor in my sight.” 23 So whenever the evil spirit was upon Saul, David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become well refreshed, and the evil spirit would depart from him.

1 Kingdoms 17

David and Goliath

1 Now the Philistines brought their armies together for battle, and they gathered at Sochoh of Judah. They encamped between Sochoh and Azekah in Ephes Dammim. 2 And Saul and the men of Israel gathered, and they were encamped in the valley. They were to set up in battle formation opposite the Philistines. 3 The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with the valley between them. 4 And a mighty man went out from the battle line of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath. His height was four cubits and a span. 5 He had a helmet on his head, and he wore a breastplate of chain mail; and the weight of his breastplate was five thousand shekels of brass and iron. 6 And he had armor made of bronze on his legs and a bronze shield between his shoulders. 7 Now the staff of his spear was like the beam of a loom, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels. A shield-bearer went before him. 8 Then he stood and shouted out to the armies of Israel and said to them, “Why have you come out to line up for battle against us? Am I not a Philistine, and you Hebrews of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I am able to kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us.” 10 And the Philistine said, “Look! This very day I challenge the ranks of the armies of Israel. Give me a man that the two of us can fight one on one.” 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. 12 But David said to Saul, “Let not the heart of my lord fall in regards to him. Your servant will go and fight with this foreigner.” 13 And Saul said to David, “No, you are not able to go to the Philistine to fight him, since you are a young man, and he is a man of war from his youth.” 14 But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to tend the flock for his father, and when a lion or a bear came and took a sheep out of the flock, 15 I followed it and struck it, and delivered the sheep from its mouth. And as it arose against me, I caught it by its throat and struck and killed it. 16 Your servant smote both the lion and the bear; and the uncircumcised Philistine will be as one of them to me. Will I not go and kill him today, and remove the reproach of Israel? For who is this uncircumcised one who challenged the ranks of the armies of Israel? 17 The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this uncircumcised Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord will be with you!” 18 So Saul clothed David with armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head, 19 and he girded David with his sword over his armor. David made a trial walking with them a time or two. And David said to Saul, “I am not able to go with these, for I have not tested them.” So they removed them. 20 Then David took his staff in his hand, and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook. He put them in a shepherd’s bag to store away, and in his hand was his sling. He then approached the Philistine. 21 And when Goliath saw David, he disdained him; for he was a young boy, ruddy with a good countenance. 22 So the Philistine said to David, “Am I as a dog, that you come against me with a staff and stones?” Then David said, “No, worse than a dog!” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 23 And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of heaven and the beasts of the field!” 24 Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a shield. But I come to you in

the name of the Lord Sabaoth, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you reproached today.

25 Today the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will kill you and take your head from you. And this day I will give your carcass and the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of heaven and the wild beasts of the earth, and all the earth will know that there is a God in Israel.

26 Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and the Lord will deliver you into our hands." 27 And the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David.

28 Then David put his hand in his bag and took out one stone. He slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone penetrated through his helmet and into his forehead. He fell to the ground on his face. 29 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone. He struck the Philistine and killed him, and there was no sword in the hand of David.

30 Therefore, David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword, and killed him and cut off his head. And the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, and they fled. 31 Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued them as far as the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ashkelon. And the wounded Philistines fell on the way to the gates, even as far as Gath and Ashkelon.

32 Then the men of Israel returned from pursuing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp.

33 And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem. He put his armor in his tent.

1 Kingdoms 18

Saul's Jealousy of David

1 From all the cities of Israel, women came out dancing with tambourines, with joy, and with cymbals to greet David. 2 And the women began a song and sang, "Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands." 3 These words seemed evil in the eyes of Saul, and he said to David, "They ascribed to you ten thousands, and to me they ascribed only thousands." 4 So from that day forward, Saul eyed David with suspicion, 5 as Saul was apprehensive of the mere presence of David, 6 and he removed David from himself. He made David his captain of a thousand, and he went out and came in before the people. 7 David was prudent in all his ways, and the Lord was with him. 8 And Saul saw David to be exceedingly wise, and felt challenged by his presence. 9 But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before the people.