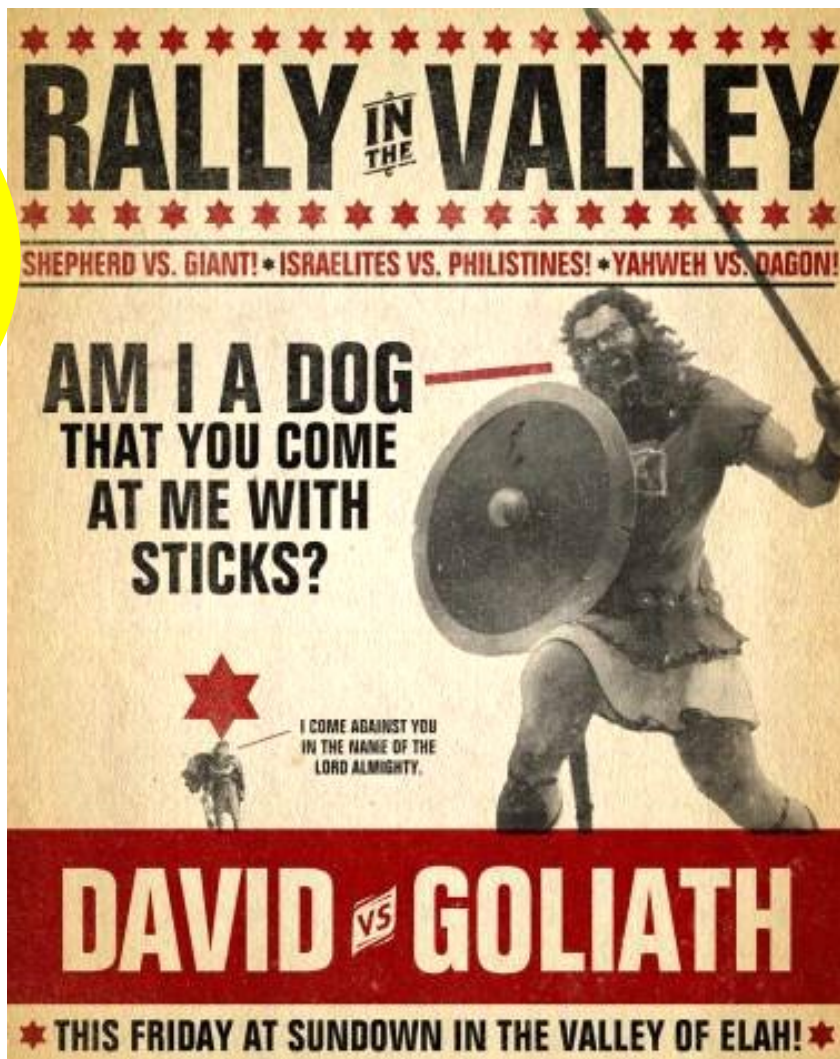


From Shepherd to King DAVID

Study #11

Saul was a man's man. He was tall, handsome, kingly and impressive... a likely choice for a king. He was just what Israel wanted. Trouble was, Saul walked away from being God's man. King Saul cut corners on God's commands. Therefore, God said sadly, "Have it your way", and cut Saul out of the picture. The LORD then chose a boy who was singing



Timeless Truth:
The LORD checks the heart-beat

1 Samuel 16-31

Jesse. He lived in a tiny village called Bethlehem. As requested by Samuel, seven of Jesse's sons were brought before him, but none were chosen. The baby brother, David, had not been invited. He was out taking care of the sheep.

The LORD told Samuel to anoint David to replace King Saul. So Samuel did. The shepherd boy then did what any responsible shepherd would do: he returned to tending his sheep.

songs and tending flocks. God's installation of this shepherd lad began in the unlikeliest of places: a house belonging to

That SLING thing

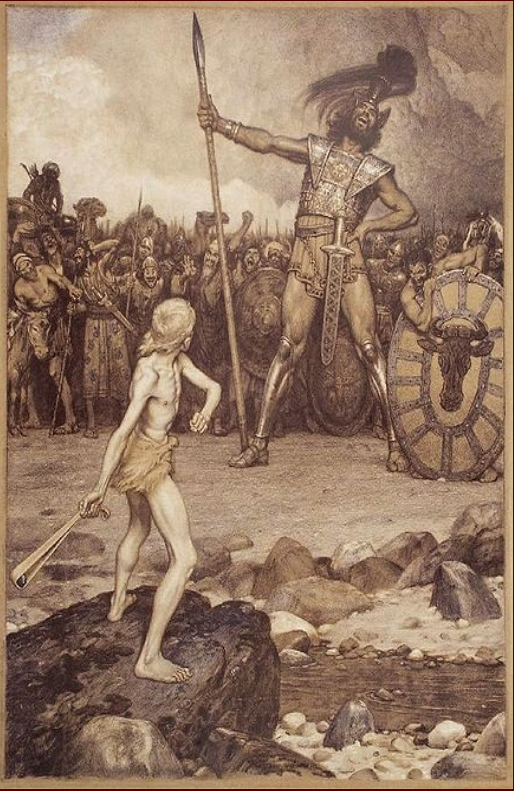
Months passed.

Then Jesse sent David to supply his brothers on the frontlines of battle against a Philistine army.

Armed trust in the living LORD, David faced down the fear around him, ran to meet Goliath head-on...and won.

The Philistine's superhero lost his head while the Philistine army cast off their courage and ran!





Poison Envy Grows

David's days in the pastures were over. Saul assigned David a high military rank. David was well liked; he was successful. He became best of friends with Saul's son, Jonathan. David married King Saul's daughter, Michal. But in Saul's dark heart, Saul's **envy**

poisoned every success of David.

The King's unfounded fits of rage and plots of murder were terrifying moments! David fled for his life. King Saul put a price on his head. David found support in the very psalms the LORD taught him to record.

In a Cave but in the Light

As Saul's envy and irrational behavior grew, so did David's popularity. Saul and his army murdered 85 Levite priests because they had fed and sheltered David.

On another occasion, David had opportunity to kill Saul, but David refused sound military advice. Instead David taught his commanders the truth: the LORD had anointed Saul to be king.

The LORD, not man, would remove the LORD's leader in the Lord's timing. In public and private, David lived in awestruck worship and gratitude

to the LORD God.

As proof that David had been in position and *could* have killed Saul, David snipped off a piece of Saul's royal robes. But then David felt guilty for even daring to steal

that piece from the Lord's leader.

David extended mercy and grace even as he confessed his guilty conscience to Saul. Saul tearfully confessed, **"You are more righteous than I. ...I know that you will surely be king..."**

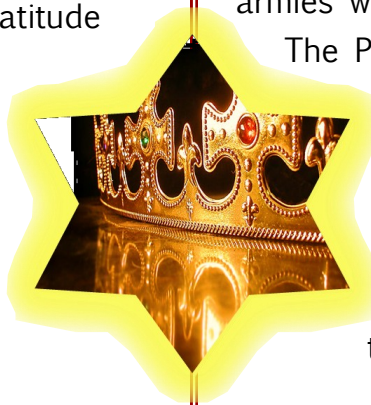
But Saul's new lease on life was as short as his fuse. The hunt to destroy David quickly carried on.

Saul's obsessive pursuit of David blinded Saul to the fact that the Philistine armies were once again on the attack.

The Philistines won. Saul and his

sons were killed. Israel was defeated.

David mourned the staggering losses for the Lord's people, for his friend, Jonathan and for King Saul.



David Dances Before the LORD—embarrasses queen by “wild behavior”

Although in the LORD’s book David was the next king, it was years before the LORD so directed things that God’s people claimed David King of all Israel. According to the LORD’s plan outlined in the books of Moses, King David became a military, civil and spiritual leader for God’s people. He conquered the city of Jerusalem, made it his capital city. David brought the

Ark of the Covenant there with great fanfare, awestruck worship and gratitude. All Israel joined

him except his wife Michal, whose empty heart left her with an empty womb.



Peace Comes To Jerusalem at Last

David was home in the capital, in his palace at last. Now there was peace. The LORD had mercifully kept His promises.

So David’s first desire was to build a temple to honor God. But God told David, “The LORD will

build a house for you.” God passed on to David the covenant He first made with Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham.

The LORD promised David an eternal reign, everlasting royal authority through David’s Descen-

dant. David responded as usual: with awestruck worship and gratitude.



David trusted the LORD's promise that whole world would see and bend the knee before his descendant, the LORD-King. Though David may not have fully recognized it at the time, the LORD had indeed already built for David a house for this coming king...the temple of David's heart.

So, now....

1. Complete this sentence:
"When someone 'defies God', I
... _____"

2. Why did Saul let David fight Goliath?

3. Saul became jealous of David. Think of a time when jealousy overtook someone you know. What happened? How might a Christian deal with envious thoughts?

4. "David went through spiritual boot camp." Comment.

5. How did the LORD use difficult, impossible times, to refine/strengthen/grow your faith?

6. 2 Samuel 7:16 is a highpoint of the books of Samuel. Why?

7. Look at the prayer recorded in 2 Samuel 7 v18-29 (see supplement). In these 11 verses what qualities do you see the LORD working in David?



8. What can I do to cultivate a heart like David's?

9. How does David's exuberant worship compare with the 'temperature' of my personal worship? Comment.

10. Since this history demonstrates that God can use my disobedient life as effectively as He can use my obedient life, what's the benefit to being obedient?

Kind Time –
How can we encourage one another this week?