

LESSON 22
"The Lord Looketh on the Heart"
1 Samuel 9-11, 13, 15-17

OVERVIEW:

Israel wants a king. Saul is chosen. Saul sins and does not repent. David is then chosen to be the king. Israel's wanting a king meant that they were rejecting Jehovah as their King. Samuel's sons are judges, but they take bribes and are corrupt. The people want a king. Samuel tries to tell them why they should not have a king. 8:7. They have rejected the Lord, not Samuel. 8:19

SCRIPTURES:

THE FIRST BOOK OF
SAMUEL
OTHERWISE CALLED
THE FIRST BOOK OF THE KINGS
CHAPTER 9

Saul the son of Kish, a Benjamite, is a choice and goodly person—He is sent to seek his father's asses—The Lord reveals to Samuel the seer that Saul is to be king—Saul goes to Samuel and is entertained by him.

1 NOW there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was ^aKish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

2 And he had a son, whose name was ^aSaul, a choice young man, and a ^bgoodly: and *there was not* among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward *he was* ^chigher than any of the people.

3 And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.

4 And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found *them* not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and *there they were* not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found *them* not.

5 *And* when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that *was* with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave *caring* for the asses, and take thought for us.

6 And he said unto him, Behold now, *there is* in this city a man of God, and *he is* an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can shew us our way that we should go.

7 Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, *if* we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and *there is* not a ^apresent to bring to the man of God: what have we?

8 And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: *that* will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.

9 (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to ^aenquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the ^bseer: for *he that is now called* a ^cProphet was beforetime called a ^dSeer.)

10 Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God *was*.

11 ¶ *And* as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?

12 And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, *he is* ^abefore you (ie just ahead): make haste now,

for he came to day to the city; for *there is* a sacrifice of the people to day in the high place:

13 As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; *and* afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.

14 And they went up into the city: *and* when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out ^aagainst them (or towards them, to meet them), for to go up to the high place. (Saul is sent by his father to look for some lost donkeys. They can't find them and decide to go to Samuel to see if he will tell them where the donkeys can be found. Saul is a choice young man and a good man. He is taller than most of the people by about a foot. – v.2 Saul has faith that the prophet Samuel can tell him where the lost donkeys are. V.6. Samuel has the Urim and Thummim. He is a seer.)

15 ¶ Now the ^aLORD[•] had ^btold Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,

16 To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt ^aanoint him *to be* (a) captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their ^bcry is come unto me.

17 And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.

18 Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house *is*.

19 And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I *am* the ^aseer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me to day, and to morrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that *is* in thine heart.

20 And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom *is* all the desire of Israel? *Is it* not on thee, and on all thy father's house?

21 And Saul answered and said, *Am* not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the ^aleast of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou ^bso to me (Heb this way to me according to this manner)?

22 And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the ^aparlour, (or dining area) and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which *were* about thirty persons.

23 And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, ^aSet it by thee (or set it aside).

24 And the cook took up the ^ashoulder, and *that* which *was* upon it, and set *it* before Saul. And *Samuel* said, Behold that which is left! set *it* before thee, *and* eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day.

25 ¶ And when they were come down from the high place into the city, *Samuel* communed with Saul upon the ^atop of the house.

26 And they arose early: and it came to pass ^aabout the spring of the day (or at dawn), that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad.

27 *And* as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but ^astand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God. (Samuel is told by the Lord that he will be meeting Saul. They meet and Samuel invites Saul and his servant to be his guests at the feast. Samuel is commanded to anoint Saul to be captain over Israel, not king. Samuel tells Saul that the donkeys have been found. V.20. Saul says he is of the smallest family in the smallest tribe. V. 21. They conversed all night. V. 25-26.)

CHAPTER 10

Samuel anoints Saul to be captain over the Lord's inheritance—Samuel manifests gift of seership—Saul prophesies among the prophets, and the Lord gives him a new heart—He is chosen king at Mizpeh.

1 THEN Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured *it* upon his head, and kissed him, and said, *Is it* not because the LORD hath ^aanointed thee *to be* captain over his inheritance? (Anointing with oil was a symbol of endowment with the Spirit of God; as the oil itself, by virtue of the strength which it gives to the vital spirit, was a symbol of the Spirit of God as the principle of divine and spiritual power. When Saul, therefore, was consecrated as king by anointing, the monarchy was inaugurated as a divine institution. Keil and Delitzsh, Commentary 2:2:95)

2 When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?

3 Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Beth-el, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine:

4 And they will ^asalute thee, and give thee two *loaves* of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands. (The act of the gift of the two loaves of bread was in homage on the part of the godly in Israel, but it did not supercede nor swallow up the higher homage to God – only two loaves out of all the sacrificial gifts being presented to Saul. This would indicate royalty in subordination to God. Alfred Edersheim, Bible History: Old Testament 4: Chapter 5.)

5 After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where *is* the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a ^apipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy: (The prophets: There were at that time prophetic associations called the "school of the prophets." It became a permanent institution in Israel. For the effect of music is to detach from surrounding circumstances, to call forth strong feelings, and to make us yield ourselves implicitly to their influence. The music created a heightened state of spirituality. Just like the effect of music on us today. Alfred Edersheim, Bible History: Old Testament 4: Chapter 5.)

6 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt ^aprophesy with them, and shalt be ^bturned into another man.

7 And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, *that* thou do ^aas occasion serve thee (ie whatever occasion demands); for God *is* with thee.

8 And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer ^aburnt offerings, *and* to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry (Wait seven days. This was a test.), till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do. (Samuel anoints Saul to be the captain of Israel. Samuel prophecies of events that would soon happen to Saul. Samuel says they will meet again in Gilgal. Saul is given two loaves of bread by sons of the prophets.)

9 ¶ And it was *so*, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another ^aheart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of ^aprophets met him; and the ^bSpirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. (The Lord will work with us even if, at first, we can no more than desire but are willing to give place for a portion of His words. A small foothold is all He needs. But we must desire and provide it. Neal A. Maxwell, If Thou Endure It Well, p. 51. D&C 64: 34 Behold, the Lord ^arequireth the ^bheart and a ^cwilling mind; and the willing and ^dobedient shall ^eeat the good of the land of Zion in these last days.)

11 And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What *is* this *that* is come unto the son of Kish? *Is* Saul also among the prophets?

12 And one of the same place answered and said, But who *is* their father? Therefore it became a proverb, *Is* ^aSaul also among the prophets?

13 And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place. (Saul is given a new heart.)

Saul meets a company of prophets. Saul prophesies. The people take notice that Saul prophesies and ask if he is not a prophet?)

14 ¶ And Saul's uncle said unto him and to his servant, Whither went ye? And he said, To seek the asses: and when we saw that *they were* no where, we came to Samuel.

15 And Saul's uncle said, Tell me, I pray thee, what Samuel said unto you.

16 And Saul said unto his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not.

17 ¶ And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh;

18 And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, *and* of them that oppressed you:

19 And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your ^aadversities and your ^btribulations; and ye have said unto him, *Nay*, but set a ^cking over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

20 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken.

21 When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found.

22 Therefore they ^aenquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff. (Samuel uses the Urim and Thummim.)

23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was ^ahigher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

24 And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that *there is* none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the ^akingdom, and ^bwrote *it* in a ^cbook, and laid *it* up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house. (Samuel still tries to talk Israel out of having a king. Samuel says that Israel has rejected the Lord. They insist. Saul is called but is hiding. The people choose Saul as their king. Why was Saul chosen to be king? The new king was to embody in the person of the new king the ideal which Israel had had in view of making their demand for a monarchy. He should reflect their religious standpoint at its best; but he should also represent their national failings and the inmost defect of the religious life that of combining zeal for the religion of Jehovah, and outward conformity to it, with utter want of real heart submission to the Lord, and of true devotedness to Him. They got exactly what they wanted. The history of Saul is a summary and a reflection of that of Israel. They wanted not only a king, but royalty like that of the nations around and for the purpose of outward deliverance, thus forgetting God's dealings, disclaiming simple trust in Him, and disbelieving the sufficiency of His leadership. Saul was the king after the peoples' heart. The people are called to a solemn assembly in Mizpeh. His hiding: The people saw nothing in his conduct that seemed to them strange, and so we may take it that it was just up to the level of their own conceptions, though to us it appears very different from what a hero of God would have done. Alfred Edersheim, Bible History: Old Testament 4: Chapter 5.)

26 ¶ And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

27 But the children of Belial said, How shall this man ^asave us? And they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he ^bheld his peace. (ie ignored them)

CHAPTER 11

Ammonites encamp against Israelites of Jabesh-gilead—Saul rescues them and wreaks havoc upon Ammonites—His kingship is renewed in Gilgal.

1 THEN Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabesh-gilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee.

2 And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this *condition* will I make a *covenant* with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it *for* a reproach ~~upon~~ (in) all Israel.

3 And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if *there be* no man to save us, we will come out to thee.

4 ¶ Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

5 And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What *aieth* the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh.

6 And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly.

7 And he took a yoke of oxen, and ^ahewed them in pieces (or cut), and ^bsent *them* throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

8 And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

9 And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabesh-gilead, To morrow, by *that time* the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed *it* to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.

10 Therefore the men of Jabesh said, To morrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you.

11 And it was *so* on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: (the morning watch – between three and six o'clock in the morning. When the camp was the most secure. A general panic occurred and they were destroyed.) and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together. (The Ammonites encamp against Israel. The Ammonites offer that if Israel will let them take out their right eye, they will not be destroyed. Israel considers it. Word gets to Saul. He gets angry, kills an oxen and sends pieces of it to the twelve tribes saying that if they don't come, they will become as this oxen. 300,000 come. The Ammonites are destroyed. This form of "cutting covenant" is found throughout scriptures employed to bind promises and obedience upon an individual as well as penalties for infidelity.)

12 ¶ And the people said unto Samuel, Who *is* he that said, Shall Saul ^areign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death.

13 And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.

14 Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.

15 And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly. (Samuel calls the people to go to Gilgal. Saul is renewed as king in Gilgal.)

CHAPTER 13

Saul offers a burnt offering, and the Lord rejects him and chooses another captain over his people.

1 SAUL reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over

2 Saul chose him three thousand *men* of Israel; *whereof* two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Beth-el, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.

3 And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that *was* in Geba, and the Philistines heard *of it*. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.

4 And all Israel heard say *that* Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and *that* Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

5 ¶ And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, (It is believed that this figure is an error in transcription. One prominent Bible authority discussed the problem and gave the opinion that the correct figure is three thousand. Clarke, Bible Commentary, 2:247.) and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which *is* on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Beth-aven.

6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did ^ahide themselves in ^bcaves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

7 And *some of* the ^aHebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he *was* yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

8 ¶ And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel *had appointed*: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

9 And ^aSaul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he ^boffered the ^cburnt offering.

10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might ^asalute him. (The Philistines gather against Israel. They have 30,000 chariots. V 5. This is an overstatement. There were probably only 1,000 or 3,000. Saul waits seven days for Samuel to offer sacrifice prior to the battle. When Samuel does not come in time, Saul offers the sacrifice. This was a test for Saul, which he failed. If he had met the test, Samuel intimates that Saul's kingdom, or royal line, would have been established. Instead his throne would pass to another.)

11 ¶ And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *that* thou camest not within the days appointed, and *that* the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I ^aforced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

14 But now thy ^akingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath ^bsought him a ^cman after his own ^dheart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.

15 And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people *that were* present with him, about six hundred men.

16 And Saul, and Jonathan his son, and the people *that were* present with them, abode in Gibeah of Benjamin: but the Philistines encamped in Michmash. (Samuel chastises Saul for offering sacrifices without the proper priesthood authority. Saul is forsaken by Samuel as king.)

17 ¶ And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies: one company turned unto the way *that leadeth to* Ophrah, unto the land of Shual:

18 And another company turned the way *to* Beth-horon: and another company turned *to* the way of the border that looketh to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness. (Spoilers are sent among the Israelites to ruin their crops and other things.)

19 ¶ Now there was no ^asmith found throughout all the land of Israel (The Israelites did not possess the skill to work with iron.): for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make *them* swords or spears:

20 But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his ^ashare, (or ploughshare) and his ^bcoulter, (ie a cutter on a plough to cut the turf) and his axe, and his mattock.

21 Yet they had a file for the ^amattocks, (ie an implement for digging and grubbing; a grubbing hoe) and for the coulter, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads. (A goad was a sharp rod about eight feet long used to prod stubborn animals.)

22 So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that *were* with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.

23 And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the ^apassage of Michmash. (There were no smiths in Israel. They made tools and weapons out of brass, not iron. It was an art they did not know.)

CHAPTER 15

Saul commanded to smite and destroy the Amalekites and all that they have—He saves some animals to sacrifice—Saul is rejected from being king, and told that to obey is better than sacrifice—Samuel destroys Agag.

1 SAMUEL also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to ^aanoint thee *to be* king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember *that* which ^aAmalek did to Israel, how he laid *wait* for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

3 Now go and smite Amalek, (The Amalekites were descendants of Esau.) and utterly ^adestroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

4 And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. (Saul is commanded by Samuel to kill all the Amalekites and destroy all their stuff. Amalekites were descended from Esau. (Genesis 36:12, 16, 1 Chronicles 1:35-36 - 35 ¶ The sons of ^aEsau; Eliphaz, Reuel, and Jeush, and Jaalam, and Korah. 36 The sons of Eliphaz; Teman, and Omar, Zephi, and Gatam, Kenaz, and Timna, and Amalek.))

6 ¶ And Saul said unto the ^aKenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah *until* thou comest to ^aShur, that *is* over against Egypt.

8 And he took ^aAgag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all *that was* good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing *that was* vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. (Saul kills them all except the king, Agag, and he keeps the best of their spoil.)

10 ¶ Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,

11 ~~It repenteth me that~~ I have set up Saul *to be* (a) king: (and he repenteth not that he hath sinned,) for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed *be* thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

14 And Samuel said, What *meaneth* then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the

sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, (Stop, cease) and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

17 And Samuel said, When thou *wast* little in thine own sight, *wast* thou not *made* the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD ^aanointed thee king over Israel?

18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* ^adelight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the ^bvoice of the LORD? Behold, to ^cobey *is* better than ^dsacrifice, *and* to hearken than the fat of ^erams.

23 For ^arebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and ^bstubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast ^crejected the word of the LORD, he hath also ^drejected thee from *being* king. (And so I repeat, do not let pride stand in your way. The way of the gospel is a simple way. Some of the requirements may appear to you as elementary and unnecessary. Do not spurn them. Humble yourself and walk in obedience. I promise that the results that follow will be marvelous to behold and satisfying to experience. Gordon B. Hinckley, Be Thou an Example, p. 68. Self-justification is the enemy of repentance. God's Spirit continues with the honest in heart to strengthen, to help, and to save, but invariably the Spirit of God ceases to strive with the man who excuses himself in his wrongdoing. Practically all dishonesty owes its existence and growth to this inward distortion we call self-justification. It is the first, the worst, and the most insidious and damaging form of cheating – to cheat oneself. Spencer W. Kimball, Faith Precedes the Miracle, p. 234.)

24 ¶ And Saul said unto Samuel, I have ^asinned: for I have ^btransgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I ^cfeared the people, and obeyed their voice.

25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it ^arent. (or was torn)

28 And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the ^akingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath ^bgiven it to a ^cneighbour of thine, *that is* better than thou.

29 And also ^athe Strength of Israel (ie the Lord) will not lie nor repent: for he *is* not a man, that he should repent.

30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD. (Samuel finds that the king is still alive and that Saul has not destroyed all their stuff. Saul rationalizes why he did not destroy all their stuff. V. 15. It is better to obey than to sacrifice. The Lord rejects Saul as king. Saul tears Samuel's cloak. Samuel explains that the kingdom is being rent from Saul. Very quick on his feet and apt to teach is Samuel. Samuel laid down the strict rules of "holy war" – that all of the spoils should be "devoted" to the Lord by destruction. The sole motivation for divinely ordained military operations must be obedience to the Lord, and must not become tainted with greed and self-interest, which inevitably lead to self-serving imperialism.)

32 ¶ Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto

him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

33 And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal. (Samuel kills Agag. Delicately means with gladness.)

34 ¶ Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless, Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that (rent the kingdom from Saul whom) he had made Saul king over Israel. (Samuel leaves Saul and never sees him again alive. Samuel mourns for Saul. The triangle of sin: In fire there are 3 elements: Oxygen, fuel, heat. In fraud there are three elements: Opportunity, Pressure or motive, Rationalization. In sin there are three elements. Opportunity, temptation, rationalization. Remove one or more of these elements and you won't sin.)

CHAPTER 16

The Lord chooses David of Beth-lehem as king—He is anointed by Samuel—Saul chooses David as his companion and armourbearer.

1 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 ^aJesse the ^bBeth-lehemite: for I have provided me a ^cking among his sons.

2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear *it*, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take a heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt ^aanoint unto me *him* whom I name unto thee.

4 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Beth-lehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: ^asanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. (Samuel is commanded to find a new king among the sons of Jesse.)

6 ¶ And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on ^aEliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed *is* before him.

7 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* ^aseeth not as ^bman seeth; for man looketh on the outward ^cappearance, but the ^dLORD looketh on the ^eheart.

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

11 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.

12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, (He had red hair.) *and* withal of a ^abeautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he.

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and ^aanointed him in the midst (This may mean he was anointed among his brethren but maybe not in their presence) of his brethren: and the ^bSpirit of the LORD came upon ^cDavid from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. (Samuel is persuaded that Jesse's oldest son should be king because he is the oldest and he looked like he could be a king. The Lord was teaching Samuel a lesson. He looks at each of Jesse's sons but is told by the Lord not to look

at their outward appearance, but on the heart, which is what the Lord looks at. David is anointed to be king. David, who eventually became the finest and most revered king Israel had, was ordained a king in obscurity and kept his obvious God-given calling quiet until the proper time. His descendant, Jesus of Nazareth, also came from obscurity and kept his holy calling unspoken until the proper time.)

14 ¶ But the ^aSpirit of the LORD ^bdeparted from Saul, and an evil spirit (which was not of) ~~efrom~~ the LORD troubled him.

15 And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an evil spirit (which is not of) ~~afrom~~ God troubleth thee.

16 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(, which is not of) ~~afrom~~ God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.

17 And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring *him* to me.

18 Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, *that is* cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and ^aprudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD *is* with him.

19 ¶ Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which *is* with the sheep.

20 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.

21 And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer.

22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight.

23 And it came to pass, when the ^aevil spirit(, which was not of) ~~bfrom~~ 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. (Saul is troubled and David plays music for him which calms his troubled spirit. Good music can soothe us.)

CHAPTER 17

Israel and the Philistines engage in war—Goliath of Gath, a giant, defies Israel, and challenges any Israelite to personal combat—David goes against him in the name of the Lord—David slays Goliath with a sling and a stone—Israel defeats the Philistines.

1 NOW the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which *belongeth* to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

2 And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines.

3 And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and *there was* a valley between them. (Philistines are on one mountain and Israel on another with a valley in between.)

4 ¶ And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of ^aGath, whose height *was* six ^bcubits and a span. (He was about 9 feet 9 inches tall.)

5 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.

6 And *he had* ^agreaves (ie shin armor) of brass upon his legs, and ^ba target of brass between his shoulders. (ie armor protecting the neck (Targum))

7 And the ^astaff 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. (Experts have estimated that Goliath's armor weighed

about 150 pounds)

8 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.

9 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.

10 And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.

11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid. (Goliath is the champion of the Philistines. He challenges Israel to send someone to fight him. Everyone is afraid to. Goliath may have been as tall as 9'9". His armor may have weighed about 150 pounds.)

12 ¶ Now ^aDavid was the son of that Ephrathite of Beth-lehem-judah, whose name was Jesse; and he had eight sons: and the man went among men *for* an old man in the days of Saul.

13 And the three eldest sons of Jesse went *and* followed Saul to the battle: and the names of his three sons that went to the battle were ^aEliab the firstborn, and next unto him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

14 And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.

15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Beth-lehem.

16 And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

17 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;

18 And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of *their* thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

19 Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. (Goliath taunts the Israelites with his threats for 40 days. David is sent by his father to give his brothers food and see how they're doing.)

20 ¶ 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.

21 For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army.

22 And David left his ^acarriage (or baggage) in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren.

23 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*.

24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

25 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.

26 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 ^aliving God?

27 And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him. (David hears the threats of Goliath. He is surprised that no one will go up against Goliath.)

28 ¶ 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. (It appears that David's brothers may not have been present when David was anointed king. They probably would not have talked to him like this if they knew he had been

anointed as king.)

29 And David said, What have I now done? *Is there* not a cause? (David's oldest brother chastises him. David says, **is there not a cause?** "I declare with all my soul – there is a cause! It is a cause worth giving one's life for. It is the cause of righteousness. It is a cause that every youth in this Church should rally to as he declares war on Satan and his legions. As David said to Goliath, so each youth should declare to Satan, '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. (Victor L. Brown, "Is there Not a Cause?" *Ensign*, Nov. 1974, p. 104.)

30 And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner.

31 And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed *them* before Saul: and he sent for him.

32 ¶ And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant ^awill go and ^bfight with this Philistine.

33 And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou *art* but a ^ayouth, and he a man of war from his youth.

34 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:

35 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.

36 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.

37 David said moreover, The LORD that ^adelivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will ^bdeliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee. (David says he can slay Goliath. David recounts his heroics with a lion and a bear. David successfully overcame the obstacles of the lion and the bear which prepared him to meet Goliath and defeat him. Had he not been successful with the lion and the bear, maybe he could not have defeated Goliath. Are we overcoming our obstacles so we can defeat our Goliaths? President Hinckley said: "There are Goliaths all around you, hulking giants with evil intent to destroy you. These are not nine-foot tall men, but they are men and institutions that control attractive but evil things that may challenge and weaken and destroy you. Included in these are beer and other liquors and tobacco. Those who market these products would like to enslave you into their use. There are drugs of various kinds which, I am told, are relatively easy to obtain in many high schools. For those who peddle them, this is a multimillion-dollar industry, a giant web of evil. There is pornography, seductive and interesting and inviting. It has become a giant industry, producing magazines, films, and other materials designed to take your money and lead you toward activities that would destroy you. "The giants who are behind these efforts are formidable and skillful. They have gained vast experience in the war they are carrying on. They would like to ensnare you. "It is almost impossible to entirely avoid exposure to their products. You see these materials on all sides. But you need not fear if you have the slingshot of truth in your hands. You have been counseled and taught and advised. You have the stories of virtue and honor and integrity to use against these enemies who would like to conquer you. Insofar as you are concerned, you can hit them 'between the eyes,' to use a figurative expression. You can triumph over them by disciplining yourselves to avoid them. You can say to the whole lot of them as David said to Goliath: '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'. "Victory will be yours.... You have His power within you to sustain you. You have the right to ministering angels about you to protect you. Do not let Goliath frighten you. Stand your ground and hold your place, and you will be triumphant." (in General Conference Report, April 1983, 66))

38 ¶ 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.

39 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. (Saul puts on David his armor, but David says he can't use it. Why couldn't he wear Saul's armor? The first demand upon us is to be spiritual, the next to be genuine and true, without seeking to clothe ourselves in the armor of another.)

40 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.

41 And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield *went* before him.

42 And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was *but* a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

43 And the Philistine said unto David, *Am* I a ^adog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

44 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.

45 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 ^aname of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

46 This day will the LORD ^adeliver 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 ^bknow that there is a God in Israel.

47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the ^abattle *is* the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.

48 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.

49 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. (Speaking of Goliath's defeat, President Marion G. Romney said: That was a very new experience for the Philistine. Nothing like that had ever entered into his head before. CR, Oct 1977.)

50 So David prevailed over the Philistine(s) with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but *there was* no sword in the hand of David.

51 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.

52 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.

53 And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and they spoiled their tents.

54 And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armour in his tent. (David comes at Goliath with a sling and a stone and his faith in God that He would deliver Goliath to him. He has faith and kills Goliath. Goliath is hit in the head. This then became the turning point in the history of Israel and marked David as the true king of Israel, ready to take up the Philistine challenge of God and of His people, to kindle in Israel a new spirit, and in the might of the living God, to bring the contest to victory. The victory over Goliath must appear as the Lord's deliverance. It was true, there was a God in Israel.)

55 ¶ And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, ^aAbner, whose son *is* this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell.

56 And the king said, Enquire thou whose son the ^astripling^s (Heb young man) is.

57 And as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

58 And Saul said to him, Whose son *art* thou, *thou* young man? And David answered, *I am* the son of thy servant Jesse the Beth-lehemite.

Conclusion:

Who is our king? Do we trust in Him completely? Or do we rely on the arm of flesh and our own understanding? Our job is to be obedient. “Behold the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days.” (D&C 64:34)

The story of David and Goliath is perhaps the supreme example in all of world literature of how the weak things of the earth can vanquish the strong through the help of the Lord.

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