

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- Saul was told to overtake the Amalekites, and devote everything and everyone of them to destruction for the sins the Amalekites committed against Israel during the wilderness wanderings. Saul allowed the best animals and Agag, the king of the Amalekites to live.
- Because of the way Saul has neglected the voice of the Lord in favor of the voice of the people, the Lord tears the kingdom away from him to give it to David, the son of Jesse.
- Although Samuel mourned the tragedy that had befallen Saul, he went, in response to the leading of God to Bethlehem, where God was providing for himself a king.
- When by process of elimination David finally appeared before Samuel, the old prophet knew that he was the divine choice, a fact confirmed by the visitation of the Spirit of God upon him.

David

- The transition between Saul and David could not be more stark, and the pivotal moment in the story is the action of the **Spirit of the Lord**. While it rushes on David, it departs from Saul, and the Lord sends a harmful spirit to Saul to torment him until the day he dies (**1 Sam. 16:13-14**).
 - ▶ To counteract his fits of moodiness and rage, his servants sought a musician whose melodies might provide **soothing music** (**1 Sam. 16:15-16**). Saul approves of this therapy and selects David as his court musician (**1 Sam. 16:17-19**). (**Chiastic construction slide**)
 - ▶ A close examination of **1 Sam. 16:14-23** demonstrates the author's intent is to show that David is not only Yahweh's choice but Saul's choice. The chosen king is not a threat to Saul but a **means of grace**.
 - ▶ Providentially, David was selected, a move that not only proved of benefit to Saul but also enabled David to become acquainted with **life in the court** and prepared him for the public role he was to fill later. Saul liked the lad very much and soon made him his **armor bearer** as well as musician.
 - ▶ As Saul will hate David, and as he is rejected by God yet sustained by

David's service, so the world hates **Christ's people** (*John 15:18–21*) yet, in its doomed state, is only benefited by them. They are the ones who are the **salt of the earth** (*Matt. 5:13*).

Giant Killer

- A few years after Saul's disastrous Amalekite adventure, he found himself faced once more with the **Philistine problem**. Although the Philistines hoped to regain a foothold in central Israel, they found themselves at best in a stalemate with Saul's forces at Ephes Dammim, in the Valley of Elah, about twenty miles southwest of Jerusalem.
 - ▶ Both sides had decided that the encounter would be resolved by a **duel** rather than wholesale war, and so each was to select a champion who would represent his people.
 - ▶ The Philistines selected Goliath of Gath, a 9' 6" giant, who wore 126 pounds of armor and carried a spear with a 16 pound iron head, who probably was descended from the **Anakim** (*1 Sam. 17:4-7; Josh. 11:21–22*). Israel, however, could find nobody willing to stand up for them and Yahweh (*1 Sam. 17:11*).
 - ◆ The readers should be reminded of the story they've just read, let they be tempted to **look at his tall stature** (*1 Sam. 16:7*)!
- David, who was on an errand from Jesse to take his lunch to his brothers, overheard the speech of Goliath and saw the reaction of the Israelites and seems to be the only one willing to challenge the **uncircumcised Philistine** (*1 Sam. 17:8-11, 17-18, 23, 26-7*).
 - ▶ David's assessment of the enemy is similar to **Jonathan's** a few chapters earlier (*1 Sam. 14:6*). For David and Jonathan, though the whole of Israel thinks the Philistines invulnerable, they were merely uncircumcised before God.
 - ▶ David encounters three people that look only at outward appearances, and express contempt for David: **Eliab** (*1 Sam. 17:28*), **Saul** (*1 Sam. 17:33, 38-39*), and **Goliath** (*1 Sam. 17:43-44*).
 - ▶ David makes three major speeches in this chapter (*1 Sam. 17:26, 34-37, 45-47*) and they expose the **theological meaning** the author is communicating with this story.
 - ▶ All of the important people in the chapter regard David as weak, but he is the one Yahweh uses to deliver. The driving concern of this chapter is the **honor of Yahweh's name**, his **reputation**, and his **glory**. The focus of the chapter is not on **David's courage** but on **Yahweh's adequacy** in David's weakness (*1 Sam. 17:37, 45, 47*).

Part 6: The Kingdom

<p>1 Samuel 16:13-14</p>	<p>13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. 14 Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 16:14-23</p>	<p>14 Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him. 15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. 16 Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." 17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." 18 One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the Lord is with him." 19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." 20 And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. 21 And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. 22 And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." 23 And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.</p>
<p>John 15:18-21</p>	<p>18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.</p>
<p>Matthew 5:13</p>	<p>"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 17:4-7</p>	<p>4 And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5 He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. 6 And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. 7 The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him.</p>
<p>Joshua 11:21-22</p>	<p>21 And Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua devoted them to destruction with their cities. 22 There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel. Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 17:11</p>	<p>When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 16:7</p>	<p>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."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 17:8-11</p>	<p>8 He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants 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 prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 17:17-18</p>	<p>17 And Jesse said to David his son, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. 18 Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them."</p>

1 Samuel 17:23	As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.
1 Samuel 17:26-27	26 And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" 27 And the people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done to the man who kills him."
1 Samuel 14:6	Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few."
1 Samuel 17:28	Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."
1 Samuel 17:33	And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth."
1 Samuel 17:38-39	38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, 39 and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off.
1 Samuel 17:43-44	43 And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field."
1 Samuel 17:26	And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"
1 Samuel 17:34-37	34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, 35 I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. 36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"
1 Samuel 17:45-47	45 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."
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1 Samuel 17:47	and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."