



A Summary of the Old Testament

within the word

Lesson Eleven | A Time of Transition: the House of Saul to the House of David

Day One

1. In 1 Samuel 16:1 we see God rejected Saul as king.

The prophet Samuel is given instructions to go to Bethlehem and anoint the next king of Israel. He is a bit reluctant to do this fearing Saul would hear and kill him. (To King Saul this would mean treason.)

God clearly instructs Samuel how to go about this assignment. Samuel instructs the elders of the city to consecrate themselves and join him in his sacrifice offering. Jesse was one of the elders, and he had 8 sons. When Samuel saw Jesse's first son, Eliab, he thought this must be the one. He has the look of a king.

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

What did God say about the first seven sons of Jesse brought before Samuel that day?

2. Who was not present at this sacrifice?
3. What was this absent son busy doing, which kept him from being present that day?

How was he described?

4. Even though David was privately anointed king by Samuel, he would not begin his reign for many years. God is busy training David in some areas, so that he would grow up to be a great man of God.

What is the first important event that would enable David to be a great king?
Read 1 Samuel 16:13.

5. Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23.
What change is mentioned that would initiate David being asked to come to the house of King Saul?
6. Even though David has been chosen and anointed the next king of Israel, it is not God's time, just yet. This could be considered a training period for kingly

responsibilities. David had many experiences with shepherding, which will serve him well as a leader, but he still had things to learn.

With a humble heart what do we see David doing?

7. Have you ever experienced the call of God only to have to wait on His divine timing?

Did you find purpose in the waiting?

Day Two

1. 1 Samuel 17 is one of the most often shared stories of the Bible. Take a few minutes to read this amazing story of faith and faithfulness.

David showed great faith and God faithfully rewarded.

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| What was the question asked by David as he listened to Goliath taunting Israel? | |
| What did Eliab's words reveal about his heart toward David? | |
| What did David say to encourage the king? | |
| What did the king give David? Did it help? | |
| How did Goliath view David as an opponent? | |
| Goliath came at David using weapons he had tested in war. What was David's weapon of choice? I'm not referring to the rock and sling. | |
| What did David understand about this battle that the other Israelites had missed? | |

2. Even though this is not the first time David had appeared in Saul's presence, it is the first time he gave him enough attention to even be curious about him.

Saul asked David, *"Whose son are you, young man?"*

David replied, *"I am the son of your servant, Jesse of Bethlehem."*

King Saul is about to bestow what gifts on David?

3. 1 Samuel 18:1-4 describes the bond of friendship and brotherly love David and Jonathan shared.

What did Jonathan give David as the sign of the covenant between them?
What do you believe he may have been indicating by these tokens of the covenant?

4. Continue reading 1 Samuel 18:5-9.
King Saul trusted David and sent him on several missions because he had God's blessing and was successful in all he did.

As the people rejoice, singing praises about David's many victories, what happens in the heart of the king that tainted his feelings for David?

5. Jealousy often has envy and comparison as its root.
Briefly state what part jealousy, envy and comparisons have in the life of a believer?
 - 1 Timothy 6:6...but, godliness with contentment is great gain.
 - James 3:16...for where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.
 - Ephesians 2:10...for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
6. Read 1 Samuel 18: 8,10,12,25,28.
How bad is this relationship getting between King Saul and David?

Day Three

1. King Saul plots to kill David in various ways, but God saves him over and over. Jonathan pledges his help to David in whatever David needs.

Read 1 Samuel 20:16-42.

What was Jonathan's oath of friendship?

2. How binding did these two men mean for this oath to be?
Who did they call as witness to this oath?
3. Saul surrounded himself with men who enjoy the challenge of hunting David down. In 1 Samuel 24 we read of one such encounter. The events of this day will change Saul's desire to kill David.

After reading this, why do you believe David was conscience-stricken?
To anyone else it might look like God's blessing, delivering his enemy into his hands, but how did David view Saul?

4. What very important event is recorded in 1 Samuel 25:1?
5. David's problems were not limited to Saul. 1 Samuel 25 tells the story of a man Nabal and his wife Abigail.

Read 1 Samuel 25:2-44.

Despite the kindness shown to Nabal's flocks by David and his men, Nabal refuses David's request.

Did you notice the questions he asked?

"Who is this David?" and *"Who is this son of Jesse?"*

Do you believe he had never heard of David, in all the time Saul had been chasing David?

What was Nabal's real problem?

6. How did David feel when he heard Nabal's response?
7. Word of David's plan came to Abigail, Nabal's wife.
What spontaneous, wise decision did she make that spared many lives?
8. Have you ever thought about the decisions you make?
They may not actually spare the life of your family from an angry sojourner as Abigail did, but were you able to bring calm to a storm that was brewing?
Do you recognize the voice of God and quickly respond when directed?
How might our inspired words of kindness defuse a situation?
9. The end of this story has a twist you might not have seen coming. God is the divine judge; we must leave all vengeance to him.

Have you ever simply left something to God to make it right?

How did that go?

Even if you have not seen God move, it is within our power as a Spirit-filled believer to leave justice to God's timing.

Day Four

1. It looks as though King Saul has not learned his lesson. In 1 Samuel 26 we once again see Saul choosing to go after David. He has heard where David is camped, and he takes 3000 trained soldiers in that direction. Picture this, everyone in Saul's camp is asleep (including the night watch of guards). David and Abishai creep into the very heart of the camp. They steal Saul's spear and water jug and leave.

A short distance away David yells for the soldiers to wake up. He tells them they are doing a terrible job guarding their king. Then he shows them the spear and the water jug taken from beside Saul's head. David demands an explanation for all this hatred coming his way.

What has he ever done to deserve all this?
What is Saul's response to David's words?

2. Sometimes, it is simply best for two people to part and each go their own way. That is what David and Saul end up doing. David realizes that this feud will never really be over, until one of the two of them is no longer alive.

David goes to live in another area, the land of the Philistines.

Have you ever had to give up your own comfort to live at peace with all men?
It's not easy. Everything inside us wants to scream, "*It's not fair.*"

What is the most important thing in the life of a believer?

Look up Romans 12:18.

3. I'm sure David felt alone and isolated as he was running from Saul; hiding in caves in the wilderness. And yet he knew he was hearing God's voice and that he was obeying what he had been told to do.

Have you ever felt as if the enemy was hot on your trail?
Did you fear you might not survive one more attack?
What did you do to make it through your dark days?

4. Saul's life ends rather abruptly.

Read 1 Samuel 31.

Israel is once again fighting the Philistines. The three sons of Saul, Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua are all killed in this battle; Saul is also wounded.

Why did Saul instruct his armor-bearer to run him through with his sword?

5. When the armor-bearer refused to obey his king, what did Saul do?
6. Read 2 Samuel 1:1-16.
David and his men had been camped at Ziklag when he is brought the news that Saul and Jonathan have been killed in battle.

Who comes to them with this news?

7. Are the details shared with David 100% accurate?
8. What would be the reason for lying about the details of Saul's death?
9. What did this man bring as proof that what he was telling actually happened?
10. What was the response of David and his men to the news of King Saul's death? You might think they would host a celebration. No more wandering and hiding in caves and the desert.

What did they do?

What does it say about these men when they responded in this way?

11. The Amalekite who brought the news was in for a surprise. He thought he would be commended for killing King Saul; he only proved he did not know the character of David.

If this had been what David wanted, did he not have many opportunities himself?

Did this Amalekite really care about helping David?

He was probably a battlefield scavenger.

Who did this Amalekite really care about?

12. What became of this Amalekite?

13. Why did he suffer this fate?

Day Five

1. This week, we have seen that just because God has great plans for a person, they are not immune to trials. David is God's chosen man to rule His people, but it was not God's timing yet.

Did you wonder why God anointed him so early?
Why not wait until he was ready to establish him in this position of honor?
What do you believe God might have been doing in David's heart to prepare him?
What do you believe he was doing in the hearts of the Israelites to prepare them for David's rule?

2. We have talked about waiting, before in this study.

How are you at waiting on God's timing?
Do you find God's timing is often quite different from your timing?

3. Think of something important that you are praying about. When would you like to see that prayer answered?

When you are praying about a matter do you ask God to answer you according to His timing?

4. When you are waiting on God's plan to unfold, have you ever felt things were getting worse instead of better?

Did this cause you to lose hope or lean into to the LORD in a deeper and more intimate way?

5. Proverbs 24:10 ESV *"If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small."* At first glance, this looks like an observation by the author of Proverbs, but it is actually an exhortation to the reader. We are to remain strong and courageous as we face adversity.

Read Galatians 6:9 MSG, *"So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up or quit."*

How is it possible to remain strong and not faint when we are facing a problem? Don't answer this too quickly, ponder the question for a minute or two. This will enable your heart to consider the truth you know about your God.

6. As we have done each week, add God's character qualities you have seen to your list on **The Character of God** page. Some of His qualities may be repeated from chapter to chapter but you may also see new ones as well.

Please, do not leave this undone. The purpose of our study is to get to know our God.

Lesson Twelve | David, the Second

King of Israel

As we have mentioned before, it is helpful to have a good map book so you can locate the places mentioned in scripture.

There are times when the location may be marked with a “?” beside it. This indicates the precise location is not certain.

Day One

1. Read 2 Samuel 2:1.
David has a conversation with the LORD before moving in any direction. This is such a wise decision.

He knows he has been anointed king of Israel and Saul is now dead. What he does not know is when or how God will orchestrate events to make this leadership transition.

What is the wisest thing to do when we do not know what to do?

2. Read 2 Samuel 2:2-7.
What happens to David at Hebron?
3. David is told the news that it was the men of Jabesh-Gilead who had buried Saul. He sent them words of blessing for showing respect and honor to King Saul by burying Saul. The men of Judah are the first to hear David has been anointed king. However, not everyone is on board.

Ish-Bosheth, the son of Saul, is set up as the king over Israel. The nation is divided in their allegiance. Abner and Joab the commanders of each army meet on a battle line.

Read 2 Samuel 2:8-32.
What plan is purposed to end this division?

4. The nation of Israel is suffering at the hand of civil war. In the New Testament Jesus himself taught on this very issue; read Matthew 12: 25.
What universal truth did Jesus share that day?

5. Read 2 Samuel 3:1.