

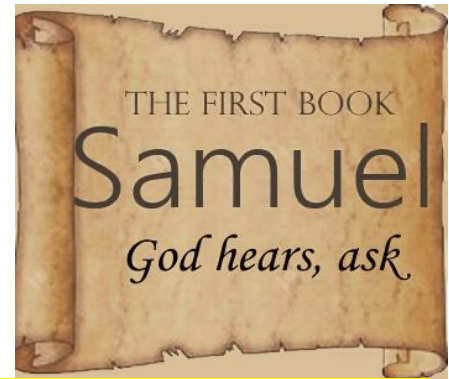
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In the 350 years of the judges before this book; years characterize by the phrase: and the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. Obviously, the Lord said enough and sent Samuel, who was the last judge; a good judge, who moved in the power of the Spirit.

This first book of Samuel, focuses on 3 principle people: Samuel, from his birth to his death, Saul, the first king – the people's choice, and David, the blessed king, the Lord's choice.



Jonathan Defeats the Philistines

¹ Now it happened one day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armor, Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side. But he did not tell his father. ² And Saul was sitting in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred men. ³ Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the Lord's priest in Shiloh, was wearing an ephod. But the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.

⁴ Between the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on one side and a sharp rock on the other side. And the name of one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. ⁵ The front of one faced northward opposite Michmash, and the other southward opposite Gibeah.

⁶ Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore 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 restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few.

⁷ So his armorbearer said to him, Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart.

⁸ Then Jonathan said, Very well, let us cross over to these men, and we will show ourselves to them. ⁹ If they say thus to us, 'Wait until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place and not go up to them. ¹⁰ But if they say thus, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up. For the Lord has delivered them into our hand, and this will be a sign to us.

¹¹ So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden. ¹² Then the men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armorbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will show you something.

Jonathan said to his armorbearer, Come up after me, for the Lord has delivered them into the hand of Israel. ¹³ And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and knees with his armorbearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan. And as he came after him, his armorbearer killed them.

¹⁴That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armorbearer made was about twenty men within about half an acre of land.

¹⁵And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and the raiders also trembled; and the earth quaked, so that it was a very great trembling. ¹⁶Now the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and there was the multitude, melting away; and they went here and there. ¹⁷Then Saul said to the people who were with him, Now call the roll and see who has gone from us. And when they had called the roll, surprisingly, Jonathan and his armorbearer were not there.

¹⁸And Saul said to Ahijah, Bring the ark of God here -- for at that time the ark of God was with the children of Israel. ¹⁹Now it happened, while Saul talked to the priest, that the noise which was in the camp of the Philistines continued to increase; so Saul said to the priest, Withdraw your hand. ²⁰Then Saul and all the people who were with him assembled, and they went to the battle; and indeed every man's sword was against his neighbor, and there was very great confusion. ²¹Moreover the Hebrews who were with the Philistines before that time, who went up with them into the camp from the surrounding country, they also joined the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. ²²Likewise all the men of Israel who had hidden in the mountains of Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, they also followed hard after them in the battle. ²³So the Lord saved Israel that day, and the battle shifted to Beth Aven.

Saul's Rash Oath

²⁴And the men of Israel were distressed that day, for Saul had placed the people under oath, saying, Cursed is the man who eats any food until evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies. So none of the people tasted food. ²⁵Now all the people of the land came to a forest; and there was honey on the ground. ²⁶And when the people had come into the woods, there was the honey, dripping; but no one put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath. ²⁷But Jonathan had not heard his father charge the people with the oath; So he stretched out the end of the rod that was in his hand and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his countenance brightened. ²⁸Then one of the people said, Your father strictly charged the people with an oath, saying, 'Cursed is the man who eats food this day.' And the people were faint.

²⁹But Jonathan said, My father has troubled the land. Look now, how my countenance has brightened because I tasted a little of this honey. ³⁰How much better if the people had eaten freely today of the spoil of their enemies which they found! For now would there not have been a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?

³¹Now they had driven back the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. So the people were very faint. ³²And the people rushed on the spoil, and took sheep, oxen, and calves, and slaughtered them on the ground; and the people ate them with the blood. ³³Then they told Saul, saying, Look, the people are sinning against the Lord by eating with the blood!

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So he said, You have dealt treacherously; roll a large stone to me this day. ³⁴Then Saul said, Disperse yourselves among the people, and say to them, 'Bring me here every man's ox and every man's sheep, slaughter them here, and eat; and do not sin against the Lord by eating with the blood. So every one of the people brought his ox with him that night, and slaughtered it there. ³⁵Then Saul built an altar to the Lord. This was the first altar that he built to the Lord.

³⁶Now Saul said, Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and plunder them until the morning light; and let us not leave a man of them.

And they said, Do whatever seems good to you.

Then the priest said, Let us draw near to God here.

³⁷So Saul asked counsel of God, Will I go down after the Philistines? Will You deliver them into the hand of Israel? But He did not answer him that day. ³⁸And Saul said, Come over here, all you chiefs of the people, and know and see what this sin was today. ³⁹For as the Lord lives, who saves Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he will surely die. But not a man among all the people answered him. ⁴⁰Then he said to all Israel, You be on one side, and my son Jonathan and I will be on the other side. **And the people said to Saul, Do what seems good to you.**

⁴¹So Saul said to the Lord God of Israel, Give a perfect lot. So Saul and Jonathan were taken, but the people escaped. ⁴²And Saul said, Cast lots between my son Jonathan and me. So Jonathan was taken. ⁴³Then Saul said to Jonathan, Tell me what you have done.

And Jonathan told him, and said, I only tasted a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand. So now I must die!

⁴⁴Saul answered, God do so and more also; for you will surely die, Jonathan.

⁴⁵But the people said to Saul, Will Jonathan die, who has accomplished this great deliverance in Israel? Certainly not! As the Lord lives, not one hair of his head will fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, and he did not die.

⁴⁶Then Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, and the Philistines went to their own place.

Saul's Continuing Wars

⁴⁷So Saul established his sovereignty over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the people of Ammon, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he harassed them. ⁴⁸And he gathered an army and attacked the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them.

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⁴⁹ The sons of Saul were Jonathan, Jishui, and Malchishua. And the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal. ⁵⁰ The name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. And the name of the commander of his army was Abner the son of Ner, Saul's uncle. ⁵¹ Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

⁵² Now there was fierce war with the Philistines all the days of Saul. And when Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself.

The INVASION — Bk 2,Chp2; CSLewisDoodle

[Dr Tour: the origins of life: Syracuse University](#)

We Have Cause To Be Uneasy -- CSLewisDoodle

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YOU ARE HOLY — Joshua Aaron

[The Spirit and the Bride Say Come](#)

EQUALITY — CSLewisDoodle

1 Sam 23 David Saves the City of Keilah

23 Then they told David, saying, Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors.

²So David inquired of the Lord, saying, Will I go and attack these Philistines? And the Lord said to David, Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah.

³But David's men said to him, Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines? ⁴Then David inquired of the Lord once again.

And the Lord answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand. ⁵And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

⁶Now it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he went down with an ephod in his hand.

⁷And Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. So Saul said, God has delivered him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars. ⁸Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

⁹When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring the ephod here. ¹⁰Then David said, O Lord God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. ¹¹Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O Lord God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant.

And the Lord said, He will come down.

¹²Then David said, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?

And the Lord said, They will deliver you.

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¹³So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.

David in Wilderness Strongholds

¹⁴And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand. ¹⁵So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest. ¹⁶Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.

¹⁷And he said to him, Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father will not find you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that. ¹⁸So the two of them made a covenant before the Lord. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.

¹⁹Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon? ²⁰Now So, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part will be to deliver him into the king's hand.

²¹And Saul said, Blessed are you of the Lord, for you have compassion on me. ²²Please go and find out for sure, and see the place where his hideout is, and who has seen him there. For I am told he is very crafty. ²³See So, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides; and come back to me with certainty, and I will go with you. And it will be, if he is in the land, that I will search for him throughout all the clans of Judah.

²⁴So they arose and went to Ziph before Saul. But David and his men were in the Wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon. ²⁵When Saul and his men went to seek him, they told David. So he went down to the rock, and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon. ²⁶Then Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. So David made haste to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them.

²⁷But a messenger came to Saul, saying, Hurry and come, for the Philistines have invaded the land! ²⁸So Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines; so they called that place the Rock of Escape. ²⁹Then David went up from there and dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi.

1 sam 24 David Spares Saul

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24 Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Take note! David *is* in the Wilderness of En Gedi. **2** Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats. **3** So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. - David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave. **4** Then the men of David said to him, This is the day of which the Lord said to you, Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you. And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

5 Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe. **6** And he said to his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord. **7** So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

8 David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, My lord the king! And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down. **9** And David said to Saul: Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Indeed David seeks your harm'? **10** Look, this day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' **11** Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. **12** Let the Lord judge between you and me, and let the Lord avenge me on you. But my hand will not be against you. **13** As the proverb of the ancients says, Wickedness proceeds from the wicked. But my hand will not be against you. **14** After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea? **15** So let the Lord be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand.

16 So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, *Is* this your voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. **17** Then he said to David: You *are* more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil. **18** And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the Lord delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. **19** For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? So may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. **20** And now I know indeed that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. **21** So swear now to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house.

22 So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

1 sam 26 David Spares Saul a Second Time

26 Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon? ²Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph. ³And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon, by the road. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. ⁴David So sent out spies, and understood that Saul had indeed come.

⁵So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Now Saul lay within the camp, with the people encamped all around him. ⁶Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother of Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?

And Abishai said, I will go down with you.

⁷So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him. ⁸Then Abishai said to David, God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now So, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!

⁹But David said to Abishai, Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless? ¹⁰David said furthermore, As the Lord lives, the Lord will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go out to battle and perish. ¹¹The Lord forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go. ¹²So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

¹³Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance being between them. ¹⁴And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Do you not answer, Abner?

Then Abner answered and said, Who are you, calling out to the king?

¹⁵So David said to Abner, Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king. ¹⁶This thing

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that you have done is not good. As the Lord lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the Lord's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jug of water that was by his head.

¹⁷Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is that your voice, my son David?

David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king. ¹⁸And he said, Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand? ¹⁹Now So, please, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If the Lord has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering. But if it is the children of men, may they be cursed before the Lord, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the Lord, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.' ²⁰So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of the Lord. For the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains.

²¹Then Saul said, I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly.

²²And David answered and said, Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it. ²³May the Lord repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed. ²⁴And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the Lord, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation.

²⁵Then Saul said to David, May you be blessed, my son David! You will both do great things and also still prevail.

So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

1 Sam 27 David Allied with the Philistines

²⁷And David said in his heart, Now I will perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I will escape out of his hand. ²Then David arose and went over with the six hundred men who were with him to Achish the son of Maach, king of

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Gath.³So David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's widow. ⁴And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more.

⁵Then David said to Achish, If I have now found favor in your eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?

⁶So Achish gave him Ziklag that day. So Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day. ⁷Now the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was one full year and four months.

⁸And David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. For those nations were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt. ⁹Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish. ¹⁰Then Achish would say, Where have you made a raid today? And David would say, Against the southern area of Judah, or against the southern area of the Jerahmeelites, or against the southern area of the Kenites. ¹¹David would save neither man nor woman alive, to bring news to Gath, saying, Lest they should inform on us, saying, Thus David did. And thus was his behavior all the time he dwelt in the country of the Philistines. ¹²So Achish believed David, saying, He has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; So he will be my servant forever.

1 Sam 28 Saul Consults a Medium

28 Now it happened in those days that the Philistines gathered their armies together for war, to fight with Israel. And Achish said to David, You assuredly know that you will go out with me to battle, you and your men.

²So David said to Achish, Surely you know what your servant can do.

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And Achish said to David, So I will make you one of my chief guardians forever.

Saul Consults a Medium

³Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had lamented for him and buried him in Ramah, in his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the spiritists out of the land.

⁴Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa. ⁵When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. ⁶And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.

⁷Then Saul said to his servants, Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.

And his servants said to him, In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor.

⁸So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, Please conduct a séance for me, and bring up for me the one I will name to you.

⁹Then the woman said to him, Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?

¹⁰And Saul swore to her by the Lord, saying, As the Lord lives, no punishment will come upon you for this thing.

¹¹Then the woman said, Whom will I bring up for you?

And he said, Bring up Samuel for me.

¹²When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!

¹³And the king said to her, Do not be afraid. What did you see?

And the woman said to Saul, I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth.

¹⁴So he said to her, What is his form?

And she said, An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.

¹⁵Now Samuel said to Saul, Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?

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And Saul answered, I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. So I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do.

¹⁶Then Samuel said: So why do you ask me, seeing the Lord has departed from you and has become your enemy? ¹⁷And the Lord has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. ¹⁸Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, So the Lord has done this thing to you this day. ¹⁹Moreover the Lord will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

²⁰Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, and was dreadfully afraid because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day or all night.

²¹And the woman came to Saul and saw that he was severely troubled, and said to him, Look, your maidservant has obeyed your voice, and I have put my life in my hands and heeded the words which you spoke to me. ²²Now So, please, heed also the voice of your maidservant, and let me set a piece of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way.

²³But he refused and said, I will not eat.

So his servants, together with the woman, urged him; and he heeded their voice. Then he arose from the ground and sat on the bed. ²⁴Now the woman had a fatted calf in the house, and she hastened to kill it. And she took flour and kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread from it. ²⁵So she brought it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.

1 sam 29 The Philistines Reject David

29 Then the Philistines gathered together all their armies at Aphek, and the Israelites encamped by a fountain which is in Jezreel. ²And the lords of the Philistines passed in review by hundreds and by thousands, but David and his men passed in review at the rear with Achish. ³Then the princes of the Philistines said, What are these Hebrews doing here?

And Achish said to the princes of the Philistines, Is this not David, the servant of Saul king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or these years? And to this day I have found no fault in him since he defected to me.

⁴But the princes of the Philistines were angry with him; so the princes of the Philistines said to him, Make this fellow return, that he may go back to the place which you have appointed for him, and do not let him go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become our adversary. For with what could he reconcile himself to his master, if not with the heads of these men? ⁵Is this not David, of whom they sang to one another in dances, saying: **Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands?**

⁶Then Achish called David and said to him, Surely, as the Lord lives, you have been upright, and your going out and your coming in with me in the army is good in my sight. For to this day I have not found evil in you since the day of your coming to me. Nevertheless the lords do not favor you. ⁷So return now, and go in peace, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines.

⁸So David said to Achish, But what have I done? And to this day what have you found in your servant as long as I have been with you, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?

⁹Then Achish answered and said to David, I know that you are as good in my sight as an angel of God; nevertheless the princes of the Philistines have said, He will not go up with us to the battle. ¹⁰Now So, rise early in the morning with your master's servants who have come with you. And as soon as you are up early in the morning and have light, depart.

¹¹So David and his men rose early to depart in the morning, to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

1 Sam 30 David's Conflict with the Amalekites

30 Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire,² and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way.³ So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive.⁴ Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep.⁵ And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive.⁶ Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

⁷ Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, Please bring the ephod here to me. And Abiathar brought the ephod to David.⁸ So David inquired of the Lord, saying, Will I pursue this troop? Will I overtake them?

And He answered him, Pursue, for you will surely overtake them and without fail recover all.

⁹ So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the Brook Besor, where those stayed who were left behind.¹⁰ But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were so weary that they could not cross the Brook Besor.

¹¹ Then they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David; and they gave him bread and he ate, and they let him drink water.¹² And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. So when he had eaten, his strength came back to him; for he had eaten no bread nor drunk water for three days and three nights.¹³ Then David said to him, To whom do you belong, and where are you from?

And he said, I am a young man from Egypt, servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind, because three days ago I fell sick.¹⁴ We made an invasion of the southern area of the Cherethites, in the territory which belongs to Judah, and of the southern area of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.

¹⁵ And David said to him, Can you take me down to this troop?

So he said, Swear to me by God that you will neither kill me nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this troop.

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¹⁶And when he had brought him down, there they were, spread out over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil which they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of **Judah**. ¹⁷Then David attacked them from twilight until the evening of the next day. Not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled. ¹⁸So David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives. ¹⁹And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they had taken from them; David recovered all. ²⁰Then David took all the flocks and herds they had driven before those other livestock, and said, This is David's spoil.

²¹Now David came to the two hundred men who had been so weary that they could not follow David, whom they also had made to stay at the Brook Besor. So they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near the people, he greeted them. ²²Then all the wicked and worthless men of those who went with David answered and said, Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except for every man's wife and children, that they may lead them away and depart.

²³But David said, My brethren, you will not do so with what the Lord has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us. ²⁴For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so will his part be who stays by the supplies; they will share alike. ²⁵So it was, from that day forward; he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

²⁶Now when David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah, to his friends, saying, Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the Lord—²⁷to those who were in Bethel, those who were in Ramoth of the South, those who were in Jattir, ²⁸those who were in Aroer, those who were in Siphmoth, those who were in Eshtemoa, ²⁹those who were in Rachal, those who were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, those who were in the cities of the Kenites, ³⁰those who were in Hormah, those who were in Chorashan, those who were in Athach, ³¹those who were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were accustomed to rove.

2 sam 9 ness to Mephibosheth

9 Now David said, Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

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² And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, Are you Ziba?

He said, At your service!

³ Then the king said, Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?

And Ziba said to the king, There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet.

⁴ So the king said to him, Where is he?

And Ziba said to the king, Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar.

⁵ Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, Mephibosheth?

And he answered, Here is your servant!

⁷ So David said to him, Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather; and you will eat bread at my table continually.

⁸ Then he bowed himself, and said, What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?

⁹ And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. ¹⁰ You So, and your sons and your servants, will work the land for him, and you will bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son will eat bread at my table always. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do.

As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he will eat at my table like one of the king's sons. ¹² Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. ¹³ So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

2 sam 10 The Ammonites and Syrians Defeated

10 It happened after this that the king of the people of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place. ²Then David said, I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me.

So David sent by the hand of his servants to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the people of Ammon. ³And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Has David not rather sent his servants to you to search the city, to spy it out, and to overthrow it?

⁴So Hanun took David's servants, shaved off half of their beards, cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away. ⁵When they told David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return.

⁶When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, the people of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth Rehob and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand foot soldiers; and from the king of Maacah one thousand men, and from Ish-Tob twelve thousand men. ⁷Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men. ⁸Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array at the entrance of the gate. And the Syrians of Zoba, Beth Rehob, Ish-Tob, and Maacah were by themselves in the field.

⁹When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel's best and put them in battle array against the Syrians. ¹⁰And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, that he might set them in battle array against the people of Ammon. ¹¹Then he said, If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you will help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you. ¹²Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the Lord do what is good in His sight.

¹³So Joab and the people who were with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him. ¹⁴When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai, and entered the city. So Joab returned from the people of Ammon and went to Jerusalem.

¹⁵When the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered together. ¹⁶Then Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the River, and they came to Helam. And Shobach the commander of Hadadezer's army went before them. ¹⁷When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set themselves in battle array against David and fought with him. ¹⁸Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven hundred charioteers and forty thousand horsemen of the Syrians, and

struck Shobach the commander of their army, who died there.¹⁹ And when all the kings who were servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to help the people of Ammon anymore.

2 sam 12 Nathan's Parable and David's Confession

12 Then the Lord sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor.² The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds.³ But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.⁴ And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

⁵ So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, As the Lord lives, the man who has done this will surely die! ⁶ And he will restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.⁸ I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! ⁹ Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.¹⁰ Now So, the sword will never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.¹¹ Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.¹² For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.

¹³ So David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord.

And Nathan said to David, The Lord also has put away your sin; you will not die.¹⁴ However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you will surely die.¹⁵ Then Nathan departed to his house.

The Death of David's Son

And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill. ¹⁶David So pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them. ¹⁸**Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died.** And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!

¹⁹When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. So David said to his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

²⁰So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate. ²¹Then his servants said to him, What is this that you have done? **You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food.**

²²And he said, While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' ²³But now he is dead; why should I fast? **Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.**

Solomon Is Born,

²⁴Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the Lord loved him, ²⁵and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord.

Rabbah Is Captured

²⁶Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the people of Ammon, and took the royal city. ²⁷And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, I have fought against Rabbah, and I have taken the city's water supply. ²⁸Now So, gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called after my name. ²⁹So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah, fought against it, and took it. ³⁰Then he took their king's crown from his head. Its weight was a talent of gold, with precious stones. And it was set on David's head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance. ³¹And he brought out the people who were in it, and put them to work with saws and iron picks and iron axes, and made them cross over to the brick works. So he did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

2 sam 13 Amnon and Tamar

13 After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. ²Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her. ³But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man. ⁴And he said to him, Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?

Amnon said to him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.

⁵So Jonadab said to him, Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand. ⁶Then Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, Please let Tamar my sister come and make a couple of cakes for me in my sight, that I may eat from her hand.

⁷And David sent home to Tamar, saying, Now go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him. ⁸So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was lying down. Then she took flour and kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. ⁹And she took the pan and placed them out before him, but he refused to eat. Then Amnon said, Have everyone go out from me. And they all went out from him. ¹⁰Then Amnon said to Tamar, Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them to Amnon her brother in the bedroom. ¹¹Now when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, Come, lie with me, my sister.

¹²But she answered him, No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing! ¹³And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now So, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you. ¹⁴However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her.

¹⁵Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, Arise, be gone!

¹⁶So she said to him, No, indeed! This evil of sending me away is worse than the other that you did to me.

But he would not listen to her. ¹⁷Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, Here! Put this woman out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her. ¹⁸Now she had on a robe of many colors, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her.

¹⁹Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly. ²⁰And Absalom her brother said to her, Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this thing to heart. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

²¹But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. ²²And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

Absalom Murders Amnon

²³And it came to pass, after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal Hazor, which is near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king's sons. ²⁴Then Absalom came to the king and said, Kindly note, your servant has sheepshearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant.

²⁵But the king said to Absalom, No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you. Then he urged him, but he would not go; and he blessed him.

²⁶Then Absalom said, If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said to him, Why should he go with you? ²⁷But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

²⁸Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, Strike Amnon! then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant. ²⁹So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled.

³⁰And it came to pass, while they were on the way, that news came to David, saying, Absalom has killed all the king's sons, and not one of them is left! ³¹So the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn. ³²Then Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, Let not my lord suppose they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar. ³³Now So, let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead. For only Amnon is dead.

Absalom Flees to Geshur

³⁴Then Absalom fled. And the young man who was keeping watch lifted his eyes and looked, and there, many people were coming from the road on the hillside behind him. ³⁵And Jonadab said to the king, Look, the king's sons are coming; as your servant said, so it is. ³⁶So it was, as soon as he had finished speaking, that the king's sons indeed came, and they lifted up their voice and wept. Also the king and all his servants wept very bitterly.

³⁷But Absalom fled and went to Talmi the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day. ³⁸So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years. ³⁹And King David longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead.

2 sam 14 Absalom Returns to Jerusalem

¹So Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was concerned about Absalom. ²And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman, and said to her, Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning apparel; do not anoint yourself with oil, but act like a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead. ³Go to the king and speak to him in this manner. So Joab put the words in her mouth.

⁴And when the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and prostrated herself, and said, Help, O king!

⁵Then the king said to her, What troubles you?

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And she answered, Indeed I am a widow, my husband is dead. ⁶Now your maidservant had two sons; and the two fought with each other in the field, and there was no one to part them, but the one struck the other and killed him. ⁷And now the whole family has risen up against your maidservant, and they said, ‘Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may execute him for the life of his brother whom he killed; and we will destroy the heir also.’ So they would extinguish my ember that is left, and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the earth.

⁸Then the king said to the woman, Go to your house, and I will give orders concerning you.

⁹And the woman of Tekoa said to the king, My lord, O king, let the crime be on me and on my father’s house, and the king and his throne be guiltless.

¹⁰So the king said, Whoever says anything to you, bring him to me, and he will not touch you anymore.

¹¹Then she said, Please let the king remember the Lord your God, and do not permit the avenger of blood to destroy anymore, lest they destroy my son.

And he said, As the Lord lives, not one hair of your son will fall to the ground.

¹²So the woman said, Please, let your maidservant speak another word to my lord the king.

And he said, Say on.

¹³So the woman said: Why then have you schemed such a thing against the people of God? For the king speaks this thing as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring his banished one home again. ¹⁴For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him. ¹⁵Now So, I have come to speak of this thing to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. And your maidservant said, ‘I will now speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his maidservant. ¹⁶For the king will hear and deliver his maidservant from the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together from the inheritance of God. ¹⁷Your maidservant said, The word of my lord the king will now be comforting; for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king in discerning good and evil. And may the Lord your God be with you.

¹⁸Then the king answered and said to the woman, Please do not hide from me anything that I ask you.

And the woman said, Please, let my lord the king speak.

¹⁹So the king said, Is the hand of Joab with you in all this? And the woman answered and said, As you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. For your servant Joab commanded me, and he put all these words in the

mouth of your maidservant. ²⁰To bring about this change of affairs your servant Joab has done this thing; but my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of the angel of God, to know everything that is in the earth.

²¹And the king said to Joab, All right, I have granted this thing. Go So, bring back the young man Absalom.

²²Then Joab fell to the ground on his face and bowed himself, and thanked the king. And Joab said, Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord, O king, in that the king has fulfilled the request of his servant. ²³So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. ²⁴And the king said, Let him return to his own house, but do not let him see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, but did not see the king's face.

David Forgives Absalom

²⁵Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. ²⁶And when he cut the hair of his head—at the end of every year he cut it because it was heavy on him -- when he cut it, he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels according to the king's standard. ²⁷To Absalom were born three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was a woman of beautiful appearance.

²⁸And Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, but did not see the king's face. ²⁹So Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. And when he sent again the second time, he would not come. ³⁰So he said to his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

³¹Then Joab arose and came to Absalom's house, and said to him, Why have your servants set my field on fire?

³²And Absalom answered Joab, Look, I sent to you, saying, Come here, so that I may send you to the king, to say, Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still. Now So, let me see the king's face; but if there is crime in me, let him execute me.

³³So Joab went to the king and told him. And when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king. Then the king kissed Absalom.