

**THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE
KINGDOM**

**JUNIOR NOTES
STAGE 2 of 5 STAGES**

**CHRISTADELPHIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
www.cssa.asn.au**

15. SAMSON

“He shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

Aim

To show that Samson’s strength came from God.

Many times God delivered His people from their enemies by raising up judges to lead them. This time it was the Philistines who made life hard for Israel and God chose Samson to save them.

Reading Judges 13:1-7; 16

THE PHILISTINES

For forty years Israel suffered under the Philistines, who lived in a strip of country along the southern seacoast of the Land. They were a powerful, warlike people who had not been conquered when Israel first occupied the land of Canaan. Their main cities were Gaza, Gath, Ashkelon, Ashdod and Ekron. Each city had its ruler and together these were called “the five lords of the Philistines”. Israel had not yet learned the art of the blacksmith and so they could not make swords or spears, but the Philistines were clever at it (1 Sam. 13:19-20). So without God’s help Israel were no match for their enemies, who fought them with iron weapons.

SAMSON IS BORN

Judges 13:1-7

Part of the territory that had been allotted to the tribe of Dan was close to where the warlike Philistines lived. Manoah and his wife lived in Zorah, near the Philistines’ cities. They were faithful Israelites and as yet they had no children. One day, however, God sent an angel to the woman to tell her that she was going to have a son! He was to be a very special child, for God had already planned that he would grow up to be the one who would “begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines” (v5). His mother must take special care before he was born. She was not to drink wine or any strong drink, nor eat anything described in the Law of Moses as “unclean” (v4).

Her son was to be a “Nazarite”, someone who makes a vow to separate himself to serve God in a special way (see Numbers 6). Samson’s whole life was to be spent in God’s service. As a Nazarite, his hair must never be cut, he was not to drink either wine or any strong drink, nor eat anything “unclean” (v5).

SAMSON THE JUDGE

Judges 16:1-3

When Samson grew up, God’s spirit moved him to try to help his people. The Philistines learned to fear him because he was incredibly strong and on several occasions he killed many of them. This great strength was given to him by God for the special work he had to do, to “begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines”.

Samson made regular trips into Philistine country. On one occasion, when he was in Gaza, the Philistines lay in wait for him all night by the gate of the city. “In the morning,” they said, “we shall kill him.” At midnight Samson decided to go home, but the gates were shut. So he simply dragged the gate and the two posts from the wall and carried them all on his shoulders to the top of a hill on the road leading to Hebron! This was a much bigger gate than we can imagine. It was the gateway to the city. The Philistines were amazed at his great strength and wondered how they could possibly overcome him.

SAMSON AND DELILAH

Judges 16:4-20

About this time Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. The lords of the Philistines, at last, saw an opportunity to find out the secret of Samson’s great strength. They offered Delilah a large sum of money if she would “entice him and see wherein his great strength lieth” (v5). She agreed to help them, for it would make her very rich.

So when Samson came to visit her, she said, “Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth” (v6). Samson pretended to tell her on three separate occasions, but each time he lied to her and the Philistines found he was still as strong as ever. Day after day Delilah begged him to tell her his secret, until at last he “told her

all his heart” (v17)—he had been a Nazarite from birth and God had been with him. “If I be shaven,” he said, “then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.” Delilah could see that this time Samson had really told her the truth. Quickly she called the lords of the Philistines to come and be ready to take Samson prisoner. She waited until Samson was asleep and then beckoned to a man to come and shave his head— “and his strength went from him” (v19).

Do not imagine that the great strength of Samson lay in his hair. While it remained long, it was a sign of his obedience to God’s law (Judg.13:5), and God gave him the strength to overthrow the Philistines. But when Samson’s hair was cut, his Nazarite vow was broken. Samson had forsaken God’s law, and as a result God took his strength away.

THE DEATH OF SAMSON

Judges 16:21-31

The Philistines were now easily able to overpower Samson. They cruelly put out his eyes and brought him to Gaza, where they bound him with fetters of brass and put him to work grinding corn in the prison house.

As Samson worked in darkness in the prison house, he had plenty of time to think about the foolish things he had done. God had been right to punish him for his disobedience. In time his hair, of course, began to grow again—and his strength returned.

Meanwhile the Philistines were very glad to have Samson out of the way. They thought their god had delivered him into their hands, so they arranged a feast day to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon, their ‘fish god’. Samson was brought out for the occasion to entertain the thousands of people gathered at the temple of Dagon. “Call for Samson, that he may make us sport,” they yelled. Here was a great opportunity to mock the fallen hero of Israel.

As he came into the temple of Dagon, Samson asked the lad who guided him to let him feel the main pillars on which the house stood, that he might lean on them. Then he prayed, “O Lord Yahweh,

remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me” (v28). Taking hold of the pillars he cried to God, “Let me die with the Philistines” (v30). Gathering all his mighty strength, he strained on the pillars until at last they gave way and the whole building collapsed. All the people there, including the lords of the Philistines, were killed. God had heard Samson’s final prayer and those that he slew at his death were more than he slew during his life (v30).

It is recorded that Samson judged Israel twenty years, and although he did not always live in a way that pleased God, he carried out the work of “beginning to deliver Israel from the Philistines”.

LESSON FOR US

Samson was betrayed by a woman who looked beautiful, but had an evil mind. She pretended to love him, but it was only to destroy him. Had Samson obeyed God, he would not have had anything to do with her and he would not have suffered and died as he did.

Samson was strong as long as he kept his vow to serve God. His love for Delilah blinded him to the wickedness of breaking his promise. When the Philistines put his eyes out and he became truly blind, then he could at last see clearly how foolish he had been. Let us be wise and make sure that nothing distracts us from obeying God at all times.

ADDITIONAL NOTES 11 to 12 years

Samson was just like Israel as a nation. They were supposed to keep themselves **separate for God**, as they had vowed to do (see Josh. 24:24).

Samson was a Nazarite from his birth, but broke his vow (Judg. 16:17). So did Israel who had vowed to stay separate and obey Yahweh their God in all things (Josh. 24:24).

Samson loved a Philistine woman, though God had forbidden Israel to make marriages with any of the nations of the land (Josh. 23:12-23). Many of the people disobeyed God in this too. God said

they would be led astray by the gods of those nations if they mixed with them, and especially if they married them—and that is just what happened, as we see many times in the Book of Judges (see Judg. 2:11-13).

Samson brought shame on God's name by breaking his vow, and the Philistines thought their god had won a victory over the living God. The nation of Israel often did the same, but Yahweh can never be defeated by gods which are only idols.

When he was blinded, Samson was at last able to see clearly in his mind what a terrible thing he had done, and cried to God. God heard his prayer and delivered him. Israel also cried to God in times of trouble, and God never failed to save them when they turned to Him (see also Judg. 4:1,3,23; 6:1,6-8; 13:1,5).

In Hebrews 11:32 Samson is counted among the men and women of faith. He learned to overcome his weaknesses and trust in God in the end. We should learn from Samson's life that God's laws must be obeyed and we must keep separate from the world if we wish to please Him.

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

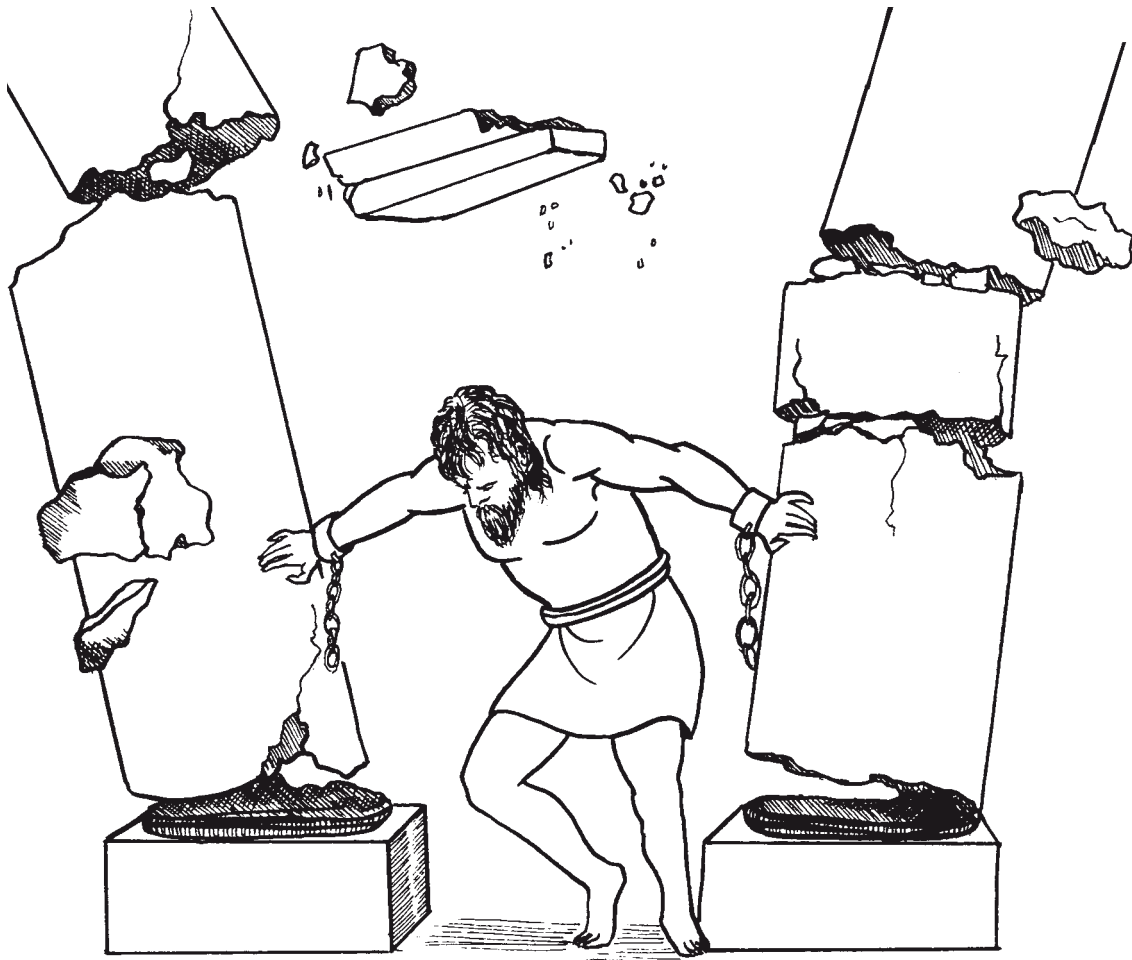
1. *Who was Samson's father?*
2. *God had a special work for Samson to do when he grew up. What was this work?*
3. *What is a Nazarite?*
4. *What were the signs that Samson was a Nazarite?*
5. *Why was Samson so strong?*
6. *What did Samson do one night when he was locked in the city of Gaza?*
7. *What did Delilah want Samson to tell her, and why?*
8. *What did Delilah do when she found out Samson's secret?*
9. *What did the Philistines do to Samson after his hair was cut off?*
10. *How did Samson die?*

Detailed Answers

1. (a) *Tell how Samson was chosen by God before he was born to live in a very special way.*
(b) *What work did Samson do for God?*
2. *Tell the story of Samson and Delilah.*

Additional Answers 11 to 12 years

3. *How was Samson like the nation of Israel?*





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16. RUTH

“Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.”

Aim

To show how the young Gentile woman Ruth gained a great blessing for her faith.

The book of Ruth belongs to the times when the Judges ruled. There are always a few people who are faithful to God, even when everyone else is wicked. In the book of Ruth we learn of a few lovely people who served God, even when so many had departed from His way. We learn, too, of a Gentile woman who became part of the nation of Israel and shared in their blessings. It is particularly interesting, because Ruth became the great-grandmother of king David, in whose family line Jesus was born.

Reading Ruth 1; 2:1-12; 4:9-22

RUTH THE MOABITESS

Ruth 1

During a time of famine in the land, Elimelech left his home in Bethlehem and crossed the River Jordan to live in Moab. He took with him his wife Naomi and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. After they had been settled a while in Moab, Elimelech died and Mahlon and Chilion married Ruth and Orpah, two Moabite women. During the next ten years both of Naomi's sons died and she alone was left with her two daughters-in-law.

When Naomi heard that the famine had ended in her own country, she decided to return home. Ruth and Orpah, who evidently loved her very much, were determined to go with her. As they set out on their journey towards Judah, Naomi advised her daughters-in-law to go back to their own people, for she had nothing now to offer them. They



should stay in their own country and marry. Yet because of their great love for her, they could not bear the thought of parting from her. Finally, Orpah was persuaded to turn back to her own family in Moab.

Ruth, however, still refused to leave Naomi and pleaded to be allowed to go with her. “Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God...” (v16,17). How Naomi’s heart must have glowed when she heard her daughter-in-law’s loving words.

“So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest” (v22).

GOD DIRECTS RUTH

Ruth 2:1-12

Ruth realised that on their return to Bethlehem she would have to look after Naomi. They were both widows and very poor. God, in His goodness, had made provision in the Law of Moses that poor people might gather enough to eat from those who had plenty (Deut. 24:19-21). In time of harvest, the reapers were to leave enough in the fields for the poor to gather— “thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest... thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger” (Lev. 19:9-10).

It was barley harvest in Israel and Ruth asked Naomi to let her go and glean corn in the fields. (To “glean” means to gather corn or barley that the reapers have left.) It was the only way they could survive, for they had no husband or father to care for them. As it happened, Ruth went to a field belonging to Boaz, a rich relative of Elimelech. Unknown to Ruth at this time, it was God who led her to that field, for she had learned already to trust in Him.

Boaz was a good man who loved God and was well known as a faithful and kind master. “The LORD be with you,” was his customary

greeting to his servants, who replied, “the LORD bless thee” (2:4). He enquired of his reapers about the young woman who was gleaning in his field. When he heard who she was, he told her kindly not to go anywhere else to glean, for he would see that she had plenty. Ruth was very grateful, though she could not understand why he had favoured her, seeing she was a stranger. Boaz explained that he had heard all she had done for Naomi, and of the new life that she had chosen with a people unknown to her. Graciously he said, “the LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust” (v12). The blessing of the God of Israel had rested on Ruth and directed her steps to the field of Boaz.



BOAZ MARRIES RUTH—A HAPPY ENDING Ruth 4:9-22

This story had a happy ending in the marriage of Ruth and Boaz. In due time a baby boy was born and they called him Obed. Obed later became the father of Jesse, whose youngest son was David, later to become king over all Israel (v22). A long family line can be traced from here and hundreds of years later the greatest man who ever lived was born into this family. His name, of course, was Jesus, who one day will be king over all the earth.

LESSON FOR US

This is a beautiful story, that seems to shine like a light in the dark days of the Judges. It is full of love and kindness. The Lord Jesus Christ, who was descended from the family of Ruth and Boaz, showed the greatest possible love to his fellow men. He gave His life that we might live. In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul describes the love God wants us to show. Love is slow to anger and is kind; it does not envy what others have; is not impatient; and it is not

proud or selfish but thinks of pleasing others. Ruth was just like that and these lovely qualities attracted Boaz to her. Such love one toward another will develop a character that the Lord Jesus Christ will be pleased to see in us.

One of the most important ways we can show our love for God is to be very caring towards the fatherless and the widows. In doing that we are acting like our heavenly Father (Psa 68:5).

ADDITIONAL NOTES 11 to 12 years

Once again, the merciful provision for those who had been widowed was shown in the Law which God gave to Moses. If a man died and had no children, his brother or nearest relative was to marry the widow of that dead man, so that children would be born to take his name and keep his inheritance. In that way, the man's name would not be forgotten and the widow would be cared for (Deut. 25:5-6). It was God who directed Ruth to the field of Boaz, but she only found out later from Naomi that he was "one of our next kinsmen" (2:20).

There was, however, a nearer relative who had the right to marry Ruth, but he did not wish to. So the right passed to Boaz. He was in a position to marry her and have children, so that there would be someone to carry on her family name. In Israel this was called "the Law of Redemption". Boaz grew to love Ruth and they were married.

So Boaz became Ruth's **redeemer**—he bought the land that had belonged to Naomi's family and married Ruth. In this way she had a husband to care for her and, of course, for Naomi too, and children to carry on the family name of Elimelech. As we have seen, this placed Ruth—once a stranger from the land of Moab—in the line of the "promised seed", the Lord Jesus Christ, and we find her name recorded in Matthew 1:5.

We are Gentiles by birth just like Ruth and "strangers from the

covenants of promise” (Eph 2:12), but God has provided a wonderful Redeemer for us, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom we will learn about in later lessons.

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

1. *Why did Elimelech and his family leave Bethlehem?*
2. *What happened to Elimelech and his sons in the land of Moab?*
3. *When Naomi decided to return to her own land what did her daughters-in-law do?*
4. *At what time of the year did Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem?*
5. *How did God provide, in His Law, for poor people to get food to eat?*
6. *Who owned the field where Ruth went to glean?*
7. *Who directed Ruth’s steps to the field of Boaz?*
8. *What did Ruth do in the field of Boaz?*
9. *A son was born to Ruth and Boaz. What was his name?*
10. *Can you name some of the great people who came from the family of Ruth and Boaz?*

Detailed Answers

1. (a) *Tell what happened to Elimelech’s family while they were living in the land of Moab.*
(b) *When Naomi decided to return to Israel, what did her daughters-in-law do? Include in your answer the lovely words Ruth said to Naomi.*
2. (a) *Tell how Ruth cared for Naomi when they arrived back in Bethlehem.*
(b) *What did Boaz think of Ruth?*
(c) *What can we learn from Ruth’s lovely ways?*

Additional Answers 11 to 12 years

3. *Tell how Boaz became a redeemer for Ruth.*





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17. SAMUEL

“Speak, LORD for thy servant heareth.”

Aim

To show that God takes delight in faithful and obedient children, but will punish those who disgrace His Name.

Israel’s high priest, Eli, had two wicked sons, Hophni and Phinehas. Being priests, they should have kept the law and set a good example to the people, but they had no regard at all for God’s commandments. When people came to worship, these faithless men took the best part of the sacrifices for themselves before the offering was made to God. They were so vile that they made other people do wrong as well, and many others no longer wanted to come and worship God at all. So God decided to replace these wicked priests with one who would do His will (1 Sam. 2:35).

Reading 1 Samuel 1; 2:1-26; 3 and 4

THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL

1 Samuel 1:9-20

Hannah lived with her husband Elkanah in Ramah. They loved each other dearly, but Hannah was very unhappy because she had no children. It used to make Elkanah sad to see his wife so unhappy. “Am not I better to thee than ten sons?” he used to say. What made matters worse was that Elkanah also had a wife called Peninnah, who had borne him children and she taunted Hannah because she was childless. Each year they all went to the Tabernacle at Shiloh to worship and offer sacrifices to God. Hannah knew that only God could help her, and so she took her problem to God in prayer.

As she prayed at the Tabernacle, she did not realise that Eli, the high priest, was watching her. She was so agitated that Eli was sure she must have drunk too much wine. “No, my lord,” said Hannah when he questioned her, “I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit.” She explained the reason for her prayer. She had been praying earnestly for a son. If God should answer her prayer, she

had promised to give him to God to work in His service all the days of his life. He would be a Nazarite, like Samson, a man set apart for the work of God (v11).

Eli could tell from this that Hannah was a godly woman. “Go in peace,” he said kindly, “and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of Him” (v17).

God did answer Hannah’s prayer and she had a baby boy. She called him **Samuel**, which means “Asked of God”—she had asked and God had answered. He became one of the most important men in Israel’s history and is mentioned in Hebrews 11:32 as one of the outstanding men of faith.



SAMUEL GOES TO LIVE WITH ELI

1 Samuel 1:23-28

Hannah cared for Samuel at home until he was old enough to go to the Tabernacle. Then she and Elkanah went to Shiloh and presented their little son to Eli. She was prepared to fulfil her promise and give her son into the care of the High Priest to help him in his service to God. Happily she told Eli, “O my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of Him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD” (v26-28).

THE WORK OF SAMUEL

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Samuel now lived with Eli the High Priest, who taught him all he knew about serving in the Tabernacle. Each year as he grew Hannah brought a new coat for him, when she came to the Tabernacle with her husband to offer



sacrifice. Samuel saw the evil example of Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, but he had learned from his mother and father to love God and honour Him. So he followed His ways, growing up in favour with God and men (1 Sam. 2:26).

One night as Samuel was sleeping, he was woken by a voice calling his name. Thinking it was Eli, he ran to find out what he wanted, but Eli had not called him. When this happened three times it was clear to Eli that Yahweh, the living God, was calling Samuel. He told the boy to go back to bed and, if he heard the voice again, to answer: "Speak, LORD, for thy servant heareth."



In the silence of the night God spoke to Samuel and gave him a very sober message about Eli and his sons. "I will judge his [Eli's] house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not" (v13). God would no longer tolerate the sons of Eli as priests in his house because of their wickedness, which Eli had known about but not stopped. It was a sad duty that fell to Samuel to tell his beloved teacher God's message.

From this point on, a great change took place in the life of this young man who was given to God—he was being prepared for the vital role of leader of the nation. "Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established a prophet of the LORD" (v 19-20).

THE DEATH OF ELI AND HIS SONS

1 Samuel 4

Eli was now a very old man, 98 years of age. Once again there was war with the Philistines and this time thousands of Israelites were slain. Among those killed were Eli's two sons Hophni and

Phinehas. The worst of it was that these wicked men had taken the Ark of God out of the Tabernacle and into the midst of the battle! So little did they understand God's ways that they thought this would make God give them the victory. But God would not help them and the Ark was captured by the Philistines! When a messenger came with this dreadful news, Eli was so shocked that the Ark of God had been taken, that he fell backward off his seat "and his neck brake, and he died".

Everyone now looked to Samuel for wise judgment and Godly direction. He became a leader and prophet in Israel and the good that he did lasted many years. He himself was upright and noble and saw to it that Israel's sacrifices were offered to God in the correct way. Later, when David became king, he spent a lot of time with Samuel, learning from this faithful prophet and planning with him things that would improve the people's worship.

LESSON FOR US

God makes it clear that even little children must learn to obey and honour Him. The Bible tells us that children can please God by obeying their parents (Eph. 6:1). In this way they are learning to love and obey their heavenly Father. God instructs parents to correct their children and teach them His right ways. They are to "bring them up in the nurture [discipline] and admonition [instruction] of the Lord" (Eph 6:4). Sometimes correction seems to children hard to bear, but it is necessary if they are to be trained in the way of righteousness.

The wise man Solomon said, "He that loveth his son chasteneth him" (Prov. 13:24). God was angry with Eli because he was not firm with his sons and allowed them to do whatever they pleased. They never learned God's ways at all because they never listened and learned. We must all learn, when we are children, to listen to our parents and obey them, so that we may grow up, like Samuel, to be Godly and upright.

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

1. *What did Hannah pray for at the Tabernacle?*
2. *What did Eli think of Hannah when he saw her praying?*
3. *What promise did Hannah make to God?*
4. *What does the name 'Samuel' mean?*
5. *What answer did Samuel give when God spoke to him in the night?*
6. *What were the names of the wicked sons of Eli the priest?*
7. *Why was God angry with Eli?*
8. *What was the terrible news brought to Eli from the battle?*
9. *How did Eli die?*
10. *Who became leader in Israel after Eli died?*

Detailed Answers

1. (a) *Tell the story of Hannah's unhappiness and how God turned her sadness into joy.*
(b) *How did Hannah keep her promise to God?*
2. (a) *What was the message God gave to Samuel in the night?*
(b) *Tell what happened to Eli and his sons.*



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18. A KING FOR ISRAEL

“Behold the king whom ye have chosen.”

Aim

To show how Israel asked for a king to be like the people around them, instead of having God only to rule them.

Samuel judged Israel for many years and during this time the Philistines were subdued. The people of Israel settled down in their inheritance. Each year Samuel travelled from town to town teaching them God’s ways and encouraging them to worship Him with all their heart. Now Samuel was growing old and his sons were not fit to take his place. The people wanted a change and came to Samuel with their request.

Reading 1 Samuel 8, 9 and 10

ISRAEL ASKS FOR A KING

1 Samuel 8

The elders of Israel came to Samuel at Ramah, where he lived, and said, “Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations” (v5). They wanted a different kind of ruler not only because Samuel’s sons were wicked, but because they had seen the nations around them being led out to battle by their king and were impressed. They wanted to be like other people. They forgot that God wanted them to be different, for they were His specially chosen people.

Samuel was not at all pleased. He was sure it was not a good idea. So he turned to God in prayer. God answered Samuel, “Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them” (v7). God had been their king, leading them victoriously into battle and defeating their enemies, but now they were asking for a king they could see—one they could admire and follow proudly to battle.

God knew exactly what they wanted. He told Samuel to warn the

people how different things would be if they had a king. A king would take their sons to be his soldiers and workmen, and their daughters to be cooks and bakers. He would want a tenth of all their animals and crops, and he would take the best of their fields and vineyards for his servants.

But the people had already made up their minds. They listened to Samuel politely and said, “Nay, but we will have a king over us; that we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles” (v19-20).

SAUL ANOINTED AS KING

1 Samuel 9:1

Saul was just the kind of man the people of Israel wanted for a king. He was tall and handsome. He was of the tribe of Benjamin and his father’s name was Kish. The name **Saul** means Asked, and he was just what the people had asked for.



We first hear of Saul searching for his father’s lost asses. He and his servant spent days looking for them but could not find them. At last Saul decided to go home. “Come and let us return,” he said, “lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us” (v5). Then his servant remembered that Samuel the prophet lived nearby. Perhaps he could help them.

Now God had told Samuel the day before that He was going to send to him the very next day the man who was to be their chosen king. So Samuel had a feast ready and was waiting to see who would appear. When Saul arrived, God pointed him out to Samuel— “Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! This is the one who shall reign over my people” (v17). Samuel invited Saul and his servant to the feast and much to their surprise told them

that his father's asses had been found! At the feast Saul was given the most honoured place, and the best portion of the meat had been set aside especially for him - though he did not yet know why. Later that night, Samuel spent a long time talking to Saul, no doubt telling him that God had chosen him to be king. Early next morning when Saul was ready to leave, Samuel told him to send his servant on ahead. Then Samuel took a vial (or flask) and poured oil on Saul's head. This was called anointing and it meant that Saul had been chosen by God to be king of Israel.

Then Samuel kissed Saul and said, "Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over His inheritance?"

The young man Saul returned to his father's house wondering about all that Samuel had told him, but when he got home he did not tell anyone what Samuel had said about the kingdom.

SAUL DECLARED TO BE KING **1 Samuel 10:17-25**

Now Samuel knew what to do. He called all the people to come together at Mizpeh. A special announcement was going to be made. First Samuel reminded the people how foolish they were to reject God, who had brought them out of Egypt and saved them from all their enemies. "Ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities [troubles]" (v19). Then he called all the people to stand in their tribes. The tribe of Benjamin was called forward. Then Saul the son of Kish was called - but he could not be found! Knowing that Samuel was going to present him to the people as their king, Saul had hidden himself among the baggage. Finally, he was found and Samuel said, "See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen" (v24). What a fine looking man he was, taller than any of the people. God knew just the kind of man they wanted and the people were pleased. They all shouted, "long live the king". Then Samuel told the people how the kingdom would be arranged and wrote it down in a book. After that they all went home.

LESSON FOR US

Israel found it hard to believe in the living God, because they could not see Him. We must have greater faith than that. We must have the same faith as Samuel, who always prayed to God for help and guidance. He is the true and living God even though we cannot see Him. He speaks to us as clearly as He spoke to Samuel—we cannot hear His voice but we can read His words in the Bible. We must find out every day what He wants us to do and choose the ways of God, whom we cannot see, rather than the ungodly ways of those we see around us. He knows what is good for us and will guide us safely and surely if we trust Him. Whatever trials may come upon us, we will be brought at last to the glorious kingdom of God on earth.

God did not want His people to be like the nations around them. They were special to Him and so are we. So we must separate ourselves from the things they do, for their ways are not His ways. We want to walk in God's ways, following all that is good and true, as we learn from the Bible. The world will not understand, but God in heaven will see us and be pleased.

ADDITIONAL NOTES 11 to 12 years

The oil that was used for anointing was very special oil—“holy anointing oil”. The recipe for it is found in Exodus 30:22-33, but the children of Israel were forbidden to make it for themselves or to use it—it was only for anointing those whom God chose.

- **Priests** — “Aaron and his sons” (Exod. 30:30)
- **Kings** — “the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon” (1 Kings 1:39)
- **Prophets** — “Elisha ... shalt thou anoint to be prophet” (1 Kings 19:16).

It was holy oil. Those anointed with it were set apart for special work in God's service. (We learned last year that holy means set apart by God, eg. Holy Bible—the Book God has set apart from all others because it is His words and His thoughts.)

This holy oil, made according to God’s recipe, pointed forward to the Holy Spirit with which Jesus was anointed at his baptism. “The Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art My beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22).

The word “Christ” means anointed. At his baptism he became Jesus **Christ** — Jesus anointed by God, for the special work of saving all who believe and obey the Gospel.

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

1. *What were Samuel’s sons like?*
2. *Why did the people want a king to reign over them?*
3. *When the people asked for a king, who had they really rejected?*
4. *What were Saul and his servant doing before Samuel met them?*
5. *How did Samuel know that Saul was the one God had chosen to be king?*
6. *Samuel invited Saul to a feast. How was he treated?*
7. *What did Samuel do to Saul next morning?*
8. *Samuel called the people together at Mizpeh to present their king to them. Where was Saul?*
9. *What did the people think of Saul?*
10. *How did the people show they were pleased?*

Detailed Answers

1. (a) *When the people asked for a king, what did God say to Samuel?*
(b) *Samuel warned the people that things would be different if they had a king. What did he say a king would do?*
(c) *What did the people say then?*
2. *Samuel gathered the people at Mizpeh to present their new king to them. Tell what happened.*

19. GOD REJECTS SAUL

“To obey is better than sacrifice.”

Aim

To show that God requires complete obedience to all His commands.

Saul suddenly found himself chosen to be the first king in Israel, ruling over God’s people. Now that he was king he must show himself worthy. This lesson shows us in two incidents how Saul treated God’s word lightly and Samuel had to tell him that since he had rejected God, God rejected him.

Reading 1 Samuel 13:8-14 and 15

KING SAUL TAKES UP HIS DUTIES **1 Samuel 13:5–14**

It was not long before Saul realised that he would have to leave his father’s house and lead God’s people into battle against their enemies. As captain over the army of Israel, Saul began well and led the people to victory. It was not long before it became easy to see that Saul was not a man of faith like the captains before him (eg Joshua, Barak, Gideon, etc.). He did not seem to realise that his army was **God’s** army and God would give the victory, if only he would obey Him and trust Him.

Once, Samuel told Saul to wait for him at Gilgal seven days. Samuel was going to come and offer sacrifices to God on behalf of the people before the battle. The Philistines had amassed a huge army to fight Israel and the people were afraid. Many of them ran off to hide in caves and thickets. On the seventh day Samuel had not come and Saul was getting impatient. He wanted to gather his army and join battle with the enemy before they overwhelmed him. So Saul decided to offer the sacrifices himself—which he had no right to do. Just then Samuel came. Samuel was very angry when he saw that Saul had disobeyed. “Thou hast done foolishly,” Samuel said, “Now thy kingdom shall not continue” (1 Sam. 13:13-14). God would not establish the kingdom in the family of Saul,

but would look for “a man after his own heart...to be captain over his people” (v14). Later that is just what happened.

THE AMALEKITES MUST BE DESTROYED 1 Samuel 15:1-9

Samuel continued to try and teach Saul the simple lesson of **listening carefully** and **obeying**. “The LORD sent me to anoint thee king over His people, over Israel; now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD” (v1).



About four hundred years earlier the Amalekites had cruelly and cowardly attacked the children of Israel as they struggled across the wilderness on their way to Sinai (Deut. 25:17–19). God had never forgotten this. “I remember that which Amalek did to Israel,” were God’s words to Saul, “Now go and smite Amalek, and **utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not**” (v 2,3).

Here was Saul’s chance to show that he could be a faithful king by obeying God’s clear instructions.

Saul did not hesitate. Off he went to gather his army and march against the Amalekites. The attack was successful and Saul “utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword” (v8)—except Agag, the king of the Amalekites, who was taken alive. They kept the best of the sheep, oxen and lambs as well and utterly destroyed the rest (v9).

Well, what had Saul done wrong? He had not passed the test. He had not utterly destroyed the Amalekites—he had spared some.

SAUL FAILS TO OBEY

1 Samuel 15:13-23

When Samuel arrived on the scene next morning and saw the animals, he was very angry and demanded of Saul what this meant. “What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and

the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” Saul was surprised. He thought he had done just what God had wanted. Of course, the animals were there, but Saul blamed the people for that. “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” (v15). Saul had not understood at all how important it is to do exactly what God says. God had said, “spare them not” (v3).

When Saul had been little in his own eyes, Samuel reminded him, God had anointed him to be king over Israel. Then God had given him a task— “Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites... until they be consumed” (v17–18). Saul argued that he had done the right thing, but the people had saved some of the animals simply because they wanted to sacrifice them to God. However, as leader of the people it was his responsibility to obey God. “Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” (v22). God does not want sacrifices from those who are rebellious at heart, and who disobey His commands. He wants the obedience of a true and honest heart.

Samuel was very distressed and angry. “Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king” (v23). As for Agag, king of the Amalekites, whom Saul had spared, Samuel himself “hewed Agag in pieces” (v33).

GOD REJECTS SAUL

1 Samuel 15:35

From this time forward, God was not with Saul and Samuel would have nothing more to do with him. The faithful prophet was very sad that Saul had not shown the qualities of faith and obedience that God required in a king, but Saul had done what was right in his own eyes and had not obeyed God.

LESSON FOR US

God always means exactly what He says. When He gives a command, He expects it to be carried out completely. When He said, “utterly destroy, and spare not”, He meant just that. Unfortunately,

we are often very much like Saul. It is not good enough to obey some of God's laws and think others are not quite so important. Like Saul, we must learn that complete obedience is what God requires. We need to be honest because God knows just what we are thinking.

How important it is to remember these words: "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Col. 3:20). If we learn to be obedient to our parents then, when we grow to be men and women, we will understand that we must obey our Heavenly Father in everything.

ADDITIONAL NOTES 11 to 12 years

Samuel told Saul that God had rejected him from being king (v26). Slowly Saul began to see what he had done wrong. He confessed that he had sinned but asked Samuel to forgive him and come with him to worship God. Samuel refused, because he knew that Saul had in his heart not changed at all. As he turned to go away, Saul caught hold of his robe and it tore. "The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day," Samuel said to him, "and hath given it to a neighbour of thine that is better than thou" (v28). Saul liked being king and did not want to be ashamed in front of the people. He felt very sorry for himself. But what God wanted was a change of heart. Though he remained as king for some time, God was no longer helping him. God had found "a man after His own heart" and sent Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be the future king in Saul's place.

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

1. *How long did Samuel tell Saul to wait for him at Gilgal?*
2. *What was Samuel going to do when he came to Gilgal, where Saul was waiting?*
3. *While he was waiting for Samuel at Gilgal, why did Saul offer the sacrifice?*
4. *What commandment did God give to Saul about the Amalekites?*
5. *Did the army of Saul defeat the Amalekites?*

6. *Did Saul utterly destroy all the Amalekites, as God had commanded?*
7. *What was the name of the king of the Amalekites?*
8. *Who did Saul blame for saving some of the animals captured from the Amalekites?*
9. *What did Samuel tell Saul was “better than sacrifice”?*
10. *What was Saul’s punishment for his disobedience in the battle with the Amalekites?*

Detailed Answers

1. *God commanded king Saul to fight against the Amalekites. Tell what happened.*
2. *Saul said that the people wanted to offer the animals they had spared as sacrifices.*
 - (a) *Why was God not pleased with this?*
 - (b) *What lesson do we learn from this which helps us learn to please God?*

Additional Answers 11 to 12 years

3. *Samuel told Saul that God had rejected him as king over Israel.*
 - (a) *Tell what happened when Saul tried to stop Samuel from leaving him.*
 - (b) *What kind of a king did God really want to rule His people?*



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20. GOD CHOOSES DAVID

“the LORD hath sought Him a man after His own heart.”

Aim

To show that God looks upon the heart and does not judge by outward appearance.

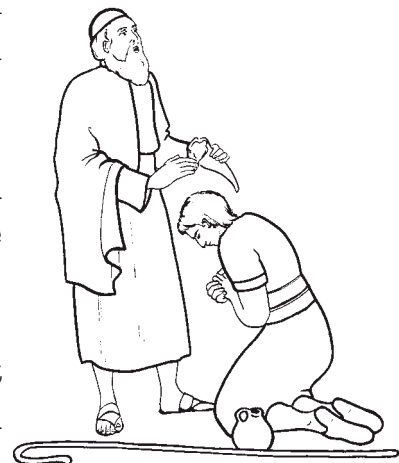
Saul had not proved to be a faithful king. He did not believe that God meant what He said. So God chose another man to replace him as king—a man who loved God and wanted to obey Him.

Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13

GOD CHOOSES THE RIGHT KING

Because Israel wanted to be like other nations; they had asked for a king. God let them have what they asked for and gave them Saul. He was just the sort of king they wanted—tall, strong and handsome. His appearance impressed the people very much. But God, who looked into his heart and mind, saw that he was really vain and self-centred, more interested in being popular than in obeying God. These faults made Saul unfit to rule God’s people. Israel needed a Godly king. So God’s prophet, Samuel, told Saul: “The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou” (1 Sam. 15:28). This was not the first time that Samuel had given Saul a message from God (see Lesson 19), but he had not changed.

It had not been easy for Samuel to turn away from Saul. He had tried to help him and was really sorry that Saul had failed. Now God wanted him to anoint a new king. “Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.” Jesse, grandson of Boaz and Ruth the Moabitess, was of the tribe of Judah. He had eight sons, the youngest of whom was David (Ruth 4:21-22; 1 Sam. 16:11).



SAMUEL IS SENT TO BETHLEHEM **1 Samuel 16:1-12**

So Samuel went to Bethlehem. The elders of the city were anxious when they saw him. He did not usually come to Bethlehem and perhaps there was something wrong. But Samuel re-assured them that he had come to offer a sacrifice. He particularly invited Jesse and his sons to come too (1 Sam. 16:2-5). When they arrived, Samuel noticed Eliab, Jesse's eldest son, and saw that he was tall and handsome. "Surely the LORD's anointed is before me," Samuel thought (v6), but he was mistaken. God said to Samuel, "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (v7).

Six more of Jesse's sons then passed before Samuel one by one, but God chose none of them. Naturally Samuel was puzzled and asked Jesse, "Are here all thy children?" Only the youngest was missing for he was out minding the sheep. Samuel told Jesse to send for him. When Jesse brought in David, Samuel saw that he was a healthy, bright-eyed, pleasant looking young man. Immediately God said, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he" (v12).

THE NEW KING ANOINTED **1 Samuel 16:13**



David was only a lad, a shepherd boy, but God had watched him grow to be faithful and thoughtful and full of courage. He knew what was in his heart and chose him because he had qualities that would make him a good and wise king. Samuel took the horn of oil he had brought with him for the purpose and, as all his brothers watched, anointed David to be Israel's next king. The spirit of God immediately came upon David and

remained with him from that day on. This showed those who had witnessed the anointing, that God approved of what Samuel had done. In Acts 13:22 God tells us why He chose David instead of

Saul: “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.”

David did not immediately become king. Years had yet to pass before he began the great task of leading God’s people, years in which he would learn valuable lessons to help him be just the kind of king God wanted.

LESSON FOR US

What a great lesson for Samuel—and for us—that God “looketh on the heart”. Since God sees us at all times as we really are, deep within our hearts, how important it is to make sure that our thoughts and motives please Him. God knows the innermost thoughts of our hearts, even if we say nothing about them (Psa. 139:1-2; Psa. 44:21). We cannot deceive God. If we remember this at all times, it will help us to be honest and true in all our ways.

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth to be king, he will reward or punish us according to whether our thoughts and actions have been bad or good (1 Cor. 4:5). So things we do, say and think are all important. If our thoughts and motives are good, **our words and actions will be too (see Instructor Question 19).**

ADDITIONAL NOTES 11 to 12 years

In Lesson 5 we saw how the life of Moses was like Jesus’ life in many ways. Now we see, as David is chosen to be king, that his life from the very beginning is “a type” of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

DAVID	CHRIST
David was born in Bethlehem of the tribe of Judah (1 Samuel 16:1)	Jesus was born in Bethlehem “the city of David” of the tribe of Judah (Luke 2:4, 11)
God set David apart to be king over Israel by anointing him with oil (1 Samuel 16:13)	God chose Jesus to be the Christ and anointed him with the Holy Spirit at his baptism (John 1:32, 49)

David was a shepherd (1 Samuel 16:11)	Jesus was “the good shepherd” (John 10:11)
David was “a man after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22)	Jesus was God’s “beloved son in whom I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22)

We will find many more examples like this in following lessons. They help us to understand how God taught His people to be waiting always for Messiah to come.

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

1. *Who was the first king of Israel?*
2. *What kind of man was chosen to replace Saul as king?*
3. *Whose house was Samuel sent to with a horn of oil?*
4. *How many sons did Jesse have?*
5. *Of all Jesse’s sons which one did God choose?*
6. *How did Samuel know which son of Jesse to anoint?*
7. *How did Samuel anoint David?*
8. *Did David become king straight away after he was anointed?*

Detailed Answers

1. *Tell the story of what happened when God sent Samuel to Jesse’s house.*
2. (a) *Complete the following quotation — “for the LORD seeth not as man seeth ...” (1 Sam. 16:7).*
(b) *What great lesson do we learn from this about how we should think and behave?*

Additional Answers 11 to 12 years

3. *Write down four ways in which David’s early life was a type of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ? (Make two columns, one for David and one next to it for Christ.)*



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21. DAVID AND GOLIATH

“The battle is the LORD’s.”

Aim

To show how David trusted in God to help him kill Goliath.

The life of a shepherd, in David’s time, was a lonely one and sometimes dangerous. He had to protect his flock from wild animals, as well as lead them to good pasture. One day, a lion came and took a lamb out of David’s flock; another time a bear did the same (1 Sam. 17:34, 35). But David trusted in God to help him kill those wild beasts and save his sheep. God was being a shepherd to David, just as David was to his sheep (Psa. 23). God taught David to rely on Him for protection and this was why he was not afraid even of Goliath.

Reading 1 Samuel 17

THE PHILISTINE GIANT’S CHALLENGE 1 Samuel 17:1-11

The Philistines were old enemies of Israel. In the days when Samuel was judge, God helped Israel against them and they were beaten and kept away from the cities of the Israelites. Some time after Samuel anointed David, however, these Philistines invaded Israel again. King Saul gathered together his army to defend the people of God against their enemy. In the army were Jesse’s three oldest sons.

The two armies were camped on the slopes of two mountains, facing each other across the Valley of Elah. A giant from Gath, named Goliath, paraded in front of the Philistine army and challenged the Israelites. “I defy the armies of Israel this day,” he bellowed. “Give me a man, that we may fight together” (v10). Day after day for forty days he confronted the army of Israel with his challenge, but no one dared to take him up.



Goliath certainly was a terrifying sight—he was a giant of a man, about three metres tall, an experienced soldier (v 4,33), covered in armour of brass from head to toe. Even King Saul, who among the Israelites was “head and shoulders above the people”, was not brave enough to face him.

DAVID HEARS THE CHALLENGE 1 Samuel 17:12–29

About that time, Jesse sent David to the battlefield with provisions for his brothers and a gift of cheeses for their captain. He was anxious to know how his three eldest sons were getting on. So David arose early and, leaving his sheep in the care of a keeper, he set off for the camp of Israel. Soon after he arrived, Goliath came out defiantly roaring his challenge (v23). Saul’s men ran away greatly afraid. When David heard the giant’s boastful words and saw the effect on the men of Israel, he asked the soldiers what was going on. King Saul, he was told, was offering a rich reward for the man who dared to tackle the giant and kill him. “The king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father’s house free in Israel,” they said (v25).

DAVID ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE 1 Samuel 17:32-40

How differently David reacted when he heard Goliath’s bold challenge. He could see at once how insulting it was to the God of Israel. How dare this Philistine “defy the armies of the living God”! (v26). Goliath had been put forward as the champion of the Philistines simply because of his immense size. He did not know that the strength of his enemies lay not in size or in numbers, but in the strength of “the living God”. The God of Israel could easily save His people from their enemies—if they had enough faith in Him. But no-one in the whole army of Israel, camped in the valley of Elah, had enough faith in God to go and face Goliath.

David was not a soldier, but he was full of faith. He had learned to trust in God on the hills of Bethlehem. He knew what had to be done. The soldiers he spoke to came and told the king. Saul was desperate by now and would listen to any offers to take up the Philistine’s challenge. So he summoned David, who got straight to

the point. “Let no man’s heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine” (v32). Saul was amazed. This lad who spoke so bravely was “but a youth”, not even a hardened soldier as Goliath was. Yet David persisted. He told Saul how God had helped him save his own sheep from a lion and a bear. He would kill this giant, just as he had killed those wild beasts. “The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine” (v37).

Seeing David’s great faith and confidence in God, Saul agreed to send him out to represent the whole nation in this unequal contest. “Go,” he said, “and the LORD be with thee.” First he armed David with his own armour, thinking that this would at least give him some protection against the giant. David quickly realised how useless this was. It would only be a hindrance, because he could not move properly with such heavy armour. Not only that, but he had never had any practice with a sword. As a soldier he was quite unskilled. Instead he took the things he knew he could use effectively and well—his staff, his sling and “five smooth stones out of the brook” (v40). He was ready now to go forward, trusting in God to protect him, as he had always done.

FIGHTING GOD’S WARS BY FAITH 1 Samuel 17:41-52

David went straight out to meet Goliath (v40). The Philistine was taken aback that someone had at last dared to come and fight him. When he saw it was only a young lad coming out to meet him, with a stick and a sling, he sneered at David. “Am I a dog,” he roared, “that thou comest out to me with staves?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. “Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field” (v43-44).

The battle had now become a contest between the God of Israel and the gods of the Philistines. This is exactly how David saw it too, for he said, “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 armies, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

This day will the LORD deliver thee into my hand” (v45). David wanted everyone to know that it was not for his own honour, but for the honour of Israel’s God that he was fighting— “that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly [the people of Israel] shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD’s, and He will give you into our hand” (v46-47).

No doubt David’s bold words made Goliath angry. As he got up and lumbered across in his heavy armour, David ran quickly to meet him,

fitting a stone to his sling as he went. He slung that one stone unerringly, so that it struck the Philistine on his forehead and he fell on his face to the ground. Then David ran and drew the giant’s sword out of its sheath and killed him by cutting off his head.



When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead they fled in terror. The Israelites leaped up, shouting with excitement. David had conquered by faith and this encouraged them all. Confident now of victory, they chased the Philistines right to the gates of Ekron, slaying many on the way. God’s victory was complete. Now all knew “that there is a God in Israel” (v46).

David’s faith had been better protection than sword and spear (v47). He had trusted God to guide that stone and God had responded to David’s faith. King Saul, no doubt greatly relieved and thankful for the victory, honoured him and took him into his army. He became a great leader among men and the soldiers were glad to follow him into battle. Many years later, after Saul had died, David became king over Israel.

LESSON FOR US

David's victory over Goliath teaches us one of the greatest lessons found in the Bible—faith in the true God has real power. God may not ask us to go and slay a giant, but He does want us to show the same faith as David. God was very real to David. He trusted in Him from his youth, believing in Him as “the living God”. He had experienced God's care and was able to show his faith as he grew up, by courageously fighting God's enemies.

We can show our faith in the living God in the things we do and say each day. Every time we decide to do what pleases God, then we have won a battle—we have honoured God by choosing to do His will. Let us have faith in God and learn to honour and obey Him just as David did.

ADDITIONAL NOTES 11 to 12 years

For all his great strength, Goliath was ignorant—he did not know the living God, who made heaven and earth. We see God's hand wonderfully displayed in the creation around us, but we only learn to know Him through the Bible. The story of David and Goliath is more than just a true story about a contest between two men. It teaches us about a contest between two ways of thinking.

If we think about it, we will realise that we often have a struggle going on in our minds, a struggle between obeying and disobeying. If we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that we sometimes challenge our parents or teachers, or behave foolishly. We sometimes think unkind thoughts, or we forget to do good things, which is just as bad. In all these ways we are choosing to please ourselves rather than pleasing God.

The only way to be faithful like David is, first of all, to be aware of God, knowing that He is watching over us at all times. If we really believe that, we can discover in the Bible how God thinks and what He wants us to do. We can fill our minds with God's thoughts, choosing to honour Him.

This is just what the Lord Jesus Christ did—all the time. He is

the only man who has never sinned against God. In this he was different from all other men. He never had a ‘fleshly mind’, wanting to please himself. Instead he had a ‘spiritual mind’—his thoughts were always God’s thoughts. Yet he felt the struggle all his life, just as we do. With God’s help he won that battle in his mind and though he died, God raised him from the dead. Now he lives forever at God’s right hand.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy mentioned many of the ungodly things he had seen people doing and told Timothy: “But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called” (1 Tim. 6:11-12).

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

1. *How did God help David when his father’s sheep were attacked by wild beasts?*
2. *Who faced each other across the valley of Elah?*
3. *How many days did Goliath challenge Israel?*
4. *What did Goliath shout out every day when he challenged Israel?*
5. *What did the Israelites do when they saw Goliath shouting across the valley?*
6. *What did Goliath look like?*
7. *What weapons did Goliath have?*
8. *What weapons did David choose?*
9. *How did David kill Goliath?*
10. *What did the Philistines do when they saw that their champion, Goliath, was dead?*

Detailed Answers

1. *Tell the story of David’s battle with Goliath. (Begin with David’s words to King Saul.)*
2. (a) *Describe what Goliath looked like.*
(b) *What challenge did Goliath make every day?*
(c) *What did David think of Goliath’s challenge?*
(d) *How is David’s faith in God a lesson for us today?*

Additional Answers 11 to 12 years

3. *The story of David and Goliath reminds us of the struggle we often have in our minds.*
- (a) *Describe the kind of struggle you sometimes have to do what is right.*
 - (b) *How was the Lord Jesus Christ different from all other men?*
 - (c) *What advice did Paul give Timothy about “the good fight of faith”?*



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22. DAVID AND JONATHAN

“Jonathan loved him as his own soul.”

Aim

To show the unselfish love of Jonathan and the meaning of true friendship.

All the people of Israel admired David and sang his praises because of his great victory over Goliath. When they saw how well he behaved himself, they began to love him (v16). Jonathan, Saul’s son, a godly, faithful man, loved David very much as a close friend, but Saul was jealous of David’s popularity.

Reading 1 Samuel 18:1-16; 19

JONATHAN AND DAVID BECOME CLOSE FRIENDS

1 Samuel 18:1-4

Because he was Saul’s eldest son, Jonathan was heir to the throne of Israel. Everyone expected that he would be the next king. There are many stories in the first book of Samuel of Jonathan’s outstanding faith and courage and God would have really loved him. Saul, however, had been rejected by God because he was stubborn and disobedient (see Lesson 19). God had instead chosen another man to be king, “a man after His own heart”—David the son of Jesse, of the tribe of Judah. From that tribe Messiah (that is, Christ) would later come (Luke 2:11).

The news that God had chosen David gradually spread throughout all Israel. When Jonathan realised that David would be king he was pleased. It never occurred to him to be angry or jealous (1 Sam. 23:17). From the time of their first meeting, when David was the hero of all Israel, Jonathan became very fond of the young shepherd, for Jonathan could see how much he loved God. He was obviously very impressed by David’s faith and courage in boldly facing the



giant Goliath, and in fearlessly going out to slay him. As a sign of his respect and love, he took off his own royal robe and girdle and gave them to David to wear. Jonathan was a great soldier, but he gave his sword and his bow to David to show how much he loved him (v4).



KING SAUL'S JEALOUS HATRED

1 Samuel 18:5-16

King Saul became depressed and moody. The real cause was that he had refused to listen to God and obey Him. One of his servants, however, suggested that he find someone to come and play soothing music on the harp. So it was that David, a very skilful musician, first came into the king's house (16:14–18). David, of course, was now also a fearless soldier and the men of Israel gladly followed him into battle.

After one battle with the Philistines, Saul heard the singing of the women of Israel, as they sang and danced for joy that Israel had won. He should have been glad, but he heard their song— “Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands” (v7). This made Saul so angry that he made up his mind to kill David.

It never occurred to Jonathan that his father would hate such a lovely young man as David. It was not long though before Saul's actions showed that he was extremely jealous of David. “What can he have more but the kingdom?” he said (v8).

The next day, while David played on his harp, Saul hurled his spear at him. Twice this happened and twice David escaped (v11). Saul had become afraid of David, because he saw that God was with him. God, however, had deserted Saul because he continued to be stubborn and rebellious. Time and again he plotted to destroy David and, as each plot failed, Saul's hatred grew (v29). “But all Israel and Judah loved David” (18:16).

JONATHAN SPEAKS UP FOR DAVID **1 Samuel 19:1-7**

“And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David” (v1). Jonathan was a very loyal son, but he knew that God had chosen David to be king over Israel. So he protected David even when Saul was plotting to kill him. It made Jonathan very unhappy and he warned David of his father’s wicked plans. Then he went back to his father to reason with him. He pleaded with him not to return evil for the good that David had always done to him. Jonathan’s words were so kind and so true that Saul “hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware [that is, promised], As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain” (v6).

Jonathan really did believe that his father had changed his mind and so David was brought again to the king’s palace. But Saul had not changed at all. Once again he took up a javelin to throw at David. This time David fled for his life to his old friend, the prophet Samuel, and stayed with him at Ramah (v10, 18).

DAVID GOES INTO HIDING **1 Samuel 20:11-42**

David decided to go secretly and tell Jonathan that he was afraid for his life. The two friends met together without anyone knowing. They made a covenant together out in the field, a promise to remain true and faithful to each other. Jonathan made David promise also that, when he became king, he would continue to show kindness to Jonathan’s family.

David now felt sure that Saul would not rest till he had killed him. “There is but a step between me and death,” he told Jonathan. He had thought of a plan to test if this were true. The next day was the time of “the new moon”, the beginning of the month, and David should have joined the king’s household for the celebration. Instead, David was hiding in the field. At first, Saul pretended not to notice, but on the second day he asked Jonathan why “the son of Jesse” had not come to the feast. Jonathan told his father that he had given David permission to join his own family in Bethlehem for a sacrifice there. Saul could see that Jonathan was protecting David, for he knew there was a strong bond of friendship between them. Now Saul’s anger turned on Jonathan, his own faithful son.

“As long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die” (v31).

Jonathan tried to speak up for David, but Saul was so furious that he hurled a javelin at him—his own son! Jonathan could see that words were useless any longer. Blinded by jealousy, his father would not rest until he had killed David. “So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger... for he was grieved for David.” His father had treated him shamefully (v34).

JONATHAN AND DAVID MUST PART 1 Samuel 20:35–42

Jonathan had arranged beforehand to meet David in the field and let him know whether his father’s anger had passed or not. So next morning he went out with his bow and arrows and took a lad to fetch the arrows as he shot them. As the boy ran to pick them up, Jonathan called out, “Is not the arrow beyond thee? Make speed, haste, stay not.” This was really the signal to David that he must make haste and flee. The lad did not know that David was hiding nearby and it was only when he went off back to the city with Jonathan’s weapons that David came forward to thank his friend.

Sadly they said goodbye, for it was not safe for David to stay any longer. He must flee for his life. They had made a covenant with each other before God, saying, “the LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed forever” (v42). “Go in peace,” said Jonathan to his young friend as they parted. These two friends only saw each other once more, when Jonathan went secretly to encourage David as he hid from Saul (23:16–18).

LESSON FOR US

Jealousy may seem to start off as a small thing, but so often it can lead to anger and hatred. Saul saw David’s success and popularity as a threat to his position as king. This made him first jealous, then angry and before long he was filled with hatred. He tried to cover it up by lying, but it was soon clear that these feelings were so strong that he wanted to murder David. God would not help such

a man. Saul, therefore, is a warning to us against envy (jealousy) and anger. Envy quickly turns to hatred and that, in God's eyes, is as bad as murder (1 John 3:15).

David and Jonathan were both loyal and faithful to Saul—David, because Saul was his king, and Jonathan, because Saul was his father. Saul was too blinded by his own jealousy to realise what lovely men these were. God will be pleased with us, too, if we behave as they did.

Jonathan was a true friend. So was David. Their love was generous and never failed. They are both splendid examples to us of unselfish love and that is just what God wants us to show—love for God and love for the brethren and sisters of Christ and their children. We show this by our care and concern for others.

Ask your parents or teacher to help you understand the beautiful words Paul wrote about love in 1 Corinthians 13:4–8. The Lord Jesus Christ alone has loved us in that way. We must try every day to show the same love to others.

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

1. *Which of Saul's sons loved David?*
2. *What presents did Jonathan give to David to show his respect and love?*
3. *When God chose David to be king what did Jonathan think of that?*
4. *What song did Saul hear that made him jealous of David?*
5. *What terrible thing did Saul do one day when David was playing softly to him on his harp?*
6. *When David and Jonathan met out in the field the first time, what did Jonathan make him promise?*
7. *When Jonathan told Saul why David was not at the feast, what did Saul do?*
8. *What did Jonathan call out when the boy went to fetch the arrows?*

9. *What did David understand by the words Jonathan called out, after he shot the arrows in the field?*
10. *We know Saul was jealous of David; what can jealousy easily lead to?*

Detailed Answers

1. (a) *Explain why Saul was jealous of David.*
(b) *Show from this lesson what terrible things jealousy can lead to.*
2. (a) *Why did Jonathan love David?*
(b) *What did Jonathan give to David to show that he loved and admired him?*
(c) *What lessons can we learn from the lovely friendship of David and Jonathan?*



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23. DAVID RETURNS GOOD FOR EVIL

“the LORD judge between me and thee...and deliver me out of thine hand.”

Aim

To show how David always returned good for the evil that Saul did to him.

The lessons David had learned when he was young, of honouring God and the king, were now able to help him behave in a Godly way toward Saul. He did not want to die at Saul’s hand, but he refused to take what seemed to be the easy way out—he refused to kill God’s anointed king.

Reading 1 Samuel 24, 26

DAVID SPARES SAUL’S LIFE —

(1) AT ENGEDI

1 Samuel 24

Saul now hunted David like a hunter stalks an animal. With a small band of followers David hid in the forests and caves in the hills of Judah. Soon 600 men joined him and he became their captain. All the time that Saul pursued him, God protected him, sometimes warning him of danger in time for him to escape (1 Sam. 22:5; 23:9-12).

On one occasion Saul heard that he was hiding in the rugged rocks at Engedi, where the wild goats live. Taking 3000 of his best soldiers, he went off to catch David. Now it happened that David and his men were hiding very quietly deep in a cave as Saul’s soldiers came by. Who should come into the cave but Saul—alone, to rest. David’s men whispered to him that now was his chance to kill his enemy. Surely this was



an opportunity sent from God. But David honoured Saul still as his king and would not do it, for Saul was God's anointed. Nevertheless he crept up behind Saul and cut off a piece from the hem of his robe. Yet as soon as he had crept back to his men with the piece of Saul's robe in his hand, David regretted that he had even done this. Suspecting nothing, Saul arose and left the cave. Shortly David also emerged from the cave and called after Saul, "My lord the king" (v8). Saul turned, and David bowed down before him.

"Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold David seeketh thy hurt?" David said, "Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee today into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee: and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD's anointed" (24:10). And he held up the piece of Saul's robe.

Realising how David had spared his life, the king was moved to tears and all his anger melted away. He could see how sincere and generous David was. "Thou art more righteous than I," said Saul to David, "for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil...And now, behold I know well that thou shalt surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand" (v17-20). He pleaded with David not to harm anyone in his family when he became king. David gladly promised to do as Saul asked and so they parted. Saul went home, but David and his men returned to the caves and the hills of Israel.

Saul's repentance, as always, did not last long. Soon he was out hunting David again, until David was forced to flee to the Philistines' land.

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE —

(2) IN THE WILDERNESS OF ZIPH

1 Samuel 26

Another time Saul went hunting for David with his special band of 3000 men. This time David was hiding in the wilderness of Ziph. He sent out spies from his hiding place to see where Saul

was camped. It was night time. Saul lay asleep in the middle of his camp and Abner, the captain of his army, and all his men lay around him asleep.

Then David said to the men who were with him, “Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp?” and Abishai said, “I will go down with thee” (v6).

So David and Abishai crept down to the camp of Saul. There was Saul sound asleep and beside his pillow was his spear stuck in the ground. All was quiet as the camp slept.

“God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day,” Abishai said to David, “Let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time” (v8). But David was firm. “Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless?” (v9).

One day Saul would die, but that was in God’s hands. David himself would do him no harm—but he had a daring plan. He and Abishai crept right into the middle of the sleeping camp and took Saul’s spear and the cruse (or jar) of water, which were there right beside Saul’s head. They got back safely without anyone stirring.

This had been a very bold and dangerous plan. Neither David nor Abishai realised just how much God had helped them. “No man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked; for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them” (v12).

When they had put a good distance between them and Saul’s camp, they stopped on the top of a hill and David called out with a loud voice in the stillness of the night. Abner woke up with a start, “Who art thou that criest to the king?”

“Art not thou a valiant man?” David asked Abner. “Wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? For there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord. This thing is not good that

thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster."

So David taunted Abner, but really he wanted them all to realise that once again he could easily have killed Saul, but would not. Saul recognised his voice. "Is this thy voice, my son David?" He could tell straightaway what danger he had been in and how David had again spared his life. "I have sinned," he said, "Return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm." If only this were true. Too many times he had made this kind of promise and yet had gone out to hunt David time and again. "Behold the king's spear! Let one of the young men come over and fetch it," David said.

So Saul went home, but David said in his heart, "I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul." Until the day that Saul died in battle with the Philistines, David went from place to place keeping well hidden, waiting for God to choose the right time when he should become king.

LESSON FOR US

We learn from David's life some wonderful qualities that make up the character of a Godly man. Even Saul acknowledged, "Thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil" (24:17). Returning good for evil is one of the most important lessons we must learn. The Lord Jesus Christ reminds us of this: "I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44).

The important thing is that our attitude is right. We must remain kind even when others are unkind to us. In this way we are showing that we really hope that they will change and become our friend and honour God with us.

ADDITIONAL NOTES 11 to 12 years

SAUL AND JONATHAN DIE IN BATTLE **1 Samuel 31**

The last battle of Saul's life was fought on Mount Gilboa. The Israelites fled before the Philistines and many of Saul's soldiers were slain. Saddest of all, brave and faithful Jonathan was killed too. Saul was badly wounded by arrows and the Philistines were fast overtaking him. Saul was desperate. He could not escape and God would no longer help him. He asked his armour-bearer to kill him, so that he would not suffer the humiliation of being slain by the Philistines. But his armour-bearer was afraid and would not kill him, so Saul took his sword and killed himself—a shameful way to die.

David was grief-stricken when he heard the news. His grief was for Saul as well as for Jonathan (2 Sam. 1:12 and 17). How easy it would have been to rejoice at the death of his enemy, but David was loyal to God's anointed and very forgiving. David had learned that just as God had been very merciful to him, so he should be merciful to others, even though they might not deserve it (Matt. 5:43-48). Above all, David was distressed by the loss of Jonathan, his closest friend. You can read David's sad and beautiful lament for Saul and Jonathan in 2 Samuel 1:17–27. David later showed his love for Jonathan when he cared for Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son (2 Sam. 9:7).

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

1. *What did David's men tell him to do to Saul, when he came into the cave at Engedi?*
2. *What did David do to Saul in the cave at Engedi?*
3. *What did David do when Saul went out of the cave?*
4. *What did Saul think of David's behaviour in the cave at Engedi?*
5. *When David was hiding in the wilderness of Ziph, who agreed to go with him into Saul's camp at night?*
6. *Why did David refuse to kill Saul?*
7. *What did David and Abishai take from Saul's camp while Saul slept?*

8. *How did God help David and Abishai when they went down into Saul's camp?*
9. *What did Saul ask David to promise?*
10. *What outstanding quality do we learn from David sparing Saul's life?*

Detailed Answers

1. *Saul came hunting for David at Engedi.*
 - (a) *Tell how David spared Saul's life.*
 - (b) *What lesson do we learn from David's Godly attitude?*
2. *Saul came to look for David in the wilderness of Ziph.*
 - (a) *Tell how David showed Saul that he meant him no harm.*
 - (b) *Why did David want to show mercy to Saul?*

Additional Answers 11 to 12 years

3. *Tell how Saul and Jonathan died. How did David feel when he heard this news?*



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24. DAVID THE KING

“Then came all the tribes of Israel to David... and they anointed David king over Israel.”

Aim

To show how God’s promise to David, that he should be king, was fulfilled.

In all his troubles David learned to rely on God. In the Psalms he writes of the faith which helped him to wait patiently for God to rescue him. (Some of these Psalms are: 34, 54, 56, 57, 59, 63.) It is good for us to learn this lesson of faith and trust in God, and reading those Psalms will help us to do so.

Reading 2 Samuel 2:1-4; 5:1-10; 1 Chronicles 13

DAVID IS CROWNED KING OF JUDAH 2 Samuel 2:1-4

David was now thirty years old and had learned many valuable lessons, both as a young shepherd looking after his father’s sheep, and after that as a soldier and leader of men. God had sent Samuel to anoint David king more than ten years before, so it was to God that David now turned for advice. “Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?” he asked, and God told him to go to Hebron. At last his days of exile from his own country and the hillsides of Bethlehem, which he had loved as a lad, were over.

So David came to Hebron with his family and the men who had remained faithful to him over the years when he had fled from Saul. There at Hebron the men of Judah anointed him king over Judah. God had already shown that this was the man He had chosen, when He sent Samuel to anoint him at his father’s house. Young David had only been a shepherd boy then. Now Judah had a God-fearing and



courageous king—one who had learned faith, patience, kindness and wise leadership during the troubled days of his exile.

For seven years and six months David ruled Judah, but the other tribes refused to have him as their king. Abner, Saul's uncle, had tried to keep the rest of Israel together by making Saul's son Ishbosheth king (v8–10). Finally, when Abner died, all the tribes came to David and asked him to be their king too. They remembered that he had been the one who had led them out to battle against the Philistines and also that God had anointed him king. So David was anointed king and all Israel was united under him (2 Sam. 5:1-3). At last, his patient waiting for God to fulfil His purpose was rewarded.

JERUSALEM—DAVID'S ROYAL CITY 2 Samuel 5:6-10

David must now choose the place where he would set his throne. Without hesitation, he chose Jerusalem. At that time it was called Jebus, because it was held by the Jebusites, one of the Canaanite nations whom God had told Israel to destroy. For a long time this city had defied the armies of Israel. Joshua had slain its king, but had not conquered the city. Long before Joshua, Melchizedek, “priest of the most high God”, who blessed Abraham, had lived in this city, which at that time was called Salem (Gen. 14:18-19). David wanted it for his royal city, and for a place of rest for the Ark of the Covenant, which the children of Israel had carried with them on their wanderings through the wilderness many years before.

Jebus was built on a hill and protected by high walls and so the Jebusites felt quite safe there. When they saw David's army coming, they laughed—even the blind and the lame could defend their city, they boasted (v6). David was not deterred. He would make the man who was brave enough to break into the city and take it for him, captain over his army (v8). Then Joab, one of the bravest of David's soldiers, made his way secretly into the city through an underground tunnel, which brought water up into the city from the spring Gihon outside. It was a long tunnel ending in a narrow shaft, like a well, that went straight up into the fortress above. It was certainly very difficult and very dangerous, but Joab

succeeded and was appointed captain over David's army. God was with David as before and they captured the city from the Jebusites. From that time on it was called Zion...“the city of David” (v9). David built a palace for himself there and many other buildings. “And David went on, and grew great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him” (v10).

TRAGEDY THROUGH IGNORING GOD'S WORD

1 Chronicles 13

Since its return from the Philistines, the Ark of the Covenant had never been put back in its proper place in the Tabernacle. David knew how important it was for the nation to worship God in the way He had appointed. He now wished to give the Ark a special place in Jerusalem and so he made a new tent for it on Mount Zion. Then he asked the help of all the leaders of Israel to bring the Ark to Zion (v 1,2). A new cart was made especially for the purpose of carrying it. The sons of Abinadab, Uzza and Ahio, drove the cart out of their father's house in a procession towards Jerusalem. “And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets” (v8). It was a very special occasion.

On the way the oxen stumbled and Uzza put out his hand to steady the Ark. It was quite a natural thing to do, but it was totally forbidden that anyone should touch it. Instantly God struck Uzza and he died. You can imagine how the singing and dancing suddenly stopped. The people were shocked and afraid that such a thing should happen in the midst of their rejoicing. David was horrified. What had gone wrong? God smote Uzza “because he put his hand to the ark” (v10). According to God's law no one must touch the Ark but the sons of Aaron (Num. 4:15).

In their eagerness to bring the Ark to Zion, everyone had forgotten one vital thing—to find out from the Book of the Law what God's special instructions were. The Ark should not have been carried on a cart at all, not even on a new one especially made for it. The Ark had been especially designed—by God—with rings for poles so that it could be

carried upon the shoulders of the Levites (Num 4:15). Uzza's death was a warning to everyone of the importance of holiness and of the need to learn and do the will of God.

THE ARK IS SAFELY INSTALLED 2 Samuel 6:12–19

At the next attempt, about three months later, all went well because God's word had been consulted and was obeyed. This time the Levites of the family of Kohath carried the Ark, "as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD" (1 Chron. 15:2, 13–15). It was brought to Mount Zion and placed in the tent David had specially prepared. All Israel rejoiced with singing and dancing. As soon as the Ark was safely installed, David offered sacrifices to God and blessed the people. He wanted everyone to share his feeling of joy that day and presented everyone, men and women alike, with a gift of food before they went home.

LESSON FOR US

Times of trouble teach us how much we need God—we are so thankful to have our God to turn to. Such troubles teach us to "commit our ways unto the LORD; trust also in Him" (Psa. 37:5–7). They teach us to rely on Him for help and protection and that is just what God wants us to do. Paul said that "we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). Only in times of tribulation (stress and trouble) do we really appreciate all His goodness and have our characters developed in Godliness.

But it is not only in times of trouble and sadness that we must turn to Him. God wants us to turn to Him as well in times of happiness and rejoicing. If David had first looked at God's word and learned what God had wanted, the procession to Jerusalem with the Ark the first time would have been happy all the way. David learned and so did all Israel that joy and happiness can only come when our ways are in harmony with God.

Let us remember then, to read God's Word every day and make sure we know what we must do to please Him, as well as to seek help and guidance and comfort.

ADDITIONAL NOTES 11 to 12 years

David waited many years from his anointing until at last he was proclaimed king. He showed great patience even when his life was in danger, as it was many times. He trusted that God would do all He had promised, but in His own time. David's great descendant, Jesus Christ, also waited long and patiently for God to fulfil His promises. God had promised before his birth that He would give him "the throne of his father David... and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:31-33). He lived a perfect life and suffered a cruel death, never doubting that God would fulfil these promises. He now sits at God's right hand in heaven, awaiting that appointed time when God will send him to receive his kingdom and throne and to rule over the whole world (Acts 3:20-21; 17:31).

David knew that God had chosen Jerusalem as a place "to put His Name" (Deut. 12:5). "the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation" (Psa. 132:13). This was why David was so anxious to take Jerusalem from the Jebusites and to bring the Ark of God to rest there. David made Jerusalem his capital city and the Lord Jesus Christ later called it "the city of the great king" (Matt. 5:35). It is from Jerusalem that Christ will rule the world. People from all nations will go up to Jerusalem to worship and to learn God's laws (Isa. 2:2-4; Psa. 48:1,2). The return of Jews to the land of Israel and especially to Jerusalem reminds us that the time of Christ's coming is very near (Luke 21:24-28).

What greater happiness can we have than to live in the kingdom of God on the earth, with the Lord Jesus Christ as a wise and just king, showing mercy and kindness to all people. Psalm 72 describes many of the blessings of that kingdom. If we read God's word and believe it heartily, we will enjoy all the blessings of that Kingdom of God on earth (Rev. 5:9-10; Rom. 2:7).

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

1. *About how long did David have to wait from the time when Samuel anointed him until he was crowned king of Judah?*
2. *After Saul's death David asked God what he should do next. What did he ask and what was God's answer?*
3. *Over which tribe did David first become king?*
4. *How long was David king of Judah?*
5. *When did the other tribes come and ask David to be their king?*
6. *Who broke into the city called Jebus and what was his reward?*
7. *How was the Ark carried the first time David tried to bring it to Jerusalem?*
8. *Why did God kill Uzza?*
9. *How did David find out what they did wrong the first time he tried to bring the Ark to Jerusalem?*
10. *Who carried the Ark when it was safely taken to Zion and how did they carry it?*

Detailed Answers

1. (a) *Why did David want to bring the Ark of God to Jerusalem?*
(b) *What happened the first time?*
(c) *Describe what happened the second time.*
2. (a) *What lessons do we learn from the tragedy that happened the first time the Ark was moved?*
(b) *How can times of trouble be good for us?*

Additional Answers 11 to 12 years

3. (a) *Tell how David captured Jebus, that is, Jerusalem.*
(b) *Why was Jerusalem so important to David?*
(c) *How important will Jerusalem become when Christ returns?*
(d) *What must we do, if we wish to share the kingdom with David and the Lord Jesus Christ?*



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25. GOD'S PROMISE TO DAVID

“Thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee.”

Aim

To show that the promises made to David will be fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Long ago, God told Moses of His great purpose with the world. “As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD” (Num 14:21). God will begin to bring this to pass when He sends the Lord Jesus Christ back to the earth to rule as king on David's throne. At the end of his reign the whole earth will be a place where God's glory alone is seen and known.

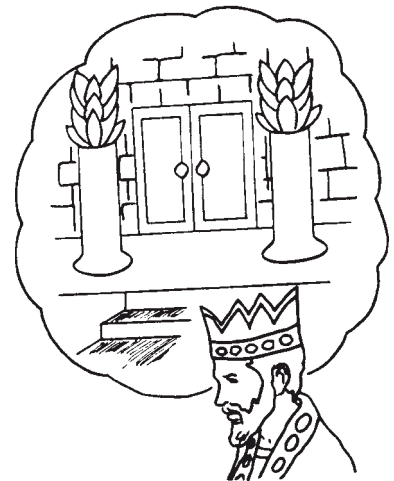
Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-17

DAVID'S WISH DENIED

2 Samuel 7:1-7

Now that he was king over all Israel and God had given him rest from all his enemies, David realised how wonderfully God had blessed him. He wanted to do something to show God how grateful he was. It distressed David to think that, while he lived in a beautiful palace of cedar wood, the Ark of God rested in a tent. It was certainly a special tent, which he had pitched for it on Mount Zion, but David longed to build a great and beautiful temple, in which to place the Ark of God, “the living God”, whom he worshipped.

He told Nathan the prophet what he planned to do. Nathan thought it was a good idea. “Do all that is in thine heart,” Nathan said, “for the LORD is with thee” (v3). But Nathan was wrong. That night God spoke to Nathan and told him that David was not to build Him a temple. David had been a warrior and had slain many men in his battles. It was not fitting that such a man of war should build a house of worship for God. Instead, God promised



to give David a son who would be a man of peace, and this son would build a house for God (1 Chron. 22:7-9). This son was Solomon, whose name means “peaceable”. He was to be the one who would build the Temple that David had planned, and put in it the Ark of God.

God was not displeased with David though. God showed just how pleased He was with David’s whole attitude by giving him a most wonderful **promise**. God said that **He** would build David a “house”: that is, He would establish David’s family line out of which would come a very special son. This promise was about another son of David, one who was “greater than Solomon” (Matt 12:42).

GOD’S WONDERFUL PLAN

Numbers 14:21

God had always planned to set up His kingdom on earth. He said long ago that He would fill the earth with His glory (Num. 14:21)—that is, all creation will give glory and praise to Him for ever (Psalm 145:10–12). This is the reason for Jesus Christ to return and judge the world wisely and righteously. As King, he must first cleanse it of wickedness and violence, and change the hearts and minds of the people by teaching them God’s laws (Isa 2:2–4). Not only will He cleanse the world of all the pollution that men have filled it with, but He will put an end to wars and sickness and disease, all those things which cause pain and sadness. He is even going to put an end to death too (1 Cor 15:26; Rev 21:4). This is what the world will be like when everyone loves God and obeys His laws. All such people will be given immortality and the earth will truly be full of God’s glory.

GOD’S PROMISE TO DAVID

2 Samuel 7:12-17

David’s heart was so full of love for God and his ways were so upright, that God chose him to play a very important part in His wonderful plan. Though it was Solomon who would build the Temple, David would have a more illustrious son than Solomon—Jesus, the son of Mary and Son of God (Luke 1:31,35). As we read through the words of the promise we will learn why David felt so humbled after God had revealed His plan to him.

- **“When thy days be fulfilled and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers...”** David would not see these promises fulfilled in his lifetime. Thousands of years would pass.
- **“I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels...”** The promised seed (or, descendant) would be in the family line of David.
- **“I will establish his kingdom.”** This kingdom would be God’s and He would set it up. It is the Kingdom we are looking forward to.
- **“He shall build an house for my name...”** It will be the work of this king to build a magnificent Temple for God (v13), because everyone in the world must go up to worship Him (Isa. 2:3; Zech 14:16). It will be “a house of prayer” for all nations (Isa. 56:7).
However, the “house” that God promised to David is more than just a building. It is also the people who live in the house, the household or family of God—the ecclesia, made up of the brethren and sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **“I will be his Father and he shall be my son.”** The most remarkable thing about this promise is that this descendant of David would also be “the Son of God”. Mary was indeed his mother, but God Himself is his Father (Luke 1:32, 35).
- **“If he commit iniquity...”** This wonderful son of David, Jesus the Son of God, would never “commit iniquity”, but obey his heavenly Father perfectly to the very end of his life. He suffered and died to save others who sin and are in need of forgiveness. He was a fit man to be God’s king, for he alone was raised from the dead, never to die again.
- **“My mercy shall not depart away from him.”** He pleased his Father in every way and so God declared, “This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased” (Matt 17:5).
- **“Thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee.”** David himself would be raised from the dead to witness the fulfilment of all that God had promised.
- **“Thy throne shall be established for ever.”** The angel Gabriel spoke to Mary of the baby she would have who

would grow up to be this promised king. “The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” (Luke 1:32,33).

We know that all the faithful men and women even before David’s days looked forward to the coming of “the promised seed”. Yet it was to King David that God made this wonderful promise of a king who would reign forever on his throne—these are the key words of the promise.

JESUS CHRIST WILL RETURN

2 Samuel 7:16

Jesus is not yet ruling as king of Israel and he is not yet sitting on the throne of David (Matt 25:31). After his crucifixion, God raised him from the dead and gave him a place of glory at His right hand in His throne in heaven. There he awaits the time when God will send him back to the earth to take the kingdom and the throne and reign (Acts 3:20-21). God said to him, “Sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool” (Psa 110:1).

The Lord Jesus Christ has been in heaven a long time, nearly two thousand years, but the time for him to return is close at hand (Luke 21:27–28). As we read in Lesson 24 (Additional Notes), the return of the Jews to the land of Israel is a sure sign to us that he is coming soon.

When Jesus returns the first thing he will do is raise the dead. David will be among the faithful who are raised and he will see his “seed”, the one mentioned in this promise, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is part of the meaning of the promise, for, while 2 Samuel 7:12 promises that the kingdom of God will be set up after David’s death, verse 16 says the promised kingdom will be established “for ever before thee”. That means before David’s very eyes. For this to happen he must be raised from the grave (Psa 71:20).

LESSON FOR US

God has made wonderful promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as well as to David. These promises collectively are called “the

Hope of Israel” (Acts 28:20). It is a Jewish hope, “the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers” (Acts 26:6), for these men were all Jews. But even though we may be Gentiles, God has made it possible for us to share in this hope. Anyone who **believes** in these promises **and is baptised** can become part of the “house for God’s Name”, part of God’s family. Jesus Christ is the head of this house and we must follow his example (Gal 3:26-29).

What marvellous kindness God has shown to us, in telling us about such great and precious promises and offering us the same hope that He offered David—the hope of eternal life in His wonderful kingdom (2Pet 1:2-4; John 3:16).

We must try to please God in our thoughts and words and actions, just as David did, that God may think of us as He thought of David, as “a man after mine own heart” (Acts 13:22).

ADDITIONAL NOTES Div. 11-12 only

Some parts of the promise applied to Solomon, David’s son, but it can only be properly fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Although Solomon, who reigned after David, did build God a Temple, he was not the promised Son of God. He became king while David was still alive (1 Chron. 29:20-24), and his kingdom did not last forever (1Kings 11:11). He did commit iniquity so that God’s mercy departed from him (1 Kings 11:9). In each of these things, Solomon did not fulfil the promise, proving that its complete fulfilment can only be brought about by the Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS 9 to 12 years

Short Answers

1. *When David became king, what did he wish to do for God?*
2. *Why was David not allowed to build God a Temple?*
3. *Who built the Temple that David planned?*
4. *Who is the one spoken of in God’s promises to David who is both son of David and Son of God?*
5. *When will Jesus begin to rule on the throne of David?*
6. *Who will go and worship at the Temple Jesus Christ will build?*

7. *What else can the “house” of God mean than a building?*
8. *David died many years ago. How will he see the fulfilment of the promises God made to him?*
9. *What two things must we do if we want to share David’s hope?*
10. *What has God always planned to fill the earth with?*

Detailed Answers

1. *Tell all you know about the wonderful promise that God made to King David. -*
2. *Jesus Christ, the special “seed” promised to David, will build a “house” when he returns from heaven.*
 - (a) *What will this building be for?*
 - (b) *What else does this word “house” mean and who does it refer to?*
 - (c) *Who is the head of God’s house and how can we be part of God’s “house”?*

Additional Answers 11 to 12 years

3. *The special son promised to David will build a “house” for God’s name.*
 - (a) *What will this building be like?*
 - (b) *What else does this “house” mean?*
 - (c) *How can we be part of God’s “house”?*
4. *The promises God made to David in 2 Samuel 7 did not really apply to Solomon. Give three reasons why Solomon was not the son of the promise.*

