

1 SAMUEL WEEK SIX – “The Shepherd Turned King”

January 21, 2021

This section is where we are introduced to the person who would eventually become King of Israel. Again, this book along with any other book that falls into the category of Deuteronomic History (Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel 2 Samuel, 1 Kings and 2 Kings) was either written during, written or compiled from a single literary work during Israel’s exile in Babylon (597 BCE – 537 BCE.) Think of it as an attempt to gather Israel’s history together to remind the Babylonian Captives who they are, what purpose they serve, and why it’s important to remain faithful especially when they eventually return to their homeland. David is considered the greatest king in Israel’s history so it’s important to know how he fulfilled the prophetic message of Hannah’s Song in 1 Samuel 1-2.

Questions for 1 Samuel 16-17

1. Why do you suppose Samuel is grieving over Saul if Saul is still alive?
2. What assurance does Samuel receive from God that there is a hopeful future for Israel?
3. What plan does God lay out for Samuel so that he can meet the future King? Why all the secrecy?
4. Among Jesse’s sons, who seemed to be the most likely candidate to be King? Who seemed least likely? Who ended up being anointed?
5. What do you supposed it means that “The spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward?” Does that mean that the spirit of the Lord was absent from him?
6. Why did the spirit of the Lord depart from Saul? Does that mean that the spirit of the Lord can only occupy one person at a time?
7. What are the consequences of the Lord’s spirit departing from Saul?
8. How and why did David find himself in King Saul’s “court?” What was his purpose and how was he received?

9. Where did Saul's "evil spirit" come from, and how effective was David's remedy?
10. Why is it significant that the Philistines were the enemy that gathered their armies against Israel at Socoh?
11. Why do you think the Philistines chose to send Goliath out to call for a champion from among the Israelites? Couldn't they have just chosen a conventional plan for battle?
12. Why did Israel go along with Goliath's plan? Why didn't they just respond with a traditional attack?
13. Why did Goliath and the Philistines continue issuing the challenge for 40 days? Why prolong the confrontation?
14. What was David's purpose during this whole incident? How and why did it change?
15. What was the eldest brother Eliab's response to David's presence? Why would he have this reaction? What was Eliab's expectation of how this incident would end?
16. Why would David accept Goliath's challenge? Why would Saul even allow David to go face Goliath?
17. In light of this story, what literary characters throughout history can we compare to David?
18. How does David fit in the prophetic words of Hannah in chapters 1 and 2?