

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## 1 SAMUEL 16-18

Israel desired a king for *all the wrong reasons*. Even so, before the nation's founding God had planned to establish a king on His own terms. As far back as Genesis 49, Jacob prophesied that a scepter (or ruler) would rise from Judah. In Deuteronomy 17 God anticipated a king by providing rules for his conduct.

Yes, **God had a king in mind from the start**. He chose a man named David. And to him, God will make incredible promises, fulfilled by His heir, King Jesus.

Often our desires and God's desires are not so far apart. We want *a good job, meaningful relationships, necessary resources* - and God wants the same for us. The problem becomes why we want those blessings, and how and when we try to get them. *Are we willing to wait on God's timing?* When Israel lacked faith and forced the issue, their desire led to an undesirable king. And we should be careful of trying to force God's hand. Our unbridled desires cause undesirable ends.

It didn't take Saul long to prove he was unfit to be king. His failure to obey God after his victory over the Amalekites caused God to reject Saul's kingdom. *And again, I believe it was God's intention all along to give them a king... but a godly king, a spiritual king, a king with character, a king with faith - all that Saul was not.*

Chapter 16, **"Now the LORD said to Samuel (the prophet), "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Don't shed another tear over Saul. "Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."** God was over Saul. It's time to choose a replacement.

**"And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."** In Chapter 15 Samuel was in Ramah. Saul in Gibeah. To travel to Bethlehem Samuel had to pass by Saul's house. And Samuel knew if the king learned the purpose of his mission he'd try to kill him.

Saul was now an impulsive, paranoid, egotistical tyrant. In Chapter 14 he proved what a slave he was to his ego. Instead of admitting a rash vow, he was willing to kill his own son, Jonathan. *Saul is now unhinged!*

But God provides Samuel's mission a cover. **"The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name**

to you.” A “*sacrifice*” to God won’t interest Saul. *Saul is all about Saul.* Jesse though, will be happy to join in an act of worship.

“So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD...” And sure enough, Jesse and sons join him.

Verse 6, “So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab (Jesse’s oldest son) and said, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is before Him.” Samuel thought, “He’s strong, handsome, this is one.” But that’s what they said of Saul. Again, Samuel has the wrong priorities. He’s looking only as far as his eyes can see.

I read recently, where construction experts claim today’s homebuyers use the wrong criteria to choose a house.... They agonize over superficial features: *the size of the bathtub and width of the crown molding.* While ignoring the spacing between floor-joists and the foundation’s strength. Buyers are impressed by surface issues - they want a flashy house with curb appeal.

This was why Israel chose Saul. He had flare, but lacked fiber. God looks past the veneer to the footings.

And the Lord rescues Samuel from his shallow evaluation, in verse 7, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” Man looks at the trim - his physique, or wardrobe, or attractiveness. But when God sizes up a person He puts the tape measure not around the brain, or biceps, or waistline - **but around their heart!**

In a novel by Arthur Conan Doyle, his hero, Sherlock Holmes, states, “The most attractive woman I ever knew was hanged for poisoning three little children for their insurance money.” *So much for appearance!...* In the book, “Faces Of Greatness” there are photos of the faces of ninety famous people. Of the 90 faces, seventy have noticeable blemishes: 35 have moles or warts, 13 have multiple freckles or liver spots, 20 have acne or other pimples, and 2 have highly visible scars. Yet, each of those seventy people overcame a flawed appearance by possessing a courageous heart.

God doesn’t care about appearance... *and neither should we.* The **color** of our skin - the **cost** of our clothes - the **cut** of our hair... is all irrelevant to God.

If a person with a purple Mohawk - a facial tattoo - and a hardware store full of body-piercings walks through those doors, we shouldn’t just sit back with a judgmental attitude and keep our distance. Love reaches out. Like God, it looks beyond

appearance to the heart. We represent God, not our own biases.

And sometimes God uses people who don't look the part, or fit the mold. He sees beyond what we can see.

Once I made a hospital call on my motorcycle. When I left the garage, I handed the parking lot attendant my clergy parking pass. He was sure it was bogus. A pastor in a black jacket, on a motorcycle, just didn't compute. He was sizing me up by my appearance. And that's how man judges. God though, looks deeper.

Verse 8, "So Jesse called (the second son) Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." O my, God is about to choose the runt of the litter - the kid brother - the family caboose!

"So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" "Ruddy" means "red." David had a rugged complexion, maybe a few zits and acne scars. He might've been red-headed. "Bright eyes" could refer to *blue-eyes*. Imagine, a red-haired, blue-eyed Jewish Middle Schooler... who'd been in the fields for days. He smelled like sheep!

Yet this was God's choice for king. *Hey, what you see is not always what you get.* It's been said, "Saul had the appearance of a king, but the heart of a peasant, while David had the appearance of a peasant, but the heart of a king." When it comes the people God uses, don't judge a book by its cover. Church history is full of people used greatly by God who were initially passed over by mission boards and pulpit committees. They lacked training, experience, credentials - but God saw the intangibles. God observed qualities the gift inventories and psychological exams didn't measure.

Interestingly, God Himself seems to emphasize that David had little to offer on his own. The text doesn't even mention his name until after he's anointed. It's only after the shepherd boy comes in from the fields, that God tells Samuel, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward." We're not given his name until God's Spirit comes upon him.

In September 1993, the second place Montreal Expos were trailing the first place Philadelphia Phillies, 7-4. Two Expos were on base, when the manager decided to pinch hit. He sent to the plate an Expo rookie named Curtis Pride. On the first pitch, Curtis laced a double, driving in both runners. It was his first big league hit, and 47,000 fans were screaming loudly.

That's when the third base coach motioned for Curtis to tip his hat, Curtis didn't understand. *You see Curtis is 95% deaf.* Finally, it dawned on him to acknowledge the crowd... After the game, a reporter asked Curtis if he could hear the cheering crowd. Curtis pointed to his heart, and said, "[Here... I could hear it here.](#)"

And that's why God chose David. All Saul heard were the voices in his ears, but David followed his heart. David listened, loved, and longed for God with his heart. He prayed, petitioned, and praised God with his heart. He feared, followed, and fought for God with his heart... David was [a man after God's own heart](#). This is what God still looks for in a leader, *for heart!*

Verse 13, "[So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.](#)"

At this point, Saul remains king, but God removes his spiritual protection. The Holy Spirit comes upon David, as an "[evil, demonic, distressing spirit](#)" torments Saul.

And notice how this distressing spirit is corralled. Verse 16, they need to find, "[a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well.](#)" The antidote to the distressing spirit was a skillful musician who praised God. Music promoting worship and praise was all that could drive away the evil spirit that tormented Saul.

One author writes, "[Satan is allergic to praise, so where there is massive, triumphant praise, Satan is paralyzed, bound, and banished.](#)" I agree. In the ears of Satan, worship sounds like fingernails clawing a chalkboard. This is your praise in the devil's ears - it grates on him. He covers his pointed-ears, and flees!

Verse 18, "[Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse... who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."](#) Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul. So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer." And so this young man, David, comes to Gibeah to serve in Saul's royal court.

Verse 23, “**And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul...**” Notice, it was God who sent the evil spirit. Even evil spirits, or demons, are under God’s control. And whenever this demon tortured King Saul, “**David would take a harp (or lyre, an ancient guitar) and play it with his hand.**” 2 Samuel 23:1 refers to David as “**the sweet psalmist of Israel.**” He wrote at least 73 psalms - almost half the Hebrew hymnbook.

And when he played his lyre and sang praises to God, “**Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.**” We don’t usually associate worship and warfare, but praise to God reminds Satan of his inferiority and the folly of his rebellion. Glorify God and Satan will either try to **stop** the praise, or **drop** his diabolical schemes.

This is what occurred when Saul went into one of his funks. David was called in to praise the Lord, and as he did the demon departed... And this has happen to me. A dark cloud rolls in over my soul, and I’ve learned such moods can be spiritual attacks. But a sure cure is to stop what I’m doing, and worship. Praise breaks up the cloud as quickly as it came... **Praise is powerful!**

Chapter 17, “**Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered together at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines. The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.**” The Valley of Elah is one mile wide. It has a small brook that cuts through the valley, and overflows in the rainy season. On our Israel tours we visit this valley. Today, wheat rises where armies stood.

Verse 4, “**And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.**” Or 9 feet, 9 inches tall! Goliath was three inches shy of bumping his head on a basketball goal. Interestingly, other ancient histories talk of men of extreme height. Herodotus, Diodorus, Siculus, Pliny all mentioned people seven cubits or 10 feet tall. In modern times, American Robert Wadlow, stood 8 feet 11 inches when he died in 1940. Goliath’s enormous height isn’t without precedent.

Verse 5, “**He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was 5000 shekels of bronze.**” Goliath’s body armor weighed 150 pounds. Armor, or a coat of mail, consisted of metal strips sewn together with leather. It had the strength of steel, but the flexibility to fight.

“**He had bronze greaves on his legs**” These greaves were like a catcher’s shin

guards... And he had “a bronze javelin between his shoulders. Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam.” This was a stout timber, three inches in diameter. Throwing this spear was like hurling a balance beam. “His iron spearhead weighed 600 shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.” The head of his spear alone weighed 20 pounds. If Goliath were alive today we'd accuse him of steroid abuse. And he may've been the result of worse...

The word translated “*giant*” is the Hebrew “*nephilim*.” In Genesis 6 it's used for the offspring of demons and mortal women. It could be fallen angels, or demons, took human form, and had sexual relations with women. Jude calls them, “the angels who did not keep their proper domain.” This widespread perversion was wiped out by the flood, but isolated outbreaks of this phenomenon must have occurred later in Canaan as the Israelis possessed the land. This is why God told Israel to totally annihilate the contaminated cultures.

Recall Deuteronomy 3, the Hebrew spies report on a giant who was a Canaanite king named “Og.” Joshua 14 says Caleb fought the sons of Anak, who Numbers 13 related to the *nephilim*. And where did the Anakim live? Joshua 11:22 says in the town of Gath, Goliath's hometown. I believe Goliath was the byproduct of spiritual performance enhancers - or demonic steroids. And if so, this would've made him more an agent of Satan, and an enemy of God, than we might assume. This battle in the Elah Valley was a *spiritual showdown*.

And Goliath not only had size, but a *mouth*. He talked smack! A trash-talker. One extra-biblical Jewish source - the Targum of Jonathan - claims that Goliath boasted of being the Philistine who killed the sons of Eli - Hophni and Phinehas - and drug the Ark to the temple of Dagon. He killed countless Hebrews. It could be Goliath was the Philistine counterpart of Samson.

Verse 8, “Then (Goliath) stood and cried out to the armies of Israel... “Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants...”

Ancient warfare was hand-to-hand combat - bloody and brutal. Even victorious armies suffered thousands of casualties... To avoid the carnage, often rather than a conventional battle, armies sent out two champions to square off in a winner-take-all fight to the death. In verse 4, Goliath is called the Philistine “*champion*.” For forty days, twice a day, he taunts Israel and challenges them to find an opponent brave enough to

fight him.

Verse 10, “And the Philistine said, “I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.” When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.” *Remember, who was the tallest man in Israel?* Saul! He was the one man closest to matching Goliath physically, but spiritually Saul was a midget - a coward.

Verses 12-22 tell us Jesse’s three oldest sons, Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah were soldiers in Saul’s army. The youngest son, David, would at times go home and help his elderly father with his flocks. On one occasion, he was sent to the frontlines with rations for his brothers...

In verse 22, David greets Jesse’s sons, just in time to see firsthand what was troubling Israel. “Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them. And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid. So the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel.” Saul had sweetened the pot, a three-fold reward to anyone who defeated Goliath: vast riches, a gorgeous daughter - *and no offense to the daughter, but the best perk of all* - a lifetime exemption from taxes. Yet nobody was courageous enough to take on Goliath. Apparently, Israel like their king lacked faith, thus fear prevailed.

Verse 26, But “Then David spoke to the men who stood by him... who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” David wasn’t as motivated by *Saul’s reward*, as he was *God’s reputation!* He wants to honor the God he loves.

Verse 28, “Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, “Why did you come down here? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness?” Eliab questions his little brother’s motive. He sneers, “I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.”

He’s accusing David of grand-standing, showing-off. The elder brother is jealous of his younger brother’s courage. It’s sad when your own brother tries to dowse your faith. *At times our biggest opposition isn’t the scorn of our enemy, but the skepticism of our friends.*

Though questioned by Eliab, David's faith gets reported to Saul. *The king sends for him in verse 31...*

"Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth." David is just a kid. He'll be trounced by this battle-tested giant.

But David had his own experiences. He recounts killing a lion and bear, with a lamb in its mouth. Verse 36, "and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God..." David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." God had delivered David from a lion's mouth, why wouldn't He deliver him from a big-mouthed Philistine. Verse 37, "Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

"So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. David fastened his sword to his armor, and he tried to walk... And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off." He suits up in Saul's armor, but it doesn't fit. David can't fight in this... *And when God calls you to a fight, take what you know is effective!*

Don't trust in somebody else's armor - their program or their method. When you're up against a giant, don't look to untested techniques and tactics. Faith rests in what it knows - on what's proven faithful. Faith doesn't canvass the self-help stores for the newest and latest.

David took a couple of steps in Saul's armor, and started shedding it. A simple slingshot had killed bears and lions, it'll drop this giant too. David will fight clothed in faith, not in somebody else's oversized armor.

And if for centuries the Bible, prayer, and the Holy Spirit has *strengthened saints, sustained believers, worked miracles, won victories, even slain giants...* why would I need the latest Christian fad? People are always marketing their secrets to church growth - *and if it works for them, fine.* But I won't fight in somebody else's armor. God's given me what I need. I need faith.

And David fights with faith in verse 40, "Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine."

Of course the question arises, “**why did he pick up *five* stones?**” *Was he afraid he’d miss? No.* We learn in 2 Samuel 21, Goliath had four brothers. Evidently, David wanted to be ready if the brothers jumped in.

“So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him. When the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. So the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” The Philistine cursed David by his gods.” It’s been suggested as Goliath lifted his eyes upward to his gods his helmet slipped, leaving David an open shot at his forehead.

“And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!” Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you.” Wow, David is not intimidated by the *size and sneers* of the enemy, or the *skepticism of his friends*.

He says, “This day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.” Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands.” David laid aside Saul’s armor, but put on God’s armor. There are giants in your life today. Clothe yourself in faith and God will fight for you.

Verse 48, “So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; (he took aim) and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.”

Realize, a slingshot can launch a stone with the velocity of a handgun (on one of our trips in the Elah Valley we saw an expert slingshotist...) No doubt David was more skilled than me, but I believe God took over the trajectory of that stone to insure it landed right between eyes that David had looked into so squarely. And I’m certain the thud was heard all the way back in Bethlehem. Goliath didn’t know what hit him, “**the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face.**”

“So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David

ran and stood over the Philistine, took **his sword...**" It may've taken both hands for a young David to even pick it up. "**And (he) drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it.**"

And watching this kid lop-off Goliath's head supercharged Israel and deflated the enemy. David's triumph definitely got Israel ***ahead!*** *The rout was on.*

"**And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron.**" David took Goliath's head back to Jerusalem as a trophy, and kept the giant's armor in his tent.

Apparently, Saul hadn't taken David all that seriously until this moment. Now he asks General Abner about the boy. Verse 57, "**as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.**" What a scene, an 8th grader holding a huge head by its hair, blood dripping from its severed aorta. "**Saul said, "Whose son are you...?" David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."**

1 Samuel 18, "**Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.**"

You've heard, "**birds of a feather flock together.**" Well, *men of faith also flock together.* In light of the victory, Jonathan saw in David a kindred spirit. They both loved God, and were jealous for His glory. Aristotle once wrote, "**Friendship is a single soul dwelling in two bodies.**" This was the case with David and Jonathan.

"**Saul took (David) that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.**" David becomes a permanent member of Saul's court. "**Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.**" And this was a royal robe! Jonathan was *Saul's heir*, but David was *God's choice*. Here Jonathan acknowledges David's spiritual claim to the throne. He submits to his authority by giving him his robe and surrendering his sword.

This was a friendship fraught with complication, and potential conflict. But it's a credit to both men that they resisted becoming rivals, and remained faithful friends.

Verse 5, "**So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war...**" David becomes the head of the IDF - the Israeli defense force. "**And he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.**

And as they came home from their victory over the Philistines, verse 6, "**the women**

had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." David is growing in popularity while Saul is becoming an afterthought. *And how does Saul react?*

"Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" David is now more popular than the king, and it inflames Saul's jealousy. "So Saul eyed David from that day forward." FB Meyer warns us, "Jealousy is one of the worst temptations that can beset us. It arises in the most unexpected ways and times. When everyone... is possessed by a common joy, it steals in like a ghost and settles down on some heart, which it scourges with whips of fury. Resist its first entrance!"

"And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand." And out of nowhere, Saul erupts in a demonic rage. "Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice." Saul chunks a spear at David *and it narrowly misses.*

And amazingly, David never tries to do to Saul, what he did to Goliath. He could've pulled Saul's spear out of the wall and chunked it back, or pulled out his slingshot. But Saul was king, God's anointed, not an uncircumcised Philistine. David knew one day he'd be king, and if he expected others to honor him, he needed to honor Saul. Again, David was motivated by **principle** rather than *convenience, anger, or revenge.*

"Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul. Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people." From now on the royal court will not be big enough for both Saul and David.

"David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them." *David, a man of the people.*

"Then Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles." Saul had promised his daughter to the man who killed Goliath. But here, Saul's motive isn't to keep his

promise. "Saul thought, "Let my hand not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him." He'll put David in positions where the enemy can do his dirty work.

"So David said to Saul, "Who am I (or my family) that I should be son-in-law to the king?" But it happened when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife." What a spiteful act! *Promise your daughter to a man; then give her to another at the last minute.*

But Saul had another daughter, and Saul was shrewd. He rethinks it, *maybe I can use my daughter against David.* "Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. So Saul said, "I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall be my son-in-law today." But David doesn't think he can't afford the dowry of a princess.

Verse 25, "Then Saul said... say to David: 'The king does not desire any dowry but 100 foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines." I don't have any personal experience here, but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize no red-blooded Philistine is giving up his foreskin without a fight. If you're for your foreskin it's going to get fierce! Saul figures surely one of a hundred angry Philistines will kill David... By the way, for you golfers, this is history's first [Skins Game](#).

Verse 27, "Therefore David arose and went, he and his men, and killed 200 men of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full count to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him Michal his daughter as a wife." David pays double the dowry - 200 foreskins.

*Aren't you glad I don't have a graphic for this scene!*

And this infuriates Saul. "Thus Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him; and Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul became David's enemy continually.

Then the princes of the Philistines went out to war. So it was, whenever they went out, that David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed." All Saul does to harm David backfires on him. David's reputation only grows!