

The Life of David – Lesson 1

Shepherd, Singer, Soldier

1. Anointed King

I Samuel 16:1-13, 1067 B.C., Age 17

- Saul was twice rejected by God as king – I Samuel 13:13-14, 15:26
- Note the fear of the people at Samuel's mission in 16:2-4, proving Saul was already growing paranoid.
- Two key verses to understand David:
 - 16:7 – his heart
 - 16:13 – Holy Spirit
- Significance of anointing with oil:
 - Sets apart for divine service
 - God empowers for divine service
 - May mark for protection (II Samuel 24:10)
 - Foreshadows the Messiah [lit. - *Anointed One*]
- David will wait some 13 years before he is crowned king – II Samuel 5:4

“Apart from the history of David, we cannot understand the Psalms, and apart from the Psalms, we cannot understand the history. A great number of these Psalms, written by David himself, reflect and expound his own life experiences, and forecast the experiences of Christian people of all subsequent generations. Most of the others were written by his singers and their successors. There is for every Psalm an historic occasion and background.” – B.H. Carroll

♪ Psalm 19

- Spurgeon: “In his earliest days the psalmist, while keeping his father's flock, had devoted himself to the study of God's two great books—nature and Scripture; and he had so thoroughly entered into the spirit of these two only volumes in his library that he was able with a devout criticism to compare and contrast them, magnifying the excellency of the Author as seen in both.”

♪ Psalm 8

- Albert Barnes: “If we may judge from the psalm itself, it would seem probable that it was composed by night in the contemplation of the starry heavens - naturally suggesting, in view of the vastness and beauty of the celestial luminaries, the littleness of man. This also filled the mind of the psalmist with wonder that the God who marshals all these hosts should condescend to regard the condition and wants of a being so feeble and frail as man, and should have exalted him as he has done over his works.”

2. Court Musician for Saul

I Samuel 16:14-23, 1067 B.C., Age 17

- 16:14 – God’s empowering spirit has been removed.
- The instrument David played is called the *kinnor* (Hebrew), today called a lyre. It may have had 10 strings (Psalm 33:2) and plucked by hand (I Samuel 16:23)
- 16:18 – Note the description of David: musician, warrior, wise, good-looking, and blessed by God.
- 16:20 – It was customary to bring a gift when appearing before a king... or maybe Jesse was nervous that Saul knew about David’s anointing and thought a gift might placate him.
- 16:21 – David is immediately given a trusted position in the court, though we see no record of him actually serving in that capacity.



Egyptian Lyre
Wikimedia.org

3. Versus Goliath

I Samuel 17, 1067 B.C., Age 17

- Goliath by the numbers:
 - Height - about 9 1/2 feet (cubit = 18 inches, span = 6 inches)
 - Coat of mail - 126 pounds
 - Spear head - 15 pounds
- 17:11 – Saul should have been the one to fight Goliath, he was both king and the tallest man in Israel (I Samuel 9:2).
- 17:15 – David’s music had ministered to Saul, Saul’s condition had improved, and David had returned home. These armies were not standing armies but were common people mustered from their farms and livelihoods and pressed into service.
- 17:55-58 - These verses cause a lot of confusion. Saul doesn’t appear to know who David is, though he met him in the previous chapter. Some speculate that the chronology is bit off and these events take place before those of the previous chapter. In all likelihood, Saul is inquiring simply where David had come from. Maybe its because he is jealous and suspicious, or perhaps it is to make sure the reward of verse 25 is properly given.

The Philistines were a tribe of people living near the coast in the southwestern area of the Holy Land from roughly 1,200 to 600 B.C. Based on historical, archaeological, and DNA evidence it is now believed they were relatives of the ancient Greeks that settled around the time of the invasion of Egypt by the “sea peoples”. They were led by a confederacy of five city-states: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and Gath.