

LIFE OF DAVID STUDY

STUDY NO 3 - YAHWEH LOOKETH ON THE HEART (SAMUEL ANOINTS DAVID IN THE MIDST OF HIS BRETHREN)

1 SAMUEL 15

V11 AND IT GRIEVED SAMUEL; AND HE CRIED UNTO YAHWEH ALL NIGHT

It was not just Saul that Samuel was concerned about, but the Nation of Israel under Saul's leadership.

1 SAMUEL 16

V1 AND YAHWEH SAID UNTO SAMUEL

Yahweh rebukes Samuel for his negative attitude, and points out that the work of the Truth and the Nation must go on. Yahweh reveals that He was going to take the matter of the choice of who should be king out of the hands of the people. Yahweh Himself was going to choose a king who would be the right one to be monarch over His people.

V6 SURELY YAHWEH'S ANOINTED IS BEFORE HIM

Here Samuel jumps to a wrong conclusion. He assumed, wrongly, that the eldest son was the one to be anointed. But he was not Yahweh's choice. The lesson is that it is better not to jump to conclusions at any time, and particularly in matters which are Divine.

V7 BUT YAHWEH LOOKETH ON THE HEART

Roth "for it is not what man looketh to but what God looketh to. For man looketh to the outward appearance, but Yahweh looketh to the heart." Jer B "man looks at appearances but Yahweh looks at the heart." Compare Saul 1 Sam 9:1-2. Saul was judged by his outward appearance and was a failure. Likewise Absalom 2 Sam 14:25. David never forgot the principle expressed here which undoubtedly was passed on to him later by Samuel. David implants the principle in the mind of Solomon in 1 Chron 28:9. And Solomon expresses the principle in his prayer at the dedication of the Temple 1 Kings 8:39. The same principle finds expression in the New Testament in Heb 4:13. Yahweh cannot be deceived. All things are open to Him.

V8 NEITHER HATH YAHWEH CHOSEN THIS

Samuel does not make the same mistake twice. When Yahweh is silent, so is Samuel. We must understand and make judgements according to the revealed will of God as expressed in His word. We are required to uphold the righteousness of God. The Lord expresses the principle in John 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." And again John 7:24 "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."

V11 ARE HERE ALL THY CHILDREN?

After seven sons perhaps Samuel was feeling somewhat frustrated. The expression also indicates that Jesse's family was young. Children is from the Hebrew *naar* meaning a boy from the age of infancy to adolescence (Strong). "A boy...It is used both of a new-born child...as well as of a young man of about twenty...It is sometimes used emphatically to express tenderness of age..." (Gesenius).

1 SAMUEL 16 (continued)

V11 cont THERE REMAINETH YET THE YOUNGEST

Here David types the Lord Jesus Christ. He had not been called. He is like the stone which the builders rejected but was to become the head stone of the corner (Psa 118:22). The Lord and David were initially rejected because they were considered insignificant.

HE KEEPETH THE SHEEP

It was a lowly position. But it was a position which Yahweh took Himself Psa 23:1; Psa 80:1; as likewise did the Lord John 10:14. The position required courage, strength of purpose, concentration, endurance, the willingness to make personal sacrifice and suffer privations for the well-being of the sheep. David's occupation as a shepherd helped him prepare for his ecclesial work. It is wise for young people (and their parents) to give serious consideration to the jobs they intend to follow in life. It is better to have an occupation which is conducive to spiritual development. With his experience as a shepherd, David was later to become a Shepherd-King who cared for Yahweh's human flock Psa 78:70-72. (Instead of "feed" in Psa 78:70-72 Roth and the N.I.V. have "shepherd"). Towards the end of his life after he had sinned in the numbering of Israel and Judah he says "I have done wickedly, but these sheep, what have they done?" (2 Sam 24:17).

FOR WE WILL NOT SIT DOWN UNTIL HE COME HITHER

The marginal rendering of "down" is "round". Roth "Do send and summon him, for we cannot sit round until he cometh in hither."

V12 AND HE SENT, AND BROUGHT HIM IN

This verse contains the first description of David in Scripture. It is our introduction to David.

NOW HE WAS RUDDY

"Ruddy" is used again of David in 1 Sam 17:42. It means red or reddish. No doubt David had a red complexion with red or auburn hair. The hebrew for "ruddy" *admowniy* is derived from the hebrew *adam*. It is a reminder that both David and Christ were born of Adamic nature. This was necessary so that the Lord could be a representative of Adam's race. David's ruddy complexion typified this.

OF A BEAUTIFUL COUNTENANCE

Here the word "countenance" is from a different hebrew word to verse 7. Here it is *ayin* which relates especially to the eyes. The Jer B has "with fine eyes and pleasant bearing". Roth "a stripling with handsome eyes and noble mien" (mien means manner, bearing). The character of David obviously shone out of his face. He was a complete contrast to a criminal with shifty eyes and a slinky bearing. David's face, eyes, and bearing proclaimed that here was a young man who was open and honest.

V13 THEN SAMUEL....ANOINTED HIM

He was going to be anointed twice more - as king over the House of Judah 2 Sam 2:4; and as king over all Israel 2 Sam 5:3. In this David types the Lord Jesus Christ in that he was a prophet, priest and king.

IN THE MIDST OF HIS BRETHREN

The time will come when the Lord likewise will be anointed King of Israel in the midst of his brethren when he assumes the throne of David in the Age to Come.

1 Samuel 16 (continued)

V13 cont AND THE SPIRIT OF YAHWEH CAME UPON DAVID

This was the seal of Divine approval. The Jer B has "and the spirit of Yahweh seized on David and stayed with him from that day on". The promise of 2 Sam 7:15 was that Yahweh's mercy would not depart from David as it had from Saul.

V14 BUT THE SPIRIT OF YAHWEH DEPARTED FROM SAUL

As the spirit of Yahweh departs from Saul, so it came upon David (V13).

AND AN EVIL SPIRIT FROM YAHWEH

"Evil" is from the hebrew *ra* and is used in the sense of adversity, distress, affliction, calamity, wretchedness (Strong). Roth translates the verse as "But the spirit of Yahweh departed from Saul, - and there terrified him a sad spirit from Yahweh." "Spirit" is translated from *ruach* meaning breath, wind, mind. *Ruach* can relate to a state of mind. Saul was developing 'melancholia' which is a mental state characterised by dejection and misery. It can result in paranoia and insanity. His trouble was self inflicted. It was sin against Yahweh that had brought Saul into this state. What Saul should have said is "Yahweh has brought me low, I must make my way back to God." He should have repented - but there is no evidence that he ever did.

TROUBLED HIM

The margin has "terrified". "Troubled" is from the hebrew *baath* meaning to fear, and is used in the sense of make afraid, to terrify, to trouble (Strong); or to be overtaken by sudden terror (T.W.O.T.). This fear was already in Saul. He knew that he was to loose the kingdom (1 Sam 15:28), but he had no idea who was to replace him - and these thoughts now began to haunt him.

V16 TO SEEK OUT A MAN, WHO IS A CUNNING PLAYER ON AN HARPAND THOU SHALT BE WELL

Saul's servants meant well. But Saul needed more than music to soothe his nervous system. The real solution lay in a humble return to Yahweh and His word. Music was simply a diversion. What Saul needed was to have his mind flooded with the light of Truth. When problems come upon us in life, we need to recognise where the real solutions are to be found. We need to beware of diversions - particularly those of a worldly kind.

V18 THEN ANSWERED ONE OF (SAUL'S) SERVANTS

Here we learn more about David, this time from the mouth of one of Saul's servants.

CUNNING IN PLAYING

I.E. He was a very good musician and loved the music that he played.

PRUDENT IN MATTERS

Jer B "prudent in speech." Roth "of intelligent speech." 'Prudent' is from the hebrew *biyn* meaning to separate mentally (or distinguish) i.e. to understand. David was a young man who knew what he was talking about, particularly when it came to the things of God.

A COMELY PERSON

Jer B " a man of presence". There was something about David which created a good impression on those with whom he came in contact.

AND YAHWEH WAS WITH HIM

This was the most important attribute that David had. And even one of Saul's servants could see that Yahweh was with David.

1 SAMUEL 16 (continued)

V21 AND DAVID CAME TO SAUL, AND STOOD BEFORE HIM

Jer B "And so David came to Saul and entered his service."

AND HE LOVED HIM GREATLY

There was something about David that even appealed to Saul at this time.

V23 AND THE EVIL SPIRIT DEPARTED FROM HIM

So for a time Saul was refreshed by the wise words of David and the spiritual songs that he played. But relief from this evil spirit - his depression - his misery - his fear, was only temporary. It was only sharp self-examination and a humble response to the demands of the Truth that would really do anything for Saul. Eventually, David's music, instead of calming Saul, drove him into a frenzy of evil temper and murderous rage (1 Samuel 19:9-10).

INDEX OF ABBREVIATIONS USED FOR REFERENCE WORKS REFERRED TO IN
THESE NOTES

ABBREVIATION

REFERENCE WORK

| | |
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| Gesenius | Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament |
| Jer B | The Jerusalem Bible |
| N.I.V. | The New International Version |
| Roth | The Emphasized Bible - J.B. Rotherham |
| Strong | Strong's Exhaustive Concordance |
| T.W.O.T. | Theological Word Book of the Old Testament |

LIFE OF DAVID STUDY

STUDY NO 4 - DAVID COMES TO THE FIELD OF BATTLE

INTRODUCTION

The conflict between David and Goliath typifies the battle between righteousness and sin; between the spirit and the flesh. There are two Psalms written about David's battle with Goliath - Psalms 8 and 144. Psalm 144 reveals David's thoughts as he went out to confront Goliath. Psalm 8 appears to be written later in David's life as he thinks back on the battle.

The subscription of Psalm 8 (shown wrongly as the superscription of Psalm 9 in the A.V.) is "To the chief Musician upon Muth-labben." Muth-labben means the champion between the camps; or as Thirtle gives it "relating to the death of the champion" (C.B.).

Psalm 8 reveals clearly, that as David looked back in retrospect on his battle with Goliath, he understood that it foreshadowed the battle between the Lord Jesus Christ and the forces of sin. David went forth with the purpose of vindicating the righteousness of Yahweh before Israel and the Gentiles. In this David types the Lord Jesus Christ in his victory over sin. It also typifies the victory that the multitudinous Christ body will enjoy in the Future Age when they will go forth with the Lord Jesus Christ at their head to destroy sin in its political, military and ecclesiastical manifestations.

Psalm 144 has as its superscription "A Psalm of David." But the LXX has "A Psalm of David concerning Goliath".

1 SAMUEL 17

V1 THE PHILISTINES

They were a very ancient people. They were already in the land in the days of Abraham (Gen 21:32; 26:1). They occupied a large tract of territory some 85 kms long, (from Joppa in the north to south of Gaza), and some 25 kms wide. It lay mostly in the territory allocated to the tribe of Judah. It had never been totally conquered by the Israelites (1 Sam 5:1; 13:19-23; 23:1). This is not the first battle with the Philistines (see 1 Sam 14:52). The Philistines were constantly peppering away at Saul's kingdom and making inroads into it. The Philistines were not a nation but rather a confederacy of five cities namely Gath, Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Ekron. This confederacy types Gogue.

GATHERED TOGETHER THEIR ARMIES TO BATTLE

This was an organised, concerted attempt to overthrow the political power of the Kingdom of Israel. Again this types what Gogue will also attempt to do.

SHOCHOH

(Also called Sochoh; Shoco; Shocho; and on some maps Soco). It lay 40 kms east of Ashkelon in the heart of the land - almost exactly half way between the Mediterranean and the Dead Seas. This was a major advance by the Philistines into Saul's kingdom. Shochoh lay 28 kms S.W. of Jerusalem and 18 kms N.E. of Gath - Goliath's home town.

1 Samuel 17 (continued)

V1 cont AZEKAH

Just N.W. of Shochoh and very near the Valley of Elah.

EPHES-DAMMIN

It means "boundary of blood-drops" (Strong) or "cessation of blood-shed" (Smiths B.D.). The name is significant. It typified what the greater David (the Lord Jesus Christ) would do. In his victory over sin he "caused the sacrifice... to cease" (Dan 9:27). He "offered one sacrifice for sins for ever" (Heb 10:12).

V2 AND SAUL AND THE MEN OF ISRAEL

Saul surrounded himself with men whom he considered valiant and strong (1 Sam 14:52). His confidence was in the arm of flesh and NOT in Yahweh. He did not seek Divine Counsel from Samuel (who had finished with Saul - 1 Sam 15:34-35). In the absence of Samuel he might have sought Divine help through the High Priest, but he doesn't. He might have sought to renew his faith, but doesn't. The Divine formulae for success in battle is given in Deut 20:1-4. This is not followed. Saul was endeavouring to rule independently of Yahweh - and that was his undoing.

BY THE VALLEY OF ELAH

N.I.V. "and camped IN the Valley of Elah." It is a long valley (by the standard of valleys in Israel). It leads into the Valley of Rephaim which runs up towards Jerusalem.

SET THE BATTLE IN ARRAY AGAINST THE PHILISTINES

Jer B "and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines." However it is extremely doubtful that Saul **really** wanted to fight. This was going to be a decisive battle, and Saul shows no enthusiasm for the fight. Further a dramatic change was going to come over Saul and his army when Goliath showed himself. They lacked faith in Yahweh's ability to give them the victory.

V3 AND THE PHILISTINES STOOD....AND ISRAEL STOOD

Israel were prepared to face the enemy (which typified sin) and camp opposite them but they were prepared to do nothing more. The lesson is that sin must not just be faced, IT MUST BE FOUGHT. The warfare against sin is a constant battle. Contrast David's attitude in verse 32 "thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine". In David faith was at work. This was lacking in the army of Israel. The description of Goliath given in vv 4-7 shows the enormity of David's faith.

V4 THERE WENT OUT A CHAMPION

Champion is from the hebrew *ish-habbenayim* meaning "the man between the two (hosts)" (C.B.). By implication it means a gladiator; a champion. The idea was that when a gladiator came forth, the warfare between the opposing forces should be decided by **single** combat.

GOLIATH

One of the meanings of the name Goliath is "heaps". The one at the top of the heaps in Ezek 38 is Gogue. It also means "exile" (Strong). Goliath is like Cain who went into the land of Nod (Gen 4:16). Nod also means "exile" (Unger's B.D.). This is what must be done to sin. Sin must be exiled from the lives of all those who would live in faith before Yahweh. Young also gives the name Goliath the meaning of "soothsayer". A soothsayer was one who fraudulently misrepresented the Truth. Goliath was a therefore a diabolos - a satan. Goliath prophesied David's destruction but was himself destroyed.

1 Samuel 17 (continued)

V4 cont OF GATH

Gath means "winepress" (Strong). The winepress signifies shed blood. In prefiguring the work of the Lord at his first advent, David was to tread the winepress alone (cf Isa 63:1-3). The idea of treading the winepress also finds expression in the Apocalypse (Rev 14:19-20; 19:15). In speaking of the future when Isaiah says "alone" and "of the people there was none with me" he does NOT mean the Lord will do it alone as an INDIVIDUAL. People is in the plural in the hebrew and means "nations" i.e. mortal nations. In Isaiah the picture is of the one eternal spirit in multitudinous manifestation in the Age to Come i.e. the Lord Jesus Christ and those made one with him in immortality.

WHOSE HEIGHT WAS SIX CUBITS AND A SPAN

A cubit is 18". So Goliath was more than nine feet tall. This equates to approximately 3 metres tall. Because of his height he was probably descended from the Anakim (Numb 13:32-33). In their description of their own height as compared to the giants in the land (i.e. like grasshoppers in comparison with humans), the faithless spies were no doubt exaggerating as they tried to engender fear among the Israelites, but nevertheless the Sons of Anak were obviously huge men - "men of great stature".

V5 HE HAD AN HELMET OF BRASS

This helmet covered his brain. Brass is the symbol of the flesh (e.g. Num 21:9). Goliath had the mind of the flesh.

A COAT OF MAIL

Mail is from the hebrew *qasqeseth* meaning ".....a scale (of a fish); hence a coat of mail [as composed of or covered with jointed plates of metal] (Strong 7193). A coat of mail was made up of overlaid pieces of metal like fish scales and was designed to be impossible to penetrate.

THE WEIGHT OF THE COAT WAS FIVE THOUSAND SHEKELS OF BRASS

This is equivalent to approximately 200 lbs or 90 kilograms.

V6 HE HAD GREAVES OF BRASS UPON HIS LEGS

Greaves is from the hebrew *mitschah* meaning a shin-piece of armour (Strong).

AND A TARGET OF BRASS BETWEEN HIS SHOULDERS

I.E. a javelin. The N.I.V. has "and a bronze javelin was slung on his back". The Jer B has "and a bronze javelin across his shoulders." This was an additional weapon in case he lost his spear or his sword.

V7 AND THE STAFF OF HIS SPEAR

I.E. the shaft of his spear.

THE SPEAR'S HEAD WEIGHED SIX HUNDRED SHEKELS OF IRON

I.E. about 25 lbs or 11 kilograms.

V8 AM NOT I A PHILISTINE

"Am not I THE Philistine" (Youngs literal). In other words "Am not I the GREATEST Philistine".

CHOOSE YOU A MAN

The challenge went right home to Saul. Although he would have stood head and shoulders above anyone else in the Israeli army (1 Sam 9:2) he would do nothing to meet the challenge of this Philistine. He had no faith for the fight.

V10 I DEFY THE ARMIES OF ISRAEL THIS DAY

Youngs literal has "reproached". "I have REPROACHED the armies of Israel this day".

1 Samuel 17 (continued)

V11 THEY WERE DISMAYED

Dismayed is from the hebrew *chathath* meaning "to prostrate; hence to break down, either (lit.) by violence, or (fig.) by confusion and fear..." (Strong 2865). "To be broken down with fear, to be confounded" (Gesenius). The principle that should have applied in the lives of these Israelites is Romans 8:31 "What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" The question for ourselves is What do we do when problems and difficulties confront us in life?

V15 BUT DAVID WENT ... TO FEED HIS FATHER'S SHEEP

David had become Saul's armour bearer and musician (1 Sam 16:19-23). But at some point in time before this confrontation with the Philistines, David had returned to Bethlehem to keep his father's sheep. But what was David doing while he was minding his father's sheep? Psalm 119:9 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Psalm 119:18 "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

V16 AND THE PHILISTINE PRESENTED HIMSELF FORTY DAYS

This was an incredibly long time for such a confrontation. In Bible symbology it represents the period of probation and judgement. For these 40 days Israel was on probation. At the end judgement would come on the gentiles.

1 SAMUEL 17:17-20

And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge. Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.