

# 1 SAMUEL OVERVIEW - LESSON 7

## I. DAVID THE OUTLAW

### A. The Massacre

#### 1. Saul's messed up "facts" (22.6-8)

- a. Having heard that David was back in Judah, Saul gathered all of his servants for a war council
- b. He used two rhetorical questions to make some points:
  - 1). He had given them (the Benjamites) property, would David ?
  - 2). He had made them leaders of the army, would David ?
- c. But his following statements to them were full of falsehoods
  - 1). He accused Jonathan of having stirred David against him
  - 2). He thereby accused David of being hostile to him
  - 3). And finally he accused everyone of knowing about it, but failing to tell him about his danger from the two

Slide

2

#### 2. Saul hears of Ahimelech's support of David (22.9-13)

- a. Doeg, who had been at Nob at this event, shared what he had seen
  - 1). He lied when he said that Ahimelech had inquired of God for David >> sure to infuriate Saul, who had God's Spirit leave him !
  - 2). So a simple act of human support becomes an act of treachery in Saul's eyes

Slide

3

#### b. Saul summoned Ahimelech to explain his actions

- 1). Ahimelech came
- 2). With him were all his family and priests

#### 3. Ahimelech in Saul's court

##### a. Ahimelech's defense (22.14-15)

- 1). First he argued that David was Saul's most faithful and capable servant
- 2). Then he said that it wouldn't be unusual for him to inquire of God for David, being the leader that he was
- 3). Finally, he stated that he had no knowledge of any conspiracy

##### b. Saul's reaction (22.16-19)

- 1). Saul wouldn't listen to Ahimelech's reasoned reply
- 2). He ordered his guards to kill Ahimelech and all the priests
  - a.) They would not attack the Lord's priests
- 3). So he ordered Doeg the Edomite to complete the attack
  - a.) Doeg killed 85 priests at once
  - b.) He then struck the city of Nob and killed everyone and all the livestock there



Slide

3

- c. Saul's crime is great
  - 1). He ordered the death of God's servants who did not pose a threat to him
  - 2). He ordered annihilation of a city of priests and their families, not a city that had warred against him
- d. But there is one larger event taking place here
  - 1). God's address to Eli (1 Sam 2.30-36)
  - 2). God promised to punish Eli's family of priests for his not dealing with the sinful behavior of his priest sons
    - a.) Ahimelech was Eli's grandson
- e. Yet one escapes (22.20-23)
  - 1). A son of Ahimelech, Abiathar, reaches David with the news
  - 2). David reacts to the sad event
    - a.) He suspected the Goeg would tell Saul about the Nob events
    - b.) He feels responsible, and promises Abiathar protection from Saul

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Slide

4

- 4. Note the tragedies when men stray from the presence of God
  - a. Saul wouldn't slay all the Amalekites, but he ordered death to the priests
    - 1). When Abiathar fled to David, he took the ephod, the means the priest had for communicating with God
    - 2). Saul no longer needed it, for he made his own decisions
  - b. Doeg was an Edomite
    - 1). Edomites were descendents of Esau
    - 2). This was another stage in the conflict between Jacob and Esau
  - c. David's deception at Nob brought death to all life at Nob
    - 1). He could have given his true situation to Ahimelech and trusted God to provide what he needed

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Slide

5

- B. David's 1st escape from Saul
  - 1. (23.1-5) David attacks the Philistines
    - a. David was told that the Philistines were attacking Keilah
      - 1). Town about .7 miles NW of Hebron
      - 2). The Philistines were taking the grain from the threshing floors
    - b. David asked the Lord if he should save the town. and the Lord told him to go save them
      - 1). Remember that he had the prophet Gad with him

Slide  
**5**

- c. David's men were afraid to go
    - 1). They said they were in danger enough from Saul, why would they go out in the open to fight the Philistines ?
    - 2). But David asked the Lord again and He promised them victory
      - a.) David and his men attack, and they are successful
      - b.) The city is saved
      - c.) Many Philistines are slaughtered, and the Israelites take livestock
- (23.6-14) David's departure from Keilah
- a. When Saul hears of the victory, he assembles his army to besiege Keilah and take David and his men
    - 1). He thinks that David has made the mistake of occupying a walled city, with limited escape routes
    - 2). Maybe he thought that God was now rejecting David
  - b. David asks Abiathar to bring the ephod with him to inquire of the Lord
    - 1). He asks two questions:
      - a.) Is Saul coming to attack them at Keilah ?
        - God said he will
      - b.) Will the men of Keilah surrender him and his men to avoid siege ?
        - God said that they will
    - 2). So David and his men departed into the wilderness
      - a.) Saul dropped his attack on Keilah

Slide  
**6**

ESCAPES CHART

C. David's 2nd escape from Saul

Slide **7**

- 1. Jonathan visits David (23.15-18)
  - a. David and his men were hiding in the wilderness of Ziph (map)
    - 1). "Horesh" > "thicket"

Slide **8**

MAP

Slide  
**9**

- b. Jonathan came to encourage him and his faith in God
    - 1). He knew he would become king one day
    - 2). They made a second mutual support covenant
  - c. Then Jonathan left for his house
- Some traitors tell on David (23.19-25)
- a. Some residents of Ziph came to Gibeah to Saul they had seen David
  - b. Saul directed them to observe David and his hiding places, and report back
    - 1). Then he would come down to hunt him out

- c. But David heard he was coming and retreated to the wilderness of Maon
- 1). Desolate area above western shore of Dead Sea
    - a.) 9 miles south of Hebron
    - b.) A modern tell was excavated there, and pottery dating to David's time was found

Slide

9

- 2). His forces took places on a mountain of that region
  - a.) The current town sits at the top of a rounded hill

Saul's forces hunt David unsuccessfully (23.26-29)

- a. Saul's forces hunted on one side of the mountain, and David's hid on the other side
- b. Saul had to withdraw when news came that Philistines were raiding Judah
- c. David and his men withdrew to better strongholds at Engedi

Slide 10

PICTURES

Slide 11

ESCAPES CHART

D. David's 3rd escape from Saul

1. Saul resumes his pursuit of David's forces (24.1-7)

- a. He chose three thousand men to return to the pursuit
- b. In the process, he ducked into a cave to relieve himself
- c. David and his men were hidden in the back ends of the cave
  - 1). They told David that God had given his enemy into his hands
  - 2). God never promised that - the men assumed that was the way

Slide

12

d. David somehow cut of the hem of Saul's garment

- 1). But, on returning to his men, his conscience bothered him
- 2). He told his men that Saul was still the Lord's anointed, and not to be harmed
  - a.) The English translation into "persuaded" (NASB,ESV) is from the Heb shaw-**sah** "tore into"
  - b.) So the translations "rebuked" (NIV) and "restrained" (NET) are closer
  - c.) But the Holman Christian Standard Bible has it much closer  
vs 7 "So David scolded his men severely and did not permit them to attack Saul ..."

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2. David challenges Saul after he leaves the cave (24.8-15)

- a. David stood where Saul could see him and hailed him as his lord the king
- 1). He prostrated himself before Saul's eyes and bowed to the ground
- b. David then began his argument against Saul's pursuit of him
- 1). He challenged that Saul was being manipulated by men who saw advantage in removing David
  - 2). He showed Saul the hem of his garment, and said that he had the opportunity to kill him, but didn't
    - a.) God might avenge what Saul was doing against him, but he would not
  - 3). David said he was no more a threat to Saul than a flea on a dead dog
  - 4). David pleaded to God for deliverance from Saul

Slide

13

3. Saul is moved by David's speech (24.16-22)

a. He acknowledges David's righteousness and his own wickedness

- 1). He realizes that the norm is to kill one's enemy when he has the advantage, and David didn't do that
- 2). He knows David will become king
- 3). He finishes by asking David to swear that he will not wipe out his family, which David does
  - a.) It was often the norm to wipe out a defeated king's family

b. But David and his men return to their strongholds, knowing Saul's mania

- 1). The words here indicate that they went to even greater strongholds

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Slide

14

ESCAPES CHART

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E. David's 4th escape from Saul

1. (25.1) Samuel died

- a. All of Israel mourned him
- b. David continued to move around to evade Saul's spies
- 1). He moved to a wilderness area about 10 miles south of the Dead Sea
  - 2). Location where Hagar and Ishmael wandered and were met by the angel with water

Slide

15



2. David and Nabal

a. (25.2-3) Nabal is a rich businessman

- 1). He is shearing his sheep in the area David is hiding
- 2). He is a cruel man, but his wife Abigail is beautiful and intelligent
  - a.) He is a descendant of Caleb, but doesn't have his disposition

Slide

15

b. (25.4-8) David solicits Nabal for provisions

1). It is the festival time of shearing

- a.) Tradition calls for generosity to all around

2). David tells 10 of his men to approach Nabal for provisions

- a.) He cautions them to be respectful and solicitous
- b.) He also tells them to ask for Nabal's generosity based on:
  - His men have treated Nabal's shepherds with safety and respect
    - .. It is likely that David's small army kept thieves and raiders away
  - David is his "son", i.e. he is a servant of the king serving Nabal's interests

c. (25.9-11) But Nabal selfishly rejects the requests of David's men

- 1). Keep in mind that David had about 600 men he was looking provisions for

d. (25.12-13) David's men report the rebuff back to David

- 1). He is instantly furious
- 2). He orders 400 men to sword up and follow him to the attack of Nabal

e. (25.14-17) A servant of Nabal warns Abigail of the coming attack

- 1). He verifies the safety they had from David's men
- 2). He tells her that Nabal is "worthless" (Heb "a son of Belial")  
and no one can talk with him
  - a.) He tells her she will have to do something

Slide

16

f. (25.18-22) Abigail takes charge

- 1). She has the servants load donkeys with considerable provisions
- 2). Then she told the men to take the donkeys to David, and she would follow without telling Nabal
- 3). On the way, she met David and the four hundred men
  - a.) He vented his anger to her about how Nabal had insulted him



Slide

**16**



- 4). (23-25) Abigail takes responsibility before David
  - a.) She dismounts and bows before him
  - b.) She then tells David that she didn't know about his request, and that she accepts the rebuff to David as a fault not meant
    - She points out that "Nabal" = "fool"
    - David should ignore him
- 5). (26-27) She uses gentle logic to dissuade David from attacking
  - a.) The Lord has restrained him from shedding blood unnecessarily (Nabal is a fool, others shouldn't suffer because of that)
  - b.) He shouldn't avenge himself, since the Lord reserves that to Himself
  - c.) She asks him to accept the provision she brought for his men
- 6). (28-31) She tells of David's coming greatness as king as why he should forgive
  - a.) God was going to be blessing David, so he could afford to forgive
    - He would have an enduring house
    - Divine protection of his life
      - .. "bound in the bundle of the living" alludes to bundling precious objects together to protect them
    - His enemies would be cast out just as hurling a stone from a sling
  - b.) (vs 31) David's blessing will not be reduced by a troubled conscience if he forgives rather than exacts vengeance
- 7). (32-35) David accepts her argument and provisions
  - a.) He thanks God for sending her to restrain him from vengeance
  - b.) He thanks Abigail for coming to him and sends her back in peace
- 8). (36-38) Nabal's end
  - a.) Abigail returns to find Nabal in a drunken feast, so she stays silent for the moment
  - b.) In the morning, she tells him all
    - It appears that the Lord struck Nabal at that point with a stroke
    - 10 days later, the Lord took his life
- 9). (39-42) David marries Abigail
  - a.) When David heard that Nabal was dead, he sent servants to propose marriage to her
  - b.) She accepted and returned to David and became his wife

3. David's wives (25.43-44)

a. A succession

- 1). While David was absent from the court, his wife, Michal, was given to another man, Palti
- 2). After that, David married Ahinoam, of Jezreel
- 3). Abigail then became his 3rd wife

b. Polygamy is forbidden in the Bible

- 1). The pattern in the Garden was monogamy
- 2). (Lev 18.18) commands against it  
"her sister" > "another"

Slide 17

ESCAPES CHART

F. David's 5th escape from Saul

1. (26.1-5) Saul returns to pursuit of David

a. The Ziphites again tell Saul where David is

- 1). Jeshimon > "devastation" [handout] = bad lands south of Bethlehem
- 2). David is hiding on the hill, Hachilah, there with his men

Slide 18

b. Saul comes with 3,000 chosen men

c. David sees him camping with his troops surrounding him

Slide 19

MAP

2. (26.6-11) David again foregoes the opportunity to kill Saul

a. David asks if one of two men will accompany him to sneak into Saul's camp

- 1). Note that Ahimelec is a Hittite > David's force had some non-Israelites supporting him
- 2). Abishai, the brother of Joab, both nephews of David, agrees to go

Slide

20

b. Somehow the two get right up to Saul sleeping without detection

c. Abishai wants to strike Saul with his spear

- 1). Spear = symbol of king, like scepter
- 2). Abishai shows some respect by indicating he will kill with a single blow, and then cease

d. David once again refuses to kill Saul

- 1). He will not be the one who kills the Lord's anointed
  - a.) He cites that God may take him out in one of various ways, but David won't be the instrument willingly
- 2). But David takes Saul's spear and water jug

e. Both leave the camp undetected



3. (26.12-16) David challenges Abner
  - a. It is shown that the two were undetected because the Lord had placed a deep sleep on the entire camp
  - b. David went a large distance between Saul's camp & hailed Abner
    - 1). Abner was Saul's army commander
    - 2). David accused him of dereliction of duty in allowing someone to sneak into camp undetected
      - a.) A fault punishable by death in many armies
      - b.) David emphasized his point by showing Saul's spear and water jug

Slide

20

- (26.17-20) Saul shouts to David, who again addresses him
  - a. David wanted to know why Saul was pursuing him
    - 1). Was it that the Lord had set him against David ?
      - a.) If so, maybe Saul and he should sacrifice to the Lord to satisfy Him
      - 2). Was it Saul's advisors stirring up Saul's anger against David ?
        - a.) These advisors were trying to drive him from the inheritance given by the Lord, i.e. Israel and its kingship
          - They didn't care if he served other gods in a foreign land or not
        - b.) David said they should be cursed before the Lord
    - b. He pled with Saul to not drive him away to die in a foreign land
5. (26.21) Saul again admitted his sin against David & relented
  - a. He admits that he had committed serious misjudgement
  - b. He begs David to return because he had spared Saul's life
6. (26.22-25) The two part and return to their places
  - a. David invites a soldier to come return Saul's spear to him
  - b. David repeats his confidence that the Lord approved of his decision to not harm Saul
    - 1). He also asks the Lord to keep him safe
  - c. The two departed and never saw each other again

Slide

21

ESCAPES CHART

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## II. DAVID THE MERCENARY

### A. (1 Sam 27.1)

1. David became very discouraged at this point
2. He reasoned that the only way to escape Saul's murderous intent was to escape to the Philistines

Slide

22

### David at Gath

#### 1. (27.2-4) David went to live at Gath

- a. Took his 600 men and their families
- b. They lived with Achish, the king of Gath
  - 1). Remember David had 1st lived with Achish when he initially fled Saul
  - 2). When he realized that wasn't a good idea, he feigned madness, and Achish cast him out
  - 3). David now returned with 600 guerilla fighters, so he was welcomed as a supposed enemy of Saul
- c. Note the opening to (Ps 34)
  - 1). This Abimelech is Achish
  - 2). Abimelech was also king of Gerar in Abraham's time
  - 3). "Abimelech" may be the title of Philistine kings
- d. When Saul heard that David had departed, he gave up the search for him in Israel
  - 1). Since they took their families, he probably assumed that the matter was settled permanently

#### 2. (27.5-6) David's trust plays out

- a. Apparently David convinced Achish of his loyalty
  - b. David suggested that Achish give him one of the outlying cities, rather than be a presence in the capital
    - 1). Achish gave him Ziklag as his own city
      - a.) Achish saw the advantage of having an ally at an outpost
      - b.) Worked to David's advantage to get his people out of the pagan influence of Gath
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### C. David at Ziklag

#### 1. (27.7-8) David's raids south

- a. David and his families lived at Ziklag for 16 months
- b. He led raids to stop the intrusion of the nomads from the south, out of the Negev desert
  - 1). These were pagans from the time of Joshua's wars, never conquered
  - 2). Geshurites were from an area between Philistia & Sinai
  - 3). Confusion among scholars about Girzites
    - a.) May be Gerzites or Gezrites
    - b.) Not mentioned elsewhere in OT, manuscripts unclear, so unsettled
  - 4). Saul had nearly wiped out the Amelekites, but they were resurging
  - 5). (vs 9) David killed everyone, took the spoils and animals back
    - a.) They returned to Achish's area
    - b.) But the spoils would have supplied his people

#### 2. (27.10-12) David lies to Achish about the raids

- a. When Achish asked where he had been raiding, David said that he had attacked the southern ("Negev") territories of Israel
  - 1). of Judah
  - 2). of the Jerahmeelites
    - a.) descendants of Jerahmeel, the great grandson of Judah
  - 3). of the Kenites, the tribe of Moses' father-in-law
- b. The lie worked, because they had killed all the people that David's men had raided > no witnesses to accuse David of the lie
  - 1). This gave Achish confidence that David was now an outcast from Israel and a loyal follower

#### 3. Note david's spiritual condition at this time

- a. He was at a low, yet ...
  - 1). There is no mention of concern for the Lord's will or communication with Him
  - 2). He sought no advice from any prophet of the Lord
- b. The acts that he committed cannot be condoned

Slide

23

### III. AT THIS POINT, DAVID IS CLOSE TO BECOMING KING

#### A. The situation

Slide

24

1. Saul had been successful at preventing a major Philistine incursion into Israel
2. But the Philistine lords saw key weaknesses now in Saul's position
  - a. The Israelite's spiritual leader, Samuel, was dead
  - b. David, their most capable military leader, had defected
  - c. Saul was losing his authority, and maybe his mind
3. This led to their conclusion that it was time to invade
  - a. Their plan
    - 1). March north along the coast
    - 2). Slice eastward across the Jezreel Valley
      - a.) Saul's least defences in this area
      - b.) Flat terrain would give Philistine chariots the advantage
        - Same strategy that Deborah and Barak defeated when God gave the rain > mud

### IV. THE PHILISTINE INVASION OF 1010 BC

#### A. David is in a tight spot (28.1-2)

Slide

25

1. Achish trusted David so much that he appointed he and his men as his personal body guard in the coming battle
  2. Note David's carefully worded response
- Saul is in a desperate position
1. (28.3-6) Four statements indicate his situation
    - a. Samuel was dead > no major spiritual leader
    - b. Saul had removed all practitioners of the occult, now he had no consultants (even bad) at all
    - c. Saul trembled in fear when he saw he size of the Philistine encampment
    - d. When he inquired of the Lord, he received no reply by any method he tried
      - 1). There is no indication that he had repented of his sins
  2. (28.7) Saul orders his servants to find a medium so he can consult the dead
    - a. Though outlawed, there were still those conducting these evil practices
    - b. They inform him of the medium at Endor
      - 1). Tradition holds that this was the mother of Abner, Saul's general

C. (28.8-11) Saul's visit to the witch

Slide

26

1. Lord Byron said that this is the most perfect picture of such  
a scene of a witch and the subjects

- a. Saul - close to death, Samuel - already dead, the  
witch - a trafficker in the dead

Saul disguises himself (from a witch !) and asks her  
to bring someone back from the dead

- a. She repeats that Saul had forbidden such deeds and  
accuses him of setting a trap for her life  
b. Saul swears (by the Lord !) that she will not pay for  
this act  
c. He then tells her to bring up Samuel

3. (28.12-14) Samuel's apparition

a. When the apparition appeared, the woman cried out

- 1). There's no indication that she had done any mumbo jumbo  
2). Was she surprised that she had done it ??  
3). She then accused him of tricking her, calling him Saul

b. Saul calmed her and asked her to describe what she saw

- 1). She said she saw a "divine being" (supernatural) coming  
up from the ground  
2). She described him as an old man wrapped in a robe  
3). Saul must have then saw him, and bowed to the ground  
in respect

c. Was this really Samuel ??

1). God had condemned spiritualism et al in the Mosaic Law

- a.) Lev 20.27, Deut 18.10-12  
b.) Did He now act outside that to actually bring Samuel  
back from the dead ?

2). Some explanations debated

a.) It was a deception practiced by the witch

- It was effective because of Saul's condition

b.) An evil spirit impersonated Samuel

- Satan and his demons can appear as angels of light

Slide

26

c.) God brought Samuel back from Sheol

- Facts show both the witch and Saul had no qualms about it
- (Matt 17.1-3) Moses and Elijah appeared
- Perhaps God worked through the witch to startle her out of her practice, as well as Saul
- God's sovereignty cannot be questioned, He can make the exception to what is not acceptable for man

4. Samuel's prophecy

Slide

27

a. (28.15-16) He addresses Saul about disturbing him

- 1). Seems to indicate that he was comfortable in Sheol
- 2). Saul tells him of the Philistine invasion and God not answering his pleas for directions
- 3). Samuel asks why Saul calls him if God, Himself, is not answering
  - a.) If God has become his enemy, why would he confer with God's prophet
  - b.) A rather pointed question for America, today, no ??

b. (28.17-19) Samuel then gives him the facts

- 1). Saul did not obey God repeatedly
  - a.) He failed to carry out God's commands to totally wipe out the Amalekites
- 2). So God has given the kingdom into David's hands
- 3). But the Philistines will win the battle tomorrow
  - a.) The Israelite army will be defeated
  - b.) Saul and his sons will die and go to Sheol with Samuel as Saul's personal judgement

c. (28.20-25) Saul's reaction

- 1). He fell full length to the ground
  - a.) He had not eaten for a day
- 2). The witch saw his terror and sought to comfort him
  - a.) She indicated that she had obeyed him, and he should now listen to her
  - b.) She made food and insisted that he eat it to be strengthened
- 3). Saul and his men ate and then left

These notes were originally written as I composed this study for our Faculty & Staff Bible Study at the local university. It is important to note that they follow the narrative in *Old Testament Survey Series: The Books of History* by James E. Smith (1995, College Press Publishing Company) very closely. It is the best summary I found, so it is the foundation for the study. In many cases, I used Dr. Smith's words directly, sometimes paraphrased them for clarity, sometimes enlarged on them with other resources. Since I didn't expect to publish the notes, I did not cite them at the time. It is now difficult to distinguish quotes from Dr. Smith, material from other resources, or what thoughts the Spirit gave me. Suffice to say that, if it is insightful to your spiritual growth, give all the glory to the Spirit, some credit to Dr. Smith, and none to me. I'm just the Spirit-led editor and teacher.

Bob Kostrubanic, November 5, 2021