

CONCERNING THE WAY

September 30, 2008

LESSON 32: ISRAEL: 1 SAMUEL



We come to the third great section of the book and with it we are introduced to one of the most famous men of history, David. This man by all standards of the world was one of the greatest generals who ever lived, he was one of the greatest kings who ever lived. He was a great general because he was a great killer, David slaughtered people by the thousands and he was called to do that by God. He did not allow himself to be controlled by his emotions, except on a few notable occasions, and he was a man who had an intense, almost childlike faith, so much so that at least one woman almost divorced him because she felt her husband was so stupid in his faith. But this life that we are about to study is one of the most exciting lives of all of Scripture.

I don't think that there's one of us that can't identify in some way with some area of David's life. David was a man who habitually let it all hang out; when he was operating in the power of the Holy Spirit it was very obvious and when he was operating out of the Holy Spirit it was also very obvious, and yet David was able to do something that Saul had been called to do and failed, and that is the test. Oftentimes studies in the life of David are designed to just give you a biography of the man, but the Holy Spirit is not interested in merely giving you a biography of David. Many details of his life are missing, a biography of his life is impossible. But the Holy Spirit has preserved certain details of David's life that will show how David differed from Saul. David's life cannot be studied apart from Saul's life.

Chapters 1-7 dealt with how God prepared to deliver Israel by a great change. Chapters 8-15 dealt with the first incumbent in the office of king, Saul. Now we come to the third great section that runs from 1 Samuel 16 to 2 Samuel 1. It could be titled Saul decreases but David increases. And by the way, another of David's accomplishments, he was a great musician. All through this we see the reason why the Psalms are so precious. The Psalms have been known as the greatest devotional literature down through the centuries, because they were written under extreme pressure, pressure that would be faced by believers in every generation. And David, writing out of those high pressure situations, writes words that are comforting to us. So this part of the Bible is very, very intense, very interesting, and has a lot of things for us as we begin the story of David.

1 Samuel 16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long do you intend to mourn for Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with olive oil and go! I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have selected a king for myself from among his sons."

Now Samuel here is very depressed, in 1 Samuel 16:1 he is an old man, he has been in retirement for many years. He has had to watch the very first man in the office of the king fail and be rejected. Here is one of the great prophets of God and he is about ready to throw in the towel at this point. He probably is wishing that God would call him home, that he wouldn't have to nominate another knucklehead who would do the same thing that Saul did and have to live through and watch this whole thing again. It's not nice to sit around and watch your country fall apart around you. He has watched the nation fall, he has watched the priesthood fall, and now he has watched the king of the nation fall.

But God has another job for him to do. So here we have Samuel called to do his last mission. Now the horn itself in the ancient world was the symbol of power. The first crowns actually were horns that were sewed to a leather belt. The man who was the head wore the horns, and the reason was that the horns were denoting power, political power. The horn has oil in it. The oil is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, and so out of the horn, which speaks of power, comes the Spirit, the oil, which will be poured on the candidate for the office, and this means that the Holy Spirit is the one who is going to empower the candidate for office.

This has an application for us, "Fill your horn and go". Young believers always wonder what God's will is for their lives. Well, if you're a student God's will is for you to develop some self-discipline so that you can train your gift, whatever it is. And don't worry about what God's gift is, start with what you know. You know that He wants discipline developed, through the Holy Spirit, self-control. So you start moving in that direction and then the Holy Spirit will move you into the path, but you have to obey what you know if you expect to find out what you don't know.

1 Samuel 16:2 *Samuel replied, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me!" But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'*

Samuel is worried about reprisals from Saul. Apparently we have a time lapse between the end of chapter 15 and the beginning of chapter 16, and remember what Saul's soul looked like: negative volition, darkness, human viewpoint and hatred. That hatred causes resentment towards anyone who reminds of the authority of God, and Samuel is that authority. So apparently between the end of chapter 15 and the beginning of chapter 16 Saul has instituted a reign of terror against anyone identified with Samuel. We know this from another verse which we'll see.

1 Samuel 16:3-5 *Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you should do. You will anoint for me the one I point out to you." (4) Samuel did what the LORD told him. When he arrived in Bethlehem, the elders of the city were afraid to meet him. They said, "Do you come in peace?" (5) He replied, "Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." So he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.*

Here's our other piece of evidence that Saul had instituted a reign of terror. The elders of the city are afraid that by showing friendship to Samuel they'll be declaring themselves in opposition to the present political reign.

1 Samuel 16:6-7 *When they arrived, Samuel noticed Eliab and said to himself, "Surely, here before the LORD stands his chosen king!" (7) But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't be impressed by his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. God does not view things the way men do. People look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

Samuel gets the whole family of Jesse out, and begins to look for a man who was obviously like Saul. Remember what Saul looked like: he was tall, he was good looking, he just looked like a king. Samuel sees Eliab, and says on the basis of the evidence that I can see, I would nominate this man for office. Samuel in his humanity wants to pick Eliab. Even this great prophet Samuel would never have chosen David.

Now here we have the great model of David for the life of Christ. David in Scripture is said to be a man who was after God's heart. What does this mean? Does it mean that God didn't pick Saul? No, God picked Saul. But when God comes to the second man He's going to do something a little different. God picked Saul for his own purposes. Here God says I look on the inner mental attitude and on that basis I pick My man.

1 Samuel 16:8-11 *Then Jesse called Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one, either." (9) Then Jesse presented Shammah. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." (10) Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." (11) Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Is that all of the young men?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest one, but he's taking care of the flock." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we cannot turn our attention to other things until he comes here."*

You can just see this gradually building tension. Think of what Samuel must have thinking; as a prophet he knows God is a rational God, he knows that there is somebody here in the family or God's a liar. But all the sons have passed by. So since God is not a liar it leaves one logical possibility, all the sons aren't there.

This is a formal meeting. You have the head prophet of the nation walking into the house; everybody is in their best clothes. This is a highly formal occasion. We know this because of a remark Samuel is going to make in just a minute. The best silverware is out, the whole room is immaculate, Jesse's wife has spent all day vacuum cleaning. So everyone's presented themselves and then Samuel wants to know where's number 8. Well, uh, everybody else has come in off the field, we've got everybody bathed and dressed except him, we left him in... because obviously he's not going to be chosen, so he's dirty, stinky, not fit for the formal occasion in any way.

Verse 12 is a rare verse because very infrequently in Scripture do you ever get a picture of how people look. Saul's height was described, but this is one of the fullest portraits given us in all of God's Word as to how a man looked.

1 Samuel 16:12 *So Jesse had him brought in. Now he was ruddy, with attractive eyes and a handsome appearance. The LORD said, "Go and anoint him. This is the one!"*

The word "ruddy" in the Hebrew means red, also used for Esau, and it means that David had red hair. David was a redheaded Jew. And it was very unusual because in that part of the country, then as now, the norm is black hair. The next part about his portrait is that the man had beautiful eyes. And of course the ladies would gravitate toward the eyes for the rest of his life. The third part is that he was a handsome man.

1 Samuel 16:13 *So Samuel took the horn full of olive oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day onward. Then Samuel got up and went to Ramah.*

In order to understand this external sign of the anointing with oil with the internal giving of the Spirit mentioned in verse 13, we have to discuss the contrast between the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. This is one of the most important contrasts that we can ever have as far as understanding the Christian life. People who do not understand the contrast between the Old Testament and New Testament are never clear on the filling of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.

Contrast number one, in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit had a limited ministry in certain people. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit is given universally, to all believers. The failure to understand this has led to a lot of wrong ideas being put out by Christian organizations, and otherwise well-meaning sincere believers. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit ministered to various kinds of people, for example, people who worked on the tabernacle.

Exodus 31:2-4 *"See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, (3) and I have filled him with the Spirit of God in skill, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, (4) to make artistic designs for work with gold, with silver, and with bronze,*

Here's an illustration of how the Holy Spirit worked. Is this what you would call a spiritual working of the Holy Spirit or a physical working of the Holy Spirit? The situation is the construction and erection of the tabernacle of the Old Testament. You'd obviously describe it as a physical ministry, he was filled with the Holy Spirit under Old Testament conditions and the manifestation of the filling was skill in working with materials.

The second group that we could use as examples, I'm not going to give all the examples but these are just samples, would be the judges. What was the ministry of the Holy Spirit in Samson? It was to increase his physical strength; it certainly didn't give him too much spiritual perception. And the Holy Spirit ministered to kings in the Old Testament; remember in 1 Samuel 10:9, after Saul had been anointed the Holy Spirit came upon Saul and he began prophesying, or speaking the Word of God. The working of the Holy Spirit on the king in the Old Testament was physical too, because the Holy Spirit empowered him with military skill. But there were always physical evidences of the filling of the Spirit or the work of the Spirit in the Old Testament.

But this was only limited to some individuals; not all. Why? The answer is the work of the Holy Spirit. And to see this better we have to go to the doctrine of the Trinity; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father is the planner; anytime a plan is conceived it's always the Father that does it. The Father is the ultimate source of the divine plan of salvation, etc. The Son is always the actor, He is always the focus of revelation. Whatever is revealed is always centered on the Second Person of the Trinity. It is always our Lord Jesus Christ that is the center of God's revelation. Don't let anyone ever, ever, ever pull you away from this.

This is one of the great dangers of the modern charismatic movement that so emphasizes the Holy Spirit. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit did not come to glorify Himself, the Third Person, He came to glorify the Second Person. So here's a little test that you should remember. When you're reading Christian literature, ask yourself which member of the Godhead is receiving the greatest attention in this material, the Third or the Second. This is one way you can have some discernment of what you're reading.

Now, what is the Holy Spirit's job? The Holy Spirit is the revealer; Christ is the revealed one, but the Holy Spirit is the

one who does the revealing. I always like to think of the Holy Spirit as the divine technician; the architect is the Father, the One who does the acting is the Son, but the technician who works behind the scenes is the Holy Spirit. It's like on television, you never see the cameraman, you only see the picture of what those technicians bring to your eyes. And the Holy Spirit has that kind of a ministry; His job is to get the camera focused in on the person of Christ.

So what is God the Holy Spirit doing in the Old Testament? Well, what is the Son doing in the Old Testament? Whatever Jesus Christ the Son is doing in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit will be revealing Him. The Son is being revealed, so to speak, in pieces, there are limited truths about Him. For example, He is being revealed in the Law, in the tabernacle, by the office of the king, etc. So the work of the Holy Spirit in the OT will happen in those areas that picture for us Jesus Christ. All the believers in the OT trusted in the revelation they had of the Messiah, in that sense the Holy Spirit was working. But the Holy Spirit was only specially involved with the people that are involved in this great building of the revelation of Christ in the Old Testament.

So the Holy Spirit is involved in the artisans because it was those believers who were involved in the building of the tabernacle, and the tabernacle pictured Christ. The judges, too, because what they did in the area of deliverance is going to be a type of what Christ is going to do as the great Judge. And what the king does is obviously very close to Christ. So it follows that the occupant of that office would be the one who would be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Now in the New Testament that is not the case; in the New Testament all believers are indwelt by the Spirit and to see this turn to Romans 8:9, the last part of verse 9:

Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this person does not belong to him.

There's your proof that there is no such thing as receiving the Holy Spirit after salvation. If a "believer" exists without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit he's not a believer, period. The Holy Spirit after Pentecost, after the transitions in the book of Acts have been made and the Church has settled down to the economy described in Romans, after that has been reached then every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit from the time of salvation.

There are some circles who would have you agonize in a closet, attend all of their hand-holding meetings, go to this and that and everything else so that you can get baptized by the Holy Spirit and you too can blabber all over the place. The Bible doesn't teach that. In this verse you have it clear, it should be no question in your mind that the Holy Spirit has indwelt you from the point of salvation, period. You may not feel any different, how you feel doesn't mean a thing. It is what God's Word says and this is what it says; don't get angry at me, I didn't write it, Paul did.

So why is it in the Old Testament you have the Holy Spirit just working with a few individuals that are critical to the ongoing process of revelation and in the New Testament suddenly everybody is indwelt by the Holy Spirit?

John 7:39 (Now he said this about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were going to receive, for the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.)

There is your answer. Jesus Christ died on the cross, ascended into heaven, rose the third day, ascended to heaven after a time interval, and sat down at the Father's right hand. This entire process after death is summarized as glorification. Jesus Christ was fully glorified when He sat down at the Father's right hand. Then the Father through the Son sent the Holy Spirit. So after Christ was glorified the Holy Spirit became available on a universal basis.

So the ministry of the Holy Spirit from this point forward is not like the Old Testament. In the Old Testament He was building up a revelation that pointed to Christ. But the Holy Spirit doesn't have to do that any more because Christ has already come. Now He's taking the finished edifice, which is the person of Christ, and teaching that to each believer. So this is why the Holy Spirit now indwells every believer because it's every believer's privilege, right, and duty to understand the Savior, in His office today; not just as a dead Savior on the cross, not just as a resurrected Savior on the third day, but as a Savior who is seated at the Father's right hand, far above all principalities and powers.

That's the job and function of the Holy Spirit. Why? Because Satan is trying to obscure that revelation. Christ made

it to the cross, He got to the goal, He finished, and the race is over. Satan can't stop the race, so what he's trying to do is to cut off and darken the human race to the truth of the resurrected, seated, Jesus Christ. It is that central thing that he wants obliterated from history. He is desperately trying to hide this truth, confuse the truth, do anything he can to remove the effect of the completed race. So to give the believer a chance God has put the Holy Spirit inside every believer. That is why, if you have personally accepted Christ as your Savior, then you have the indwelling Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been there, working in your life, in your soul, ever since you became a Christian.

Another thing about the Spirit. The people that quote Joel 2, in the latter days God is going to pour out His Spirit on all the people, yes, that is a bona fide prophecy. But to interpret that prophecy you've got to use the same rule on the Third Person of the Trinity as you use on the Second Person. The Second Person had two advents and it would be foolish to mix things from these two advents together. The First Advent of the Holy Spirit was on Pentecost. In the prophecy of Joel the Holy Spirit was supposed to have darkened the sun and the moon. Where in the book of Acts on the day of Pentecost was the sun and the moon darkened; obviously it was not. In the prophecy of Joel the Holy Spirit is supposed to come out on ALL men. Do you read in Pentecost it came out on all men? No. So obviously the prophecy of Joel was not fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, there is a yet future fulfillment and, like the Second Advent of Christ, is a Second Advent at the beginning of the millennial kingdom. And that is where God is going to pour out his Spirit on all flesh.

And today has nothing to do with the 2nd advent of the Holy Spirit; it's a pity that the people involved in this kind of thing are depriving themselves, these are believers who are ignorant of the magnificent work that the Holy Spirit has done and intends every believer to enjoy today. And a person who's seeking for something else is a person who has never known the riches of his position in Christ today. It's a sad situation.

A second contrast between the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments: In the Old Testament the work of the Holy Spirit was temporary; the Holy Spirit could come and go, the Holy Spirit did not have to stay. We'll see this in the next passage, that the Holy Spirit's leaving Saul. And we also see it in Psalm 51:11 where David is threatened with the loss of the Holy Spirit. That is a prayer that you cannot pray; God isn't going to take His Holy Spirit away from you. He's promised He's going to stay there and if He didn't it would prove God a liar. Keep in mind that, while you can go out and do whatever you want to, the Holy Spirit can also do to you whatever He wants to. In the New Testament the permanency of the Holy Spirit is taught in Eph. 4:30. Ephesians 4:30 says you are sealed by the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption, and that is a dogmatic statement of permanency of the Holy Spirit; He cannot be removed.

A third contrast between the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments: the Holy Spirit's work in the Old Testament was job centered. That is, it connected to a job, it connected to a king, it connected to the judge, connected to the artisan, to accomplish certain things. But in the New Testament the role of the Holy Spirit is the total transformation of a human personality into the new man. The Holy Spirit's job is to make us like Christ.

The fourth contrast, and this is where there is the most confusion today; is that in the Old Testament believers could ask for the Holy Spirit and in the New Testament believers do not ask for the Holy Spirit because He's already there. In the Old Testament believers could ask, 2 Kings 2:9, Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's Spirit. Luke 11:13, Jesus instructs the disciples to ask for the Holy Spirit. But after Pentecost we never ask for the Holy Spirit, there's not one command to ask for the Holy Spirit. Why ask for something you've already got? It's that simple. There's all these songs and talk about asking for the Holy Spirit to come. One practical danger of asking for the Spirit is that it tends to make you look for an emotional evidence of it. You think you should feel differently. And that's a danger; that's wrong. Now to summarize the contrasting ministries I want to take you to John 14:17; this summarizes what we've been trying to tell you; you can understand better what's happening to David.

John 14:16-17 Then I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever — (17) the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he resides with you and will be in you.

The last part of verse 17, here is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament ministries of the Spirit. "you know him, because he resides with you." That's the language the Lord Jesus Christ used to describe the Holy Spirit's ministry before Pentecost. It implies that the Holy Spirit is there, He's working, but He is not in you. Now the next part of verse 17, "and will be in you," future tense, that is after Pentecost and it's an entirely different story. Now let's look at 1 Samuel 16:13 again.

1 Samuel 16:14 *Now the Spirit of the LORD had turned away from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.*

Here we have one of the great texts that shows what happens when a believer attains compound carnality and how God uses demonic forces to discipline. Remember what Saul's soul looks like. We've seen the progression in Saul's life from a very early age, he'd meet problems in life and not even think of spiritual solutions. This leads to a faith shutdown in which the person, because he has absorbed so much human viewpoint, can no longer believe. God's promises just don't work, I know it's there, I've memorized the verse but I can't believe it. This is because the believer has destroyed his ability to believe by sucking in like a vacuum all the human viewpoint that Satan has put into the culture around us.

One of the symptoms of a person who is in this stage, is they're very resentful people and they resent authority. Now we all resent authority to some degree because we're all sinners. But these people will resent you, for example, just for what you stand for. It's defiance of God, but man is made in the image of God and so therefore under hate something has to replace God. We become subservient to pseudo authorities such as our emotions, political correctness, the latest popular movement, or what the academic mob thinks.

Saul does not lose his salvation in verse 14. Remember that the office of the king is a foreshadowing of the coming King, Jesus Christ. Saul was supposed to set up a picture of Jesus Christ. Now he doesn't have to be perfect; David wasn't perfect. But Saul has accumulated compound carnality to the point where he no longer can serve as a model and therefore the Holy Spirit who wants to picture Christ through the office of a king, leaves Saul at this point. It is not a rejection of Saul's salvation; it is a rejection of Saul's position in history as a possible picture of Christ.

And so the Holy Spirit is replaced by an evil spirit, which is a fallen angel. Notice that the evil spirit is "from the LORD," and this is a critical truth. The evil spirits are under the sovereignty of God. He did not make them evil, He did not cause them to be evil, but He can use them for His purposes. The word "tormented" means to cause a tremendous panic in the individual, absolutely terrify him. And so here we have God opening up Saul to this. God did what is described in Romans 1 as turning him over to Satan, or taking his hands off.

You see we believers live in a charmed world. We live in the middle of a fallen hostile environment, but God has put a shield of fire around all of us. That's His grace. Do you realize that if you are a believer Satan hates you all the way to the core, and the reason he does is because you stand for the Lord Jesus Christ. We believers could be slaughtered if God's grace were withdrawn. Satan's fury is directed against believers. If we could see into the other dimension all around us, we would see the demon forces just gnawing at the bit to attack us, to destroy us. And it is by God's grace that He has not given us the senses to detect what kind of an atmosphere we are in. God keeps us from seeing the horrible things that are surrounding us, otherwise we would be terrified all the time. But thank God He has put the blinders over our eyes and all we see is the trivial problems in our life. And we think those are bad.

So we are protected from satanic attack; there's a wall of fire that is built around the believer, always. But, when a believer gets involved in compound carnality God takes a little hole in that wall of fire and He lets some satanic attack come through. Not a lot, what you see here with Saul is peanuts compared to what could have happened. He lets one spirit come through in this case, an evil spirit come through and begin to attack Saul. He withdraws His restraining hand, and that doctrine is explained in detail in Romans 1. Satan couldn't have done this except God permitted it to happen. Why? God loves Saul. He didn't allow him to be totally clobbered. He left Saul on the throne for years and years after this. So God is very gracious, but He withdraws some of His grace.

1 Samuel 16:15-18 *Then Saul's servants said to him, "Look, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you!" (16) Let our lord instruct his servants who are here before you to look for a man who knows how to play the lyre. Then whenever the evil spirit from God comes upon you, he can play the lyre and you will feel better." (17) So Saul said to his servants, "Find me a man who plays well and bring him to me." (18) One of his attendants replied, "I have seen a son of Jesse in Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave warrior and is articulate and handsome, for the LORD is with him."*

David has been anointed in verse 13. Now we have to have a confirmation that he has been selected by God for the

office. Saul's confirmation was his selection by lot, and his military victory over the Ammonites. With David the evidences are his musical ability, and his victory over Goliath. Now you may think that's a strange combination; the military arts and the musical arts. This was the picture that even the Greeks later used as a model of a man who was mature in society. Plato, in his book, *The Republic* suggested that men be trained both in music and in gymnastics or the equivalent of military training, and the gymnastics was to develop courage and the music was to develop temperance. So throughout the classic age these two skills were combined.

Dancing and instrument playing was taught to soldiers. One reason is because the soldiers fought with their hands and they had to develop coordination. People have long recognized music has a powerful effect on a person's soul, and it can be used as a military weapon. This is why ancient armies used to go into battle with the trumpets playing. They recognized the powerful psychological effect of this. The story of David stroking a harp in the court of Saul was to show his musical ability. Later on we'll see how David had a dancing ability. He'd never fit into fundamentalist circles, he actually danced.

Now, back to the evil spirit: All souls are open to demonic influences. In this passage we have a believer influenced by a demon. At this point we have to answer two questions; the first one is very easy, the second one is very difficult. The first question: can demons affect believers? Answer is yes, we've got a case right here. Second question: can demons indwell believers today? That's a highly controversial question and in most fundamentalist circles it's rejected outright. We don't have time to go into this in detail, but briefly I'll just say this:

The word "indwell" is a technical expression in the New Testament that refers to the Holy Spirit indwelling the human spirit. And this theologically would say that Satan cannot indwell the human spirit because of regeneration. The human spirit of the regenerate person is part of the new creation that can't be indwelt by Satan. So, a believer cannot be "indwelt" by a demon. However, a believer can be strongly influenced, Acts 5:3 and 2 Corinthians 12:7 are examples of this. And, 1 Corinthians 12:3 and 1 John 4:1-3 refer to tests for the presence of evil spirits. One of the tests is whether the individual involved can confess Jesus Christ as Lord. The other is to confess that Christ is come in the flesh, an evil spirit can never do either one of these things and they will always blaspheme when you try to test them at this point.

So, there is demonic influence in believer's lives. But there is a lack of New Testament teaching on worrying about it. The demonic forces operate under Satan. And Satan operates under the Lord Jesus, there is a chain of command. The demonic power can only serve God's sovereign purposes, and in the lives of believers God uses the demonic as means of chastening and teaching. Evil spirits cause various difficulties in the Christian life. The remedy is the Word of God, period, nothing else. And believers who constantly take in the Word are going to have their problems resolved without all of the shenanigans that go on in certain circles. (James 4:7)

Now, let me stress that it doesn't do you any good to sit around and wonder if you have a demon. If you're doing what God wants you to do you don't have to worry, that's His job. The solution to spiritual health is the Word of God. And I'm very emphatic that we avoid this thing that's going on in evangelic circles, it's a big business now, casting out demons, lots of ministries focus on this. Of course, there are rare extreme cases which call for pastoral consultation.

1 Samuel 16:19-23 *So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is out with the sheep. (20) So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a container of wine, and a young goat and sent them to Saul with his son David. (21) David came to Saul and stood before him. Saul liked him a great deal, and he became his armor bearer. (22) Then Saul sent word to Jesse saying, "Let David be my servant, for I really like him." (23) So whenever the spirit from God would come upon Saul, David would take his lyre and play it. This would bring relief to Saul and make him feel better. Then the evil spirit would leave him alone.*

Verse 23 explains why Saul liked David so much. The music relaxed Saul, it would get rid of all this tension and terror that he would have and the evil spirit left him. Now why does music do this? Because it says the evil spirit actually departed from Saul. What is it about music that causes this to happen? It's a complicated answer but let's some points about music.

First, basic considerations of music itself. Music is used by only angels and men. Animals don't make music, although they make signals and sounds, it's not music in the sense man makes it to communicate in conceptual thought. In other words, only angels and men have God-consciousness, and music is generated by both angels and men in praise. So the fundamental role of music is praise of God. This is what the angels are doing before God's throne; the first location of music, according to Job 38, was the chorus that the angels sang while God finished the creation work. So music is related to language, not just the lyrics of the music but itself is related to language and conceptual thought. This is the way it's always viewed in Scripture, never something by itself.

Music is known to have a powerful effect on the physical body. The body's autonomic nervous system, heart beat, temperature, digestion and respiration begin to react at certain levels of music. Researchers have discovered that someone just sitting in a chair and listening to a moving piece of music uses every muscle in his body, though he never leaves his chair. It has also been found that even a slight difference between a major and a minor chord produces a different physical response on the part of the listener. So therefore music deeply affects your body.

Music also profoundly affects the mind or the soul. Example: Muzak, the music you hear in stores, do you think the people buy music to be piped into the stores just to create pleasing sounds? No, the store owner is promised that his sales will increase as a result of playing the music. It breaks down sales resistance. So music obviously has an effect on the mind. There's a group called Recording for Recovery that sends out special music tapes to the mental institutions because they find music therapy helps. One of the findings has been that music reaches a person through the unconscious centers of the brain, and may not even touch the conscious mind at all. Music can affect a person whether or not he is aware of it, so watch out the kind of music you have in the background.

Now we can make some deductions. First, music apparently was able to drive out the evil spirit because the music communicated not just to Saul's conscious mind, but to his unconscious mind and was able to momentarily occupy that mind with order. While David played it momentarily filled his mind with order and peace and that was why in some way I believe Saul was healed in this state.

In Ephesians 5:18 we have the filling of the Holy Spirit and I want you to notice what follows the filling of the Holy Spirit in verse 19, "Speaking among yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Doesn't that teach that music is somehow very related to the work of the Holy Spirit, that when the Holy Spirit moves in an area He's going to move through music, partially at least, and therefore doesn't that suggest that the local church should have an emphasis on the correct form of music?

Chapter 17

In 1 Samuel 17 we'll see an incident that is famous throughout Sunday School literature, David and Goliath. There are some modern misconceptions of David and Goliath, the first one we can dispose of immediately is that David was not a little boy with a slingshot. David was a young warrior at this time; he was not the little boy that you learned about in Sunday School. David was a young man.

1 Samuel 17:1-7 The Philistines gathered their troops for battle. They assembled at Socoh in Judah. They camped in Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah. (2) Saul and the Israelite army assembled and camped in the valley of Elah, where they arranged their battle lines to fight against the Philistines. The Philistines were standing on one hill, and the Israelites on another hill, with the valley between them. (4) Then a champion came out from the camp of the Philistines. His name was Goliath; he was from Gath. He was close to seven feet tall. (5) He had a bronze helmet on his head and was wearing scale body armor. The weight of his bronze body armor was five thousand shekels. (6) He had bronze shin guards on his legs, and a bronze javelin was slung over his shoulders. (7) The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the iron point of his spear weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer was walking before him.

Now we meet Goliath, and this translation chooses to take a very conservative estimate of his height; Hebrew tradition and most manuscripts come out to over nine feet tall. In any case, he was huge. Let's see where he came from.

Genesis 14:5 *In the fourteenth year, Kedorlaomer and the kings who were his allies came and defeated the Rephaites in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites in Ham, the Emites in Shaveh Kiriathaim,*

This is Abraham's day, around 2000 BC. This verse mentions a group of peoples that lived in Palestine at the time of Abraham, the Rephaites. Goliath comes from the Rephaites. The Rephaites are called by three names. One group settles just east and south of the Sea of Galilee and they are called the Rephaim. They were a race of giants. South of the Arnon River they were known as the Zanzummims, or Zuzites. Then to the far south they were known as Emim, or Emites. They were a group of physical freaks, strong and powerful and we can infer from Scripture had one of the most apostate religions known to man. They are a group of large, powerful strong people who became religiously polluted in their culture and God excised them from history. These are some verses that talk about these groups.

Deuteronomy 2:10-11 *(The Emites used to live there, a people as powerful, numerous, and tall as the Anakites. (11) These people, as well as the Anakites, are also considered Rephaites; the Moabites call them Emites.*

Deuteronomy 2:19-21 *But when you come close to the Ammonites, do not harass or provoke them because I am not giving you any of the Ammonites' land as your possession; I have already given it to Lot's descendants as their possession." (20) (That also is considered to be a land of the Rephaites. The Rephaites lived there originally; the Ammonites call them Zamzummites. (21) They are a people as powerful, numerous, and tall as the Anakites. But the LORD destroyed the Rephaites in advance of the Ammonites, so they dispossessed them and settled down in their place.*

Deuteronomy 3:11 *Only King Og of Bashan was left of the remaining Rephaites. (It is noteworthy that his sarcophagus was made of iron. Does it not, indeed, still remain in Rabbath of the Ammonites? It is thirteen and a half feet long and six feet wide according to standard measure.)*

So the first two groups of the Rephaim were destroyed by Lot's children, Moab and Ammon, and the third group was destroyed by Moses. In fact, by the time Moses leads his army up into the Transjordan, there's really only a few of the Rephaim still alive. And one of these men's name is Og. Notice his bed; Og was a huge man and he needed a strong bed and so he had a bed made of iron. And I want you to notice one of these small little things in God's Word, Moses anticipated people would be skeptical, so what did he say. He said "Does it not still remain in Rabbath...?" In other words, he said they have a museum over there in Ammon and if you don't believe what I'm telling you, go on over and see it. Now there were others who had come over after Abraham left called the Anakim or Anakites.

Deuteronomy 1:28 *What is going to happen to us? Our brothers have drained away our courage by describing people who are more numerous and taller than we are, and great cities whose defenses appear to be as high as heaven itself! Moreover, they said they saw Anakites there."*

The Anakim are the ones that scared the spies, Joshua and Caleb weren't scared, but the others were. And this is a large group of super race that existed in Hebron also. Joshua was one of the two spies that didn't panic when he saw them, he realized that if God was with them He could kill them too, so therefore Joshua conquered them and we read of Joshua's conquest of the fourth and last group of the Rephaim in Joshua 11:21.

Joshua 11:21-22 *At that time Joshua attacked and eliminated the Anakites from the hill country — from Hebron, Debir, Anab, and all the hill country of Judah and Israel. Joshua annihilated them and their cities. (22) No Anakites were left in Israelite territory, though some remained in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod.*

Which leads us back to the Philistines. Those cities should be familiar to you because we've read in earlier chapters in Samuel about the five cities in this area. So the last survivors of this super race are in Philistia. So, to be consistent with history, God will use Abraham's descendants to destroy the super race. This was why David must kill Goliath. And not only must David kill Goliath but the Jews must exterminate all four of his brothers.

Goliath is a man who has the genes of this Rephaite race who intermarried with the Philistines. He is part Philistine and part Anakim. To prove this we can go to other passages in God's Word, 2 Samuel 21, 1 Chronicles 20, and find the name of his brothers. All of his brothers were giants too, Goliath was only one of a family of giants. It would have been fun to see what these guys did for sports. I bet they had the best basketball team going. The brothers were Ishbibenob, Saph, then Lahmi, and another one we don't have his name so we'll just call him Mr. X and he had six fingers and six toes. So you can see these are genetic freaks; the Anakim have something wrong with their genes and whatever it is it tends toward giantism. And obviously they are very strong warriors.

Well, in verse 5-6 we have Goliath's body armor described, and it comes to about 132 pounds. That's how much his armor weighed! If you've ever carried cement bags around you know how much 100 pounds weigh. Well this man was 132 pounds in just his armor. His spear point weighed about sixteen pounds, that's a heavy shot-put, and that was the end of his spear, so you can imagine a shot-put put on the end of a four or five inch diameter pole. So needless to say this terrified the Israelites.

1 Samuel 17:8 *Goliath stood and called to Israel's troops, "Why do you come out to prepare for battle? Am I not the Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose for yourselves a man so he may come down to me!"*

He'd do this day after day, this is not a one-shot thing because Verse 16 tells you he did it for forty days. It's sarcasm directed at the rise of the monarchy because remember the Philistine spy system has been very upset over developments in Israel. They remember the good old times when they had the judges and the Philistines do not like the centralization of power that's occurring in the king. It's ridicule of the armies of the living God. Now David is going to get burned up by this; there's a theological insult thrown at the armies of Israel.

1 Samuel 17:9-10 *If he is able to fight with me and strike me down, we will become your servants. But if I prevail against him and strike him down, you will become our servants and will serve us." (10) Then the Philistine said, "I defy Israel's troops this day! Give me a man so we can fight each other!"*

You will meet Goliaths in your experience, they are big pushy people and they've always been able to mouth their way around, push their way around and just force their will on other people. They're bullies and the only language that a bully ever understands is to get clobbered good. You cannot reason with a bully, you just have to clobber him, that's all; beat them up good. Bullies always have a fatal flaw, they eventually bully the wrong person. And in verse 10 when he uses the word "defy" it is a special verb that means he is laughing at God Himself.

But the point you want to see is that the Philistines are pictures of a satanic attack. Satan is a bully-boy, he is the original bully. And he is the one who is defying the Church of Jesus Christ. And you know what God is looking for; He's looking for David's, who will answer the challenge and stop crying about it, stop whining and bellyaching and take up the challenge and destroy his work. That is the aggressive role that God calls the believer to do.

1 Samuel 17:11 *When Saul and all the Israelites heard these words of the Philistine, they were upset and very afraid.*

The verb "upset" or "dismay" is a word used most of the time in the Hebrew in the Old Testament to mean the basis of my faith has collapsed. We saw before he had the ability to believe a little bit and lost it in a crisis, at this point Saul just throws in the towel. And so now you have the setup. God has spent ten centuries of history engineering the right mixture between the Philistines and the Anakim blood to produce a Philistine Anakim by the name of Goliath who will say precisely the right thing at precisely the right time and conditions. Something fantastic is going to come out of this because this provides David with the opportunity to show what he's made out of.

David is a boy that has been on positive volition for years. He got the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit at an early age, and he began to develop the divine viewpoint framework in terms of the revelation available in his day, and it led to a fantastic love of God. Now had God brought Goliath to him five years before David would not have been ready, ten years later it would have been too late. This passage emphasizes God's timing. Not only is this the right era, an era

when military confrontation would be decided by champions, this is the right day and hour for David.

And you're going to see that David recognizes that he has walked into something tremendous. He sees this trial and he says this is great, God has created this trial just for me at this hour and David's response in this chapter is the response that every believer should have to trials in our life. We should see these trials as totally custom fit for us; so that we can respond to them and glorify the Lord, because we claim His promises in the middle of it. We make Jesus Christ the issue, and that means that we can glorify Him and turn that trial into something very wonderful.

Also notice the means of the trial is by a Gentile on extreme negative volition, and therefore a type of Satan. So God uses demon powers and Satan himself to set up trials for us. Now Satan loves this, he's in this business of attacking believers, but he's dumb in one respect, in that he always gets used. God always uses Satan to accomplish just what God wants to accomplish. God used Satan to get Christ crucified, and the very act of crucifying Christ is what undid legally Satan's hold on the whole human race. He always thinks he has the opportunity but every time he gets it, it turns right around against him and here's one of those illustrations.

1 Samuel 17:12-15 Now David was the son of this Ephrathite named Jesse from Bethlehem in Judah. He had eight sons, and in Saul's days he was old and well advanced in years. (13) Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to war. The names of the three sons who went to war were Eliab, his firstborn, Abinadab, the second oldest, and Shammah, the third oldest. (14) Now David was the youngest. While the three oldest sons followed Saul, (15) David was going back and forth from Saul in order to care for his father's sheep in Bethlehem.

When David arrives, this is the key point of this chapter. The issue of this chapter is David authenticating himself as the champion, the king and deliverer. And the town from which David comes is the same town from which somebody else is going to come, also of the seed of David; same town, same genes. We're going to see how the family had a certain attitude toward David that comes out in this text. Goliath was probably nothing to David, he'd faced seven bullies all the time he was growing up, so one more wasn't going to cause any big problem. David was the baby of the family and he was always being picked on by his brothers, which we can infer from a remark later in this chapter.

Remember David is on call to play music when Saul gets depressed. The moment Saul stopped being depressed he said look, my dad has a business at home, sheep to raise and I've got to go back there. So David commuted back and forth between Bethlehem and wherever Saul was. And Saul doesn't realize his military capabilities, he recognizes him as a musician only.

1 Samuel 17:16 Meanwhile for forty days the Philistine approached every morning and evening and took his position.

Remember the Philistines like to fight psychological wars. They want to destroy Israel's mental attitude first. And so at dawn, when every army has revelry, what do they hear? Loudmouth! Every night instead of taps, what do they hear? Loudmouth! So forty days this goes on, every morning they get up to the tune of loudmouth; every day they go to bed to the tune of loudmouth. There's a design in this thing, to psyche the Israelites out and they are. But the very tactic the Philistines are using, God is going to turn right around on them.

1 Samuel 17:17-20 Jesse said to his son David, "Take your brothers this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread; go quickly to the camp to your brothers. (18) Also take these ten portions of cheese to their commanding officer. Find out how your brothers are doing and bring back their pledge that they received the goods. (19) They are with Saul and the whole Israelite army in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines." (20) So David got up early in the morning and entrusted the flock to someone else who would watch over it. After loading up, he went just as Jesse had instructed him. He arrived at the camp as the army was going out to the battle lines shouting its battle cry.

You've got to see the timing of this thing. See, if he'd arrived later on in the day, he'd never have seen or heard

Goliath. David doesn't know anything about Goliath because you can bet your bottom dollar that the brothers aren't writing home about Goliath, this was not something you'd brag about. God is going to have His boy right there when the sun rises, at exactly the right time.

1 Samuel 17:21-23 Israel and the Philistines drew up their battle lines opposite one another. (22) After David had entrusted his cargo to the care of the supply officer, he ran to the battlefront. When he arrived, he asked his brothers how they were doing. (23) As he was speaking with them, the champion named Goliath, the Philistine from Gath, was coming up from the battle lines of the Philistines. He spoke the way he usually did, and David heard it.

Remember they are on both sides of the valley of Elah; there's a valley between them, the Wadi-Elah, it's a dry riverbed, and there's a valley here in between these two positions. David gets there just at the time the forces are moving out to these fighting positions and he just drops the baggage and says hey, I want to get out there with them. And so he moves out with them. And as David is talking to his brothers, loudmouth is coming up.

1 Samuel 17:24-27 When all the men of Israel saw this man, they retreated from his presence and were very afraid. (25) The men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who is coming up? He does so to defy Israel. But the king will make the man who can strike him down very wealthy! He will give him his daughter in marriage, and he will make his father's house exempt from tax obligations in Israel." (26) David asked the men who were standing near him, "What will be done for the man who strikes down this Philistine and frees Israel from this humiliation? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he defies the armies of the living God?" (27) The soldiers told him what had been promised, saying, "This is what will be done for the man who can strike him down."

Verse 26 tells us he has already decided to kill Goliath, without the incentive. The rumor is going around the army but David doesn't hear it; he'd already chosen to kill Goliath. What David is saying here is I am ashamed of my country. I am ashamed that we have an army that sits here and lets this loudmouth get away with it. The "living God" means God operating in history. "Living" means life, something you can observe, he's not standing out in the clouds some place, behind His cosmic glory, without doing something in history. David isn't concerned with his honor, he isn't concerned with Israel's honor, he is concerned with the honor of God.

And David gets it, Goliath is humiliating God's representatives, why do you let this go on? We can ask the same question in our day. Why is it we have so many believers that allow their King to be dishonored by loudmouths like Goliath?. This culture is loaded with Goliaths, and we have a lot of pastors who are too afraid to stand up and do their homework, teach the Word and feed their flock to train them to fight the Goliaths.

What did he call Goliath? "Uncircumcised Philistine." Remember Jonathan in the last lesson used this same term. It goes back to the Abrahamic Covenant. Just like Jonathan, he's saying look, the Philistines aren't part of the Abrahamic Covenant, what are they doing here? David is saying get him off the property, he doesn't belong, who does he think he is? This is not just sheer arrogance because it's related to a theological point. Who is it that's going to back up the claim to get the Philistine off the land? The One who made the covenant—God. God is going to back up His own covenant, so this is actually an appeal to God to do so.

1 Samuel 17:28 When David's oldest brother Eliab heard him speaking to the men, he became angry with David and said, "Why have you come down here? To whom did you entrust those few sheep in the desert? I am familiar with your pride and deceit! You have come down here to watch the battle!"

This is the older brother that has been picking on his younger brother all this time, the little brat, he doesn't know anything, and who does he think he is? The idea here is that his brother began to develop jealousy; he had negative volition, this is what Eliab's soul looks like, this is the guy that Samuel wanted to anoint.

1 Samuel 17:29-30 David replied, "What have I done now? Can't I say anything?" (30) Then he turned from those who were nearby to someone else and asked the same question, but they gave him

the same answer as before.

This is the hint that this had gone on for some time in the family. Every time David opens his mouth he gets chewed out. Now this may show some of you why David was such a great believer. He had to overcome a very bad home situation. There were five trials that David had to pass before he could kill the giant. David was not somebody that happened to be good with a slingshot and trotted up there and whirled one off. That's not the story at all.

Trial number one was intimidation by his human good family. David was ridiculed by members of his own family. You can see it in the way Eliab talked to him. This may have been harder psychologically than throwing any rock at a giant because this gets to one's soul. There are going to be people around you in your life, some of whom you admire very much, who are going to turn out at times to be petty. And you should be like David, just move on and make the issue the Word, forget the pettiness and move on.

1 Samuel 17:31-33 *When David's words were overheard and reported to Saul, he called for him. (32) David said to Saul, "Don't let anyone be discouraged. Your servant will go and fight this Philistine!" (33) But Saul replied to David, "You aren't able to go against this Philistine and fight him! You're just a boy! He has been a warrior from his youth!"*

Here is the essence of the second trial. David is discouraged by those in authority. Why was this a test? Because under the code of arms of that day David could not go out and kill Goliath unless he had permission of the king. So David had first to get permission so that when he did kill the giant it would be an official act of the army of Israel. Think of how discouraged David could have become here, when Saul says no kid, go home, you're just not trained. David is going to pass the test because he's going to present persuasive evidence and he wins Saul around at the end of verse 37 where Saul says all right David, go. David wins by patiently explaining.

1 Samuel 17:34-37 *David replied to Saul, "Your servant has been a shepherd for his father's flock. Whenever a lion or bear would come and carry off a sheep from the flock, (35) I would go out after it, strike it down, and rescue the sheep from its mouth. If it rose up against me, I would grab it by its jaw, strike it, and kill it. (36) Your servant has struck down both the lion and the bear. This uncircumcised Philistine will be just like one of them. For he has defied the armies of the living God!" (37) David went on to say, "The LORD who delivered me from the lion and the bear will also deliver me from the hand of this Philistine!" Then Saul said to David, "Go! The LORD will be with you."*

A magnificent speech, David explains the training he has had, and that experience he had as a shepherd was trial number 3. Notice that David always respected authority, you see that here and all throughout his dealings with Saul.

David was blessed in every area. He was blessed in his home life up until the time when he had trouble, he was blessed in his military life, he was blessed as king, he was blessed all over the place. Why did God so bless David? Because he was perfect, because he conformed to all the legalistic taboos? It's going to be very obvious David didn't conform to any of the legalistic taboos. He couldn't have gotten into any seminary in the United States. He couldn't sign their little statement, I will not dance, I will not play cards, I will do all the idiotic things that only Christians think of doing. God just poured out blessings on David, because David understood grace. Notice that David is not talking about one bear or one lion, he is talking about many of these, he's saying whenever this happened, then I did the following things. A shepherd had to establish his reputation. To illustrate the point, turn to Psalm 23:1-3

Psalms 23:1-3 *The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. (2) He takes me to lush pastures, he leads me to refreshing water. (3) He restores my strength. He leads me down the right paths for the sake of his reputation.*

David sees the Lord as his shepherd. This caused David to want to be a good shepherd. And in verse 3, notice the shepherd's reputation is on the line if something happens to the sheep. This is why Psalm 23 is such a fantastic Psalm on eternal security, because if something happens to the sheep that is a reflection on the reputation of the shepherd. Now you'll understand why Jesus said what he did in John 10:11, another proof of the deity of Christ:

John 10:11-14 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (12) The hired hand, who is not a shepherd and does not own sheep, sees the wolf coming and abandons the sheep and runs away. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. (13) Because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep, he runs away. (14) "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me —

Psalm 23 says "Yahweh is my shepherd." Jesus says I am the shepherd, therefore Jesus is Yahweh. Do you see the contrast? Jesus Christ claims to be the perfect shepherd over you and over me; we are His fat, dumb sheep, and He is the perfect shepherd in all ways. The second theme of the shepherd is the ideal shepherd has to protect.

We can understand a little bit more about David's background here. He said whenever there came a lion or a bear, I went out after it and I struck it down. He didn't kill it; the first "striking" in verse 35 is he hit it; this shows you how he did it. He took a stick, and by the way, he's going to walk out and face Goliath with two weapons, not just the sling, he's going to walk out with a stick and later on Goliath is going to say who do you think I am, a dog that you come out against me with a stick. Well David will say I used the stick against the lion and I'm going to use it against you.

So he'd come up to this lion, take this long stick, and whack him one with it. That would get the lion's attention of course, and then David would grab the meat out of his mouth. So by this time you can imagine the lion is pretty irritated, he'd been smacked with a stick and he had his food ripped out of his mouth. Now you don't do this to a lion. So obviously the next step comes as no surprise, "if it rose up against me," he obviously is going to rise against him. He grabbed him by the lower jaw and he slit his throat; that's what he's talking about. It was all pretty smooth, he evidently had it down to an art, whack, rip the meat out, grab the jaw, slit the throat, and he developed this technique over many times. So David's saying that this uncircumcised Philistine is going down like one of those lions.

David's not bragging here but simply showing Saul that he has been trained in courage. Now God is going to take a long time to sanctify some of you and a short time with others, depending on what he's got in store for you. But God will use you when you are properly trained. Just let the Lord train you, get in the place where he can, and the place is the Word, that's the place where he can train you, taking in the Word, studying it, digesting it so it becomes not just what I told you, but you have thought through for yourself, and trusting over and over again, so when the crisis comes you'll be able to do it because you have training, and years of practice, practice, practice. That's how you kill giants.

Another thing - David did his job as unto the Lord. He was alone, a lot of the time it was at night. That is a model for a Christian; when you do your job, whether it's sweeping out the garage or whatever it is, you do it as unto the Lord, you do it well and then God will take care of it. He sees it. People think nobody ever sees my work, nobody ever appreciates it. Look, the most fantastic person of the universe sees everything you do. So you can quietly do your job, like David, as unto the Lord, and just forget about who sees it or who doesn't see it.

1 Samuel 17:38-39 Then Saul clothed David with his own fighting attire and put a bronze helmet on his head. He also put body armor on him. (39) David strapped on his sword over his fighting attire and tried to walk around, but he was not used to them. David said to Saul, "I can't walk in these things, for I'm not used to them." So David removed them.

What Saul does now is he grabs David and actually forces David to put on his armor. The word in the Hebrew means that he forces David to do it. Armor was used in the Homeric tales not only to protect yourself but it was also used to identify yourself and your cause. Armor was a highly individual thing, unlike modern military uniforms. In the ancient world the leaders had fantastic coats of armor, and they would be known by the coat of armor. So Saul has a hidden motive here; he wants the glory for this thing. Saul is a human viewpoint coward, he is a human good schemer, and he sees there's a chance this kid might actually knock off the giant, and I want to horn in on it.

And as we will notice David passes this trial, again with extreme graciousness. Remember Saul was a very large man, obviously it's not going to fit David. David simply points out to Saul that he cannot use these things. It's a beautiful picture of the believer rejecting human good. So he takes them off and leaves them there and that's exactly what every believer should do to all the human good and human viewpoint gimmicks.

Now we come to the most interesting trial of all, and this is harder than all the rest. Many of you have read this story and isn't it sweet that he just kind of waltzed up there and whipped the thing around a couple times and the rock went out and just happened to hit Goliath in the head. Now that's just completely misreading the whole point. All these trials that David had to go through prepared David for this last test, fear in mortal combat. David had to conquer fear and we are going to prove that by the way he killed Goliath. God the Holy Spirit had David use a weapon that you can't use when you're afraid. With a slingshot, accuracy depends upon your timing and you can't have timing if you're afraid. The very fact that David does not use a sword and a spear but a slingshot shows you the fact that he is perfectly confident. He is so confident and so much at peace that his timing is not off.

1 Samuel 17:40 *He took his staff in his hand, picked out five smooth stones from the stream, placed them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag, took his sling in hand, and approached the Philistine.*

The staff is a shepherd's crook. But it had more uses than just pulling dumb sheep out of holes. That's what it was used for, but it was also used to kill the bear and the lion. Now why did he pick up five stones? This shows you something else about this guy's mental attitude. The little details... it's because there are five giants; Goliath, Ishbi-benob is another one, Saph, and Lahmi, and then Mr. X, we don't know what his name is, all we know is he had six toes and six fingers. We have no other reason why he picked up five, or why the Holy Spirit chose to record that historical fact. We assume it was to kill Goliath's four brothers.

The word "stream" is important because it shows you he wasn't even armed until he got down in the valley where the wadi was and Goliath was. He had such confidence that he walked down there and didn't even have his ammo with him. I think I might be wondering how far Goliath can heave that spear of his. But evidently David estimated that Goliath would wait until he got closer.

Now the sling was a standard weapon in the army in those times, it wasn't just for little boys. They usually fired from behind the lines; they'd fire over and onto the enemy. When an army went into battle you had the swordsmen and you had the spearmen up in the first couple of ranks and in back you have the slingers and archers; they were in the back. David is going to use it more like a rifle than a shotgun. And this again shows the extreme confidence he has with his weapon. David knows his weapon, incidentally, he practiced and practiced.

1 Samuel 17:41 *The Philistine kept coming closer to David, with his shield bearer walking in front of him.*

And now the picture gets very exciting in the original Hebrew, in a movie you'd have the music getting very suspenseful here as the giant starts walking close and David starts walking up. The shield bearer carried his large shield, which was like a portable wall, it covered the person completely and that's how they could survive tremendous onslaughts, and of course the Greeks developed the concept of linking the shields together and then they would just start moving behind the shields and it was almost impossible to stop it. So Goliath is walking behind this large shield.

1 Samuel 17:42 *When the Philistine looked carefully at David, he despised him, for he was only a ruddy and handsome boy.*

That's not saying that David was a little boy. The Hebrew meaning is he was not an experienced warrior, that's the point that Goliath is making, I have been here forty days and I want somebody that can be a real challenge for me, and who do they send out, this kid just out of basic training. So Goliath is irritated by this. And the thing that really bugs him is that David is coming out here with a stick, and this is humiliating. Here he is Mr. Hotshot, walking out with his armor bearer and a ten foot shield and this kid comes to him with a stick that you beat off dogs with. So this again shows you the psychology that David is using here, whether David intended this or not, it's happening.

1 Samuel 17:43 *The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you are coming after me with sticks?" Then the Philistine cursed David by his gods. (44) The Philistine said to David, "Come here to me, so I can give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the wild animals of the field!"*

The Philistine starts out with the battle cry. We can understand this from Homer and from other kinds of literature, that when the great champions would fight, they would shout loud and brag. This was an attempt to undo the nerves of the other person. And Goliath has no doubt that he's going to win, but so what, he knocks off a shepherd, that's a real thrill, a real feather in his cap. What did you do for forty days? I killed a shepherd boy.

1 Samuel 17:45 *But David replied to the Philistine, "You are coming against me with sword and spear and javelin. But I am coming against you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel's armies, whom you have defied!"*

David replies, one of the best replies a believer has ever given in history, this should be our attitude in our struggle against the principalities and the powers of the air; against the human viewpoint of the world, etc. When you feel discouraged because of the sheer weight of the opposition, be encouraged as you think of what David said to the Philistine. David has a fantastic God image. Psychologists today are interested in your self-image. Well, the important thing is your God-image. Your self image is going to be all right if your God-image is all right. The trouble is no one has an adequate God-image. People say I can't find my identity; well, get a proper God-image and you'll get your identity. You're a miserable rebel before God, that's your identity.

And notice he's coming in the name of the Lord of Hosts, of armies. He could have said you've embarrassed my king and I'm going to get you. David doesn't do any of that; David states the highest purpose that he can think of at that moment. Satan, acting through Goliath has created an issue in history that calls into question whether God will protect the armies of Israel as He promised or whether He won't.

1 Samuel 17:46-47 *This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand! I will strike you down and cut off your head. This day I will give the corpses of the Philistine army to the birds of the sky and the wild animals of the land. Then all the land will realize that Israel has a God (47) and all this assembly will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves! For the battle is the LORD's, and he will deliver you into our hand."*

Look at the fantastic confidence he has, not tomorrow, right now. Now do you suppose that David was filled with the Holy Spirit? You bet he was. He says not only am I going to chop your head off, but the armies of the Philistines are going to rot there and stink and the animals are going to come and have a feast. And he could speak that kind of language and be filled with the Spirit. Now how does that strike you?

David is doing two things at one time here, he is announcing what he is doing and at the same time he's getting his distance set on that giant. David says this is going to be public and every person in this assembly is going to know what happened. So with this David announces his point; he is going to give a witness to the unbeliever and he is going to give a witness to the believer, that God is alive and quite well.

1 Samuel 17:48 *The Philistine drew steadily closer to David to attack him, while David quickly ran toward the battle line to attack the Philistine.*

You see the aggressiveness of David. It's really comical if you can visualize this thing. Here's this nine foot six inch hunk moving out like a tank, real slow and steady, and ahead of him is his armor bearer carrying his tremendous shield. And here comes a shepherd boy, small by comparison, who has no armor. This guy has a kind of telephone pole of a spear that he is going to heave in David's direction. So David only has one shot; so it shows you the fantastic confidence of David. He could have just stood there and waited for Goliath to come to him, and just start whirling that sling to get the distance and the timing. But what does David do? He is so confident that he's going to hit the man he starts running toward him.

1 Samuel 17:49 *David reached his hand into the bag and took out a stone. He slung it, striking the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank deeply into his forehead, and he fell down with his face to the ground.*

While he's running he's reaching into the bag for the rock. Notice Goliath fell on his face, not on his back, which apparently shows you that he must have been moving forward, the momentum of his body must have been greater than the rock.

1 Samuel 17:50-51 David prevailed over the Philistine with just the sling and the stone. He struck down the Philistine and killed him. David did not even have a sword in his hand. (51) David ran and stood over the Philistine. He grabbed Goliath's sword, drew it from its sheath, killed him, and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they ran away.

Apparently the rock did not kill Goliath, however, it did sink into his head and probably would cause a mortal wound. Verse 50 is a summary statement. David is going to make sure he kills his enemy, because he could have been just stunned. And guess what? He was filled with the Holy Spirit when he chopped the giant's head off, and he did it as unto the Lord. He can be filled with the Spirit and commit this great act of violence.

And the Philistines ran. So the whole forty days of siege is broken; all the bullies in the Philistine army that were so proud, and all the cowards in the Israelite army that were so afraid, suddenly it's reversed, the cowards become heroes and the heroes become cowards. Think of it, a whole set of two armies change their mental attitude because one believer knew the Word, had practice in using the faith technique, was trained, and when the opportunity was dropped in his lap he moved in, quick. David probably had no more than ten or fifteen minutes to do this whole thing. It took ten years of training to prepare him for it, but when the opportunity came David was successful.

1 Samuel 17:52 Then the men of Israel and Judah charged forward, shouting a battle cry. They chased the Philistines to the valley and to the very gates of Ekron. The Philistine corpses lay fallen along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

So you have a tremendous slaughter here. Gath and Ekron are part of the Philistine pentapolis in the southwestern portion of Palestine. These are coastal cities; you can see them on any Bible atlas map, and through David's action the armies of Israel pushed the Philistine perimeter back down to the coast. They hadn't been pushed back there since the revival under Samuel in 1 Samuel 7. All this time the Philistines have had control of the highland area, and David has broken it with one act.

But there's something else that I want you to notice about verse 52, it's the strange way in which the nation is divided. Notice it says "the men of Israel and of Judah." Now obviously verse 52 has been written after 930 BC. What happened in 930 BC? The civil war, the division between the two kingdoms. That war had not occurred at this time of this event. The point of this description in verse 52 is to tell the people in a later day, after the civil war, see, the nation was united under David.

1 Samuel 17:53-54 When the Israelites returned from their hot pursuit of the Philistines, they looted their camp. (54) David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, and he put Goliath's weapons in his tent.

Verse 54 is a summary of what David did. David had various trophies and one of the trophies was the head of Goliath. And meanwhile, the headless body of Goliath was doing what David said it would do in verse 46, stinking up the place and providing a great meal for all the dogs and the various scavengers. But David carried Goliath's head around to show everybody how he killed the Philistine. And, of course, it's not the delicate culture we have today, people would not have been grossed out by this but rather very impressed.

And he put Goliath's weapons in his tent. And we know later on that they were put in the tabernacle, in care of the priests. So what David is doing, unlike the classical Greeks, he is not taking credit for himself; when he stripped the man who was beaten in combat, he does not take the armor as a trophy to what he has done, David takes the trophy to the One who gave him the victory, Jehovah. Now I'm sure if we passed the collection plate and you dropped the head of somebody that you'd chopped off it would freak out the ushers, but this was an offering that David gave to his God. And this shows you the heart of the man. David says, the Lord gave me the victory, the Lord gets the credit.