

A Man After God's Own Heart

One of the greatest compliments in the Bible is found in 1 Samuel 13:14 where Samuel says "The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart." That man, of course, turned out to be David. Of all the great men and women in the Bible, we are told that David was a person with a heart like God's. How incredible! But what made David such a man?

David Sought God's Will: Over and over through David's life, he sought God's will before choosing a course of action. Whereas Saul acted presumptuously, David refused to act unless he knew it was God's will.

David Trusted in God: Saul trusted in himself, David trusted in God. David lived through some hard times and faced dangerous battles, but he always placed his trust in God, as seen in events like his battle with Goliath. Read many of David's psalms, and you'll see his trust in God on full display.

David Loved to Worship God: David loved God, and loved to worship God. He worshiped exuberantly when the Ark was brought to him in 2 Samuel 6. He desired to build a temple for God. David said, "I was glad when they said to me, 'let us go into the house of the Lord!'" It's impossible to have a heart like God's without loving to worship God.

David was a Man of Mercy: While David was often wronged by others, he practiced mercy often. God is merciful, and expects His children to be merciful also (Mt. 5:7)

David was Willing to Repent: David was a great man, but he was a man and he committed sin. Sometimes "big" sins. But David always repented. When David realized his sin, he earnestly sought to make it right and seek the Lord's forgiveness.

Questions:

1. What city did Saul save from the Ammonites? _____
2. What unlawful thing did Saul do at Gilgal? _____

3. How many Philistines did Jonathan and his armor bearer kill? _____
4. Who was the commander of Saul's army, and what was his relation to Saul?

5. "For the Lord does not _____ as man _____; for man looks at the _____, but the Lord looks at the _____."
6. What was David doing while his brothers were being presented to Samuel?

7. What animals had David killed while watching his father's sheep?

8. What song was sung about Saul and David that made Saul jealous? _____

9. What did Saul do when his son Jonathan spoke up for David? _____

10. Who's sword did Ahimelech give to David? _____

"That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



1 Samuel 11-21

Kings, Shepherds, and Giant Slayers

Overview

The Israelites had everything they wanted. Finally they were a kingdom—with a king. Things looked great, as Saul seemed to be the perfect king. Head and shoulders taller than everyone, Saul was the warrior who could fight their battles and earn them the respect of other nations. At first Saul certainly seemed promising, but the adage "power corrupts" seems all too true for Saul. A man of humility when his reign began, he grew to a point of arrogance that openly defied God's Word. In this week's reading, we witness the unravelling saga of king Saul, but we also see the rise of one of the greatest heroes in the Bible. After giving Israel the king they wanted, it was time for God to choose a king they needed. While most people probably wouldn't have picked David to be king, he was "a man after God's own heart," which is the greatest qualification one can have to lead others. David's path to leadership and kingship wasn't easy however—not long after his initial rise to fame, he faced life-threatening perils from the jealous king Saul. David would become the greatest king in Israel's history, but the road to the throne was a long and perilous journey!

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: 1 Samuel 11-13
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 14-15
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 16-17
Thursday: 1 Samuel 18-19
Friday: 1 Samuel 20-21



The story of David and Goliath is one of the most well-known stories of the entire Bible. It's read and told to children from their earliest days; adults are enamored by the tale; and the "David vs. Goliath" moniker is used in every-

thing from sporting events to business competitors. It is a most-cherished story for good reason. It captures the essence of what following God truly means. Like David, we face an enemy that is binger, stronger, and deadlier than we can imagine. This enemy slanders God and mocks His people, just like Goliath. But like David, we can overcome our adversary when we place our trust in God. David knew it wasn't he who would defeat Goliath, but God. Likewise, Christians face a terrifying enemy with courage not because they are fighting for God, but because God is fighting for them. David is a reminder of Paul's words, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Witchcraft & Idolatry

Most of the failures of Israel's kings were due to idolatry. Saul, however, never committed idolatry. He never set up idols or accepted the pagan worship of neighboring nations, yet he still rebelled against God. Saul reminds us that we can depart from God's plan without absolutely rejecting God. Saul didn't turn to idolatry, but neither did he fully obey God's commands. Samuel says to Saul in 1 Samuel 15:23, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." While Saul hadn't partaken in literal witchcraft or idolatry, his rebellious spirit was just as bad. Today, many people claim to follow God and want to be Christians, but they stubbornly deviate from God's laws. When we add to or take away from God's Word, we partake in something like Christianity, but that's not enough. It's rebellion and stubbornness, and its tantamount to idolatry.

A Man After God's Own Heart

One of the greatest compliments in the Bible is found in 1 Samuel 13:14 where Samuel says "The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart." That man, of course, turned out to be David. Of all the great men and women in the Bible, we are told that David was a person with a heart like God's. How incredible! But what made David such a man?

David Sought God's Will: Over and over through David's life, he sought God's will before choosing a course of action. Whereas Saul acted presumptuously, David refused to act unless he knew it was God's will.

David Trusted in God: Saul trusted in himself, David trusted in God. David lived through some hard times and faced dangerous battles, but he always placed his trust in God, as seen in events like his battle with Goliath. Read many of David's psalms, and you'll see his trust in God on full display.

David Loved to Worship God: David loved God, and loved to worship God. He worshiped exuberantly when the Ark was brought to him in 2 Samuel 6. He desired to build a temple for God. David said, "I was glad when they said to me, 'let us go into the house of the Lord!'" It's impossible to have a heart like God's without loving to worship God.

David was a Man of Mercy: While David was often wronged by others, he practiced mercy often. God is merciful, and expects His children to be merciful also (Mt. 5:7)

David was Willing to Repent: David was a great man, but he was a man and he committed sin. Sometimes "big" sins. But David always repented. When David realized his sin, he earnestly sought to make it right and seek the Lord's forgiveness.

Questions:

1. What city did Saul save from the Ammonites? _____
2. What unlawful thing did Saul do at Gilgal? _____

3. How many Philistines did Jonathan and his armor bearer kill? _____
4. Who was the commander of Saul's army, and what was his relation to Saul?

5. "For the Lord does not _____ as man _____; for man looks at the _____, but the Lord looks at the _____."
6. What was David doing while his brothers were being presented to Samuel?

7. What animals had David killed while watching his father's sheep?

8. What song was sung about Saul and David that made Saul jealous? _____

9. What did Saul do when his son Jonathan spoke up for David? _____

10. Who's sword did Ahimelech give to David? _____

"That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



1 Samuel 11-21

Kings, Shepherds, and Giant Slayers

Overview

The Israelites had everything they wanted. Finally they were a kingdom—with a king. Things looked great, as Saul seemed to be the perfect king. Head and shoulders taller than everyone, Saul was the warrior who could fight their battles and earn them the respect of other nations. At first Saul certainly seemed promising, but the adage "power corrupts" seems all too true for Saul. A man of humility when his reign began, he grew to a point of arrogance that openly defied God's Word. In this week's reading, we witness the unravelling saga of king Saul, but we also see the rise of one of the greatest heroes in the Bible. After giving Israel the king they wanted, it was time for God to choose a king they needed. While most people probably wouldn't have picked David to be king, he was "a man after God's own heart," which is the greatest qualification one can have to lead others. David's path to leadership and kingship wasn't easy however—not long after his initial rise to fame, he faced life-threatening perils from the jealous king Saul. David would become the greatest king in Israel's history, but the road to the throne was a long and perilous journey!

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: 1 Samuel 11-13
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 14-15
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 16-17
Thursday: 1 Samuel 18-19
Friday: 1 Samuel 20-21



The story of David and Goliath is one of the most well-known stories of the entire Bible. It's read and told to children from their earliest days; adults are enamored by the tale; and the "David vs. Goliath" moniker is used in every-

thing from sporting events to business competitors. It is a most-cherished story for good reason. It captures the essence of what following God truly means. Like David, we face an enemy that is binger, stronger, and deadlier than we can imagine. This enemy slanders God and mocks His people, just like Goliath. But like David, we can overcome our adversary when we place our trust in God. David knew it wasn't he who would defeat Goliath, but God. Likewise, Christians face a terrifying enemy with courage not because they are fighting for God, but because God is fighting for them. David is a reminder of Paul's words, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Witchcraft & Idolatry

Most of the failures of Israel's kings were due to idolatry. Saul, however, never committed idolatry. He never set up idols or accepted the pagan worship of neighboring nations, yet he still rebelled against God. Saul reminds us that we can depart from God's plan without absolutely rejecting God. Saul didn't turn to idolatry, but neither did he fully obey God's commands. Samuel says to Saul in 1 Samuel 15:23, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." While Saul hadn't partaken in literal witchcraft or idolatry, his rebellious spirit was just as bad. Today, many people claim to follow God and want to be Christians, but they stubbornly deviate from God's laws. When we add to or take away from God's Word, we partake in something like Christianity, but that's not enough. It's rebellion and stubbornness, and its tantamount to idolatry.