

LESSON THEME: It's appropriate for *God's king* to go *through* a giant rather than to *avoid* him

The People Ask For A King

It's a time of transition in Israel

No king: various judges (Judges)

Our king: Saul (most of 1 Samuel)

God's king: David (2 Samuel)

Israel has her heart set on having a king

She mistakenly believes her oppression by other nations is due to having no king and no army rather than her own unbelief and disobedience

So God gives them what they ask for—Saul

But Saul Disqualifies Himself

After perhaps 25 years on the throne, Saul's lack of faith, courage and obedience finally disqualify him from office

So God sets the people's choice, Saul, aside for someone better, *His king*—David (15:28)

Saul just can't be trusted to serve God fully and faithfully any longer, especially when circumstances get tough

Saul: The Fretful Avoider

He began well enough

Chosen and anointed by God and Samuel

Led Israel to some victories over her enemies

But fears and worries set in

He neither possessed nor requested wisdom (13)

More concerned with displeasing people than with disobeying God (14–15)

Lied about and rationalized his disobedience (15)

God removed His empowering Spirit from him (16)

Excursus: The Holy Spirit In The OT

God took His Spirit from Saul

Probably NOT indicative of his status (salvation)

A clear sign of God's removal of *empowerment*

For Christians today

We can quench the Spirit (1 Thes 5:19; *not done*)

We can grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:30; *is done*)

We don't lose our status (salvation), but we do run the very real risk of diminished empowerment for holy living

Saul: The Fretful Avoider

He began well enough

But fears and worries set in

And though seeing the giant, he avoided him

Goliath blasphemed Israel for 40 days (17:16)

Saul paced the sidelines in fear (17:11)
The size and ferocity of the giant seem to have paralyzed him; became bigger than his God
So Saul did nothing; his strategy was avoidance
All proof that God had made the correct call

David: The Faithful Warrior

A faithful and obedient son (16:1-13)
When we first meet David, he's serving his father by tending the flock (perhaps "few" 17:28)
David is faithful over what's been put before him
A humble servant (16:14-23)
David's abilities were known by others (16:18)
Though probably now anointed, he served humbly and even "beneath himself" without complaint
A victorious warrior (17)
David was indignant that Goliath was in their land
In contrast to Saul, David saw only the size of his God, not the size of the giant
In faith he ran at Goliath, attacked him and killed him, gaining a great victory for himself and Israel
And what a great picture of our greater David!

APPLICATION: It's appropriate for us to go through our giants rather than avoid them

"Giants" In Man-Soul

Generally putting more trust in myself rather than trusting God
Giant: "Self Reliance" and his wife "Security"
Respectable Sins by Jerry Bridges
Giant: "Comfort N. Ease"
Others
Giant: things that seem as if they will "kill" you or take away the life you once had

Attacking The "Giants"

With the "smooth stone" of prayer offered in faith (Heb 11:6; 2 Cor 10:3-6)
Notice that faith believes God not only exists but rewards those who earnestly, consistently and dependently seek Him
And the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (Matt 4:1-11)
Notice how specific and targeted Jesus' responses
Our true status and identity (Rom 5-8; Gal 2:20)

A Question

Tonight, if you were completely honest, which character better describes you ...
Saul the fretful Avoider
Sees the "giant" in his life but is avoiding him
Has let the size of the giant overwhelm the size his God
David the faithful Warrior
Hasn't let the size of the giant become larger than the size of his God
Is running at and attacking the giant even now

FOR NEXT TIME: _____



"David Takes Saul The Presents From Jesse" by James Tissot

ISRAELITES VERSUS PHILISTINES

The Israelites and Philistines were archenemies and constantly fought. Here are some of their confrontations, found in 1 and 2 Samuel. When the Israelites trusted God for the victory, they always won.

Location of the Battle	Winner	Comments	Reference
Aphek to Ebenezer	Philistines	The Ark was captured and Eli's sons killed	1 Samuel 4:1-11
Mizpah	Israelites	After the Ark was returned, the Philistines planned to attack again, but God confused them. Israel chased the Philistines back to Beth-car	1 Samuel 7:7-14
Geba	Israelites under Jonathan	One detachment destroyed	1 Samuel 13:3, 4
Gilgal	A standoff	The Israelites lost their nerve and hid	1 Samuel 13:6-17
Micmash	Israelites	Jonathan and his armor bearer said it didn't matter how many enemies there were. If God was with them, they would win. They began the battle, and the army completed it	1 Samuel 13:23-14:23
Valley of Elah	Israelites	David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17:1-58
?	Israelites	David killed 200 Philistines to earn a wife	1 Samuel 18:17-30
Keilah	Israelites under David	David protected the threshing floors from Philistine looters	1 Samuel 23:1-5
Aphek, Jezreel, to Mount Gilboa	Philistines	Saul and Jonathan killed	1 Samuel 29:1; 31:1-13
Baal-perazim	Israelites	The Philistines tried to capture King David	2 Samuel 5:17-25
Gath	Israelites	There was very little trouble with the Philistines after this defeat	2 Samuel 8:1
?	Israelites	Abishai saved David from a Philistine giant	2 Samuel 21:15-17
Gob	Israelites	Other giants were killed, including Goliath's brother	2 Samuel 21:18-22



"Jesse Presents His Sons to Samuel" by James Tissot

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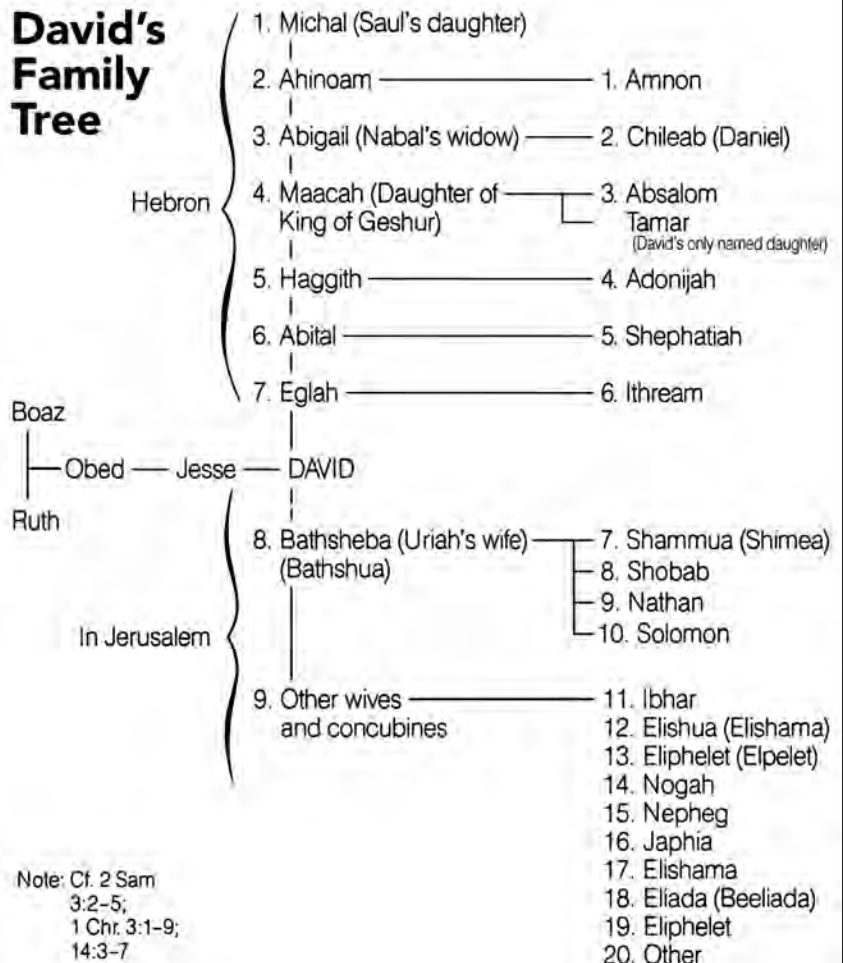


The anointing of David (artist unknown)



"David Plays The Harp Before Saul" by James Tissot

David's Family Tree





"David Cuts Off The Head of Goliath" by James Tissot



"Saul Puts His Armor Upon David" by James Tissot

"David Takes the Head of Goliath to Jerusalem"
by James Tissot



"David Slings the Stone" by James Tissot



David and Goliath

