

# Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

## **Monday (July 3) – 1 Samuel 17**

The account of David's victory over Goliath is all about God delivering His people. David takes no credit for the victory. He doesn't put his trust in armor or physical strength. David trusts the mighty arm of the Lord to once again work salvation for His people. Although David was anointed in chapter 16, king Saul still sits on the throne. Saul should have been the one to represent Israel as their champion. This is not just because Saul was taller and stronger than the men of his army, but because he was their king anointed by God. He is neglecting his duty as king. David's victory over Goliath foreshadows our Lord Jesus' victory over the enemy giant that threatens us: sin, death, and the devil. Our Lord slays the enemy champion with His own sword. By His death, He conquers death.

## **Tuesday (July 4) – 1 Samuel 18**

While all of Israel rejoices that God granted David the victory over Goliath and that God continues to bless them all through David, Saul grows jealous. He attempts to kill David with his own hands and later tries to kill David by setting before him a seemingly impossible bride price for the hand of his daughter, Michal. But God is with David. God gives David the victory and blesses David's marriage to Saul's daughter. Jealousy can blind us to the blessings we have received from God and tempt us to covet the blessings others have received. Let us repent and say with David, "Who am I?" (v. 18) What have I done that I should receive such abundant blessing from God? What have I done to be called a baptized son of God, a prince of heaven? Nothing. We receive our place in God's family, not by our merit, but by His abundant grace.

## **Wednesday (July 5) – 1 Samuel 19**

Even though God allows David to endure this time of persecution from the hand of Saul, God blesses David with the friendship of Jonathan and a strong marriage to Michal. Both Jonathan and Michal put their lives on the line to protect David from the hand of their father, king Saul. When Saul pursues David to Naioth in Ramah, he shows that he has lost control of himself. He behaves very strangely (v. 24). "Is Saul also among the prophets?" (10:12, 19:24) When this proverb originated it was a legitimate question. Now it is repeated once again as a rhetorical question demanding a negative response. Sadly, no. Saul has declined into madness. He is no prophet. Should he even be king?

## **Thursday (July 6) – 1 Samuel 20, 21**

If not for David, Jonathan would be successor to the throne of Israel after Saul, his father. But Jonathan does not despise David or greedily covet his father's throne. When David expresses fear that he might be killed, Jonathan doesn't share that fear because he believes that God's plan will be carried out. But he doesn't rebuke David for his fear. He cares for David in his moment of weak faith by offering David unconditional assistance.

In Chapter 21 David is on the run. He lies, eats the holy bread, and acts like a madman to escape from Achish the king of Gath. While David's lying and his playing the madman could be seen as questionable behavior, eating the holy bread was not a sin. Jesus himself points to this event in the life of David to show that ceremonial law should not trump showing mercy and tending to human needs (Mark 2:25-28). David's actions here are different from Saul's act of offering unlawful sacrifice. (13:8-11) David did not steal the holy bread or demand that the priest give it to him. David humbly submits himself to Ahimelech the priest, who is God's representative to him, and David receives the holy bread from him. David acts in faith even while he struggled with fear, while Saul had acted in pride and blatant disregard for God's word.

### **Friday (July 7) – 1 Samuel 22**

Ahimelech does not lie when he says he knew nothing about the hatred Saul had for David (v. 2). David never mentioned that he was fleeing for his life. Saul, in an outburst of rage, has Ahimelech, eighty-five other priests, and the whole city of Nob put to the sword. Ahimelech dies as a martyr, a faithful witness. He stands firm in his commendation of David, the divinely appointed successor to the throne. And he stands firm in his reverence for Saul, who is still his King, anointed by God for Israel. God's faithful people suffer at the hands of the godless even today, but God's plan of salvation will not be thwarted.

### **Saturday (July 8) – 1 Samuel 23, 24**

See God's hand at work in protecting David. God's gift of Jonathan to David, their friendship and fellowship, strengthens David. God uses the Philistine armies to draw Saul away from his pursuit of David. Again, see the stark difference between Saul and David. In chapter 24 David spares Saul's life. In a moment of clarity brought about by this act of reverence and mercy from David toward Saul, Saul recognizes again the voice of his servant David, whom he has loved like a son. This act of undeserved mercy foreshadows the abundant mercy of David's son and Lord. Our Lord Jesus does not hold our sin against us. And He did even more. He took our sins upon Himself and bore them all in His body on the cross.

### **Sunday (July 9) – 1 Samuel 25**

Saul and David were faced with unique temptations because of their vocations as king. With such great authority comes the temptation for them to see their successes as their own and not God's. They both are tempted to take matters into their own hands and execute judgment according to their will rather than God's will. When David sets out to punish foolish Nabal, Nabal's wife, Abigail takes a risk and goes out to confront David. She urges David to refrain from shedding blood without cause and taking vengeance for himself. David heeds Abigail's words. David, by God's grace and blessing, truly was a man after God's own heart. (13:14). Even though David was better than Saul, one greater than David was still to come. David's son and Lord, Christ Jesus, died and rose for him and for us. Even now, He reigns over heaven and earth with perfect justice and mercy.