

The Man after God's Heart 1 Samuel 16 – 17

The Man after God's Heart Introduction

- David is held up as Israel's best and most important king.
- He is the example to which others are compared.
- Good kings are "like David"; bad kings are not.
- Christ is introduced to us as the "Son of David" in the Gospels – a direct descendant of the famous king.

- Like most of the Bible's heroes, David has his flaws.
- He is human like the rest of us.
- Still, when God chooses David, he is choosing "a man after his own heart."
 - See 13:13-14.

- 1 Samuel 16 – 17 introduce David to us.
- This is where the Bible begins to tell his story.
- He will stay with us to the very end.
 - See Revelation 22:16.

Samuel Anoints David 16:1-13

- 16:7 The Lord doesn't say exactly what he sees in David's heart, only that "the heart" is where he was looking.
- We have to observe David's life from here on and try, with the Holy Spirit's help, to dig out the various lessons.

- 16:12 ruddy This is the Hebrew word for "red," referring to David's hair color or complexion.
- Esau was also "red" (Genesis 25:25).

- 16:13 David is first anointed here by the prophet.
- Later he will be anointed king of Judah.
- Finally he will be anointed king over all Israel.
- The Bible refers to both Saul and David as "the Lord's anointed" 10 times. See v.6.

- Old Testament scholar Walter Kaiser explains,
 - *"The oil of anointing, when used in worship, was a symbol of the divine Spirit; but in regal consecration it marked God's gift of his Spirit to aid the king of Israel in administering his rule."*

- Swiss/German theologian Walther Eichrodt (1890 – 1978), elaborates,
 - *"It is not military ability nor the gifts of a statesman ... nor a position of authority in domestic affairs which make the king, but the proof in his person that he is a man filled with divine power, and therefore capable of greater things than other men."*

David Serves Saul 16:14-23

- 16:14-15 a harmful spirit
- An elaborate theology of spirits is nowhere to be found in the Old Testament.
- We need to be careful not to read too much into these sentences.
- This passage does indicate, however, that God exercises control over spirits, both good and evil.
- Though they oppose him, God is ultimately their Master.
- Consider also Satan in Job or the exorcisms in the New Testament.

- David's first interaction with the royal court comes thanks to his musical ability – an ability first noticed by a young servant (16:18), not one of the elite.
- The Bible calls him the “sweet psalmist of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:1) and he will write at least 73 of the Psalms.

David Defeats Goliath 17

- *“This chapter describes David’s transformation from being a shepherd of flocks to becoming a leader of people.”*
 - Ronald Youngblood (1931 – 2014)

- 17:4 Goliath was over 9 feet tall.
- 17:5 his armor weighed about 125 pounds.

- 17:7 The “weaver’s beam” was part of a loom.
- It held the threads going one direction apart, while those going the other direction passed between.
- The spear’s head weighed about 16 pounds.

- 17:16 forty days the Philistine came forward
- Goliath was persistent in provoking the men of Israel, but no one had the courage to respond.
- If Caleb were alive, we know what he would have done.

- 17:24-27 These words of Mark Twain apply here well.
- *“Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear – not absence of fear.”*

- 17:34-37 The Lord who delivered me ... will deliver me
- David used personal examples of God’s faithfulness in the past to give him courage for the future.

- 17:47 the battle is the Lord’s
- David knows he is not fighting the giant in his own strength.

- 17:48 David ran quickly
- When he sees the need, David certainly doesn't shrink back from a fight – whether a bear, a lion or Goliath.
- The phrase “David ran” shows up 3x in this chapter.
 - See also 17:22 and 51.

- 17:52 the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout
- These are the same men that sat there paralyzed by fear for forty days prior to this.
- Sometimes leadership simply means accepting the challenge. Others will follow.

The Man after God's Heart Conclusions

- God looks at the heart.
- Faithful service, not exaggerated talk, is the way to godly advancement.
- The battle is the Lord's, so accept the challenge.
- Don't be afraid of giants who curse you by their gods.
- Run toward the giant.