

# **Read the Bible in a Year**

Week 21 – October 24th, 2021

**Read on Your Own this Week:**

*Psalm 61-63*

John 13-16

**Readings in Class:**

1 Samuel 16-31

## **Introduction to 1 Samuel 16-31**

### **A brief overview of 1 Samuel 16-31**

1. David Anointed King (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
2. David works for Saul (1 Samuel 16:14—19:17)
  - a. Saul given a tormenting spirit
  - b. David and Goliath
  - c. David and Jonathan
  - d. Saul jealous of David
3. David flees Saul (1 Samuel 19:18-26:25)
  - a. Saul kills the priests
  - b. David Spares Saul's life (twice)
  - c. Samuel Dies
4. David in the Philistines' service (1 Samuel 27-31)
  - a. Saul and the witch of Endor
  - b. Saul dies in battle

### **Don't Judge a Book by its Cover**

The description we are given of Saul is that he was more handsome than anyone else and a full head taller. He was also the son of a rich man. David, on the other hand, while we are told is handsome, is the youngest of eight sons and a shepherd. It is here in chapter 16 that we get the well-known line "For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." This is important when we get to Jesus. In Isaiah 53, which is a prophecy of Jesus, it says "he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him." Jesus himself was an ordinary Joe, the son of a carpenter. Not one that the world would deem important.

### **You are not David (and your problems aren't Goliath)**

David and Goliath is perhaps one of the most abused stories in the Bible. It has become synonymous with overcoming any problem that comes your way. This comes from reading the Bible as if it's all about you. But the Bible isn't about you, it's about God. Which means that David doesn't represent you, but Christ. He's the anointed king of Israel who no one recognizes as king (even his own family). He has the Spirit of God and he saves the people of Israel. Sound familiar? If you really want to read yourself into the story you can see yourself as the Israelites who are cowering, unable to save themselves, waiting for a savior to come. David is the Old Testament figure most commonly connected to Jesus.

### **David and Jonathan**

In our hyper-sexualized culture, people often misread the friendship between David and Jonathan. We in the western world find it weird for two men to display affection towards one another, but in the time of King David, it would not have been unusual to kiss or embrace a friend. Their friendship is simply an example of strong, sacrificial, brotherly love.

### **David Spares Saul**

Saul tries several times to kill David until David flees for his life. While on the run, David is given two opportunities to kill Saul. The first while Saul is relieving himself in a cave that David is hiding in, the second time when he sneaks into Saul's camp while everyone is sleeping. Both times, however, David refuses to kill Saul. "The LORD forbid that I should put out my hand against the LORDS's anointed." Saul was anointed and made king by God and this is something that David recognizes and respects when he doesn't kill Saul. He trusts that God will come through and that he doesn't have to resort to underhanded means to secure the throne. This comes into play again at the beginning of 2 Samuel, when a man boasts of killing Saul.

### **The Witch of Endor**

We see in chapter 28 just how far Saul has fallen. Once again the Philistines are attacking, and Saul, afraid, tries to inquire of the LORD, but the LORD does not answer. So, once again, Saul tries to take matters into his own hands and seeks out a medium to speak to Samuel. This is forbidden by Leviticus 19:31. Samuel does come and speak to Saul. Whether God actually permitted the spirit of Samuel to return or whether this was a demonic spirit, we don't actually know. Either way, God used it to tell Saul of his impending death.

### **The King is Dead, Long Live the King**

The end of 1 Samuel gives us two battles and two kings. One the LORD is with, the other he is not. Saul inquires of the LORD but does not get an answer. He loses the battle against the Philistines and is killed along with his sons. David, on the other hand, inquires of the LORD and is told he will be successful against the Amalekites. He succeeds in rescuing his wives and gaining flocks and herds. The LORD is with David, but is not with Saul.