



LESSON 19

Saul—Israel's First King

VOCABULARY

Anoint: to put oil on when a person is dedicated to be set apart for a holy purpose or calling

Javelin: a light spear used in the past for war and today in contests to throw for distance

Heed: to pay close attention to



As we learned in our last lesson, Saul became the first king of Israel. Do you think Saul was a good choice to be king over Israel? _____ Why or why not? _____

Saul was very tall, and all of the people admired him. They were happy with their new king. Samuel was still close to God in prayer and still told the people God's wishes. One day, Samuel said to Saul that the people of Amalek were wicked and needed to be punished. God was sending Saul to punish them by destroying them and everything that they had.

Saul had a large army, and they destroyed the city, but they did not destroy everything. They took the best sheep, the best lambs, and other things that they wanted. That night, God spoke to Samuel and told him that Saul had disobeyed. Samuel was very sorry and could not sleep, but he prayed to God all night long. When Samuel asked Saul about this, he gave the excuse that they were saving the best to offer to God upon the altar. Samuel just shook his head in sorrow because he knew Saul had greatly sinned by not obeying God.

Obedience Is #1 With God



Study 1 Samuel 15:22–23 and answer the following questions to see how God felt about Saul's actions:

- Saul made sacrifices to the Lord of what he had taken. What does God say is better than sacrifice and the fat of rams? **obedience**
- How does He describe rebellion? **It is like the sin of divination or witchcraft.**
- How does He describe arrogance? **It is like the evil of idolatry.**

- Why did God reject Saul from being king? *Saul had rejected the word of the Lord.*

Life Principle: God will reject a rebellious heart.

Time For A New King

The Lord now asked Samuel to anoint a new king from among the sons of Jesse. Jesse brought out all of his sons before Samuel, but God told Samuel that none of them was the one He had chosen.



All of Jesse's sons looked like strong, capable men, but how did God choose the leader He wanted (1 Sam. 16:7)? *The Lord looked at the heart, not just the outward appearance.*

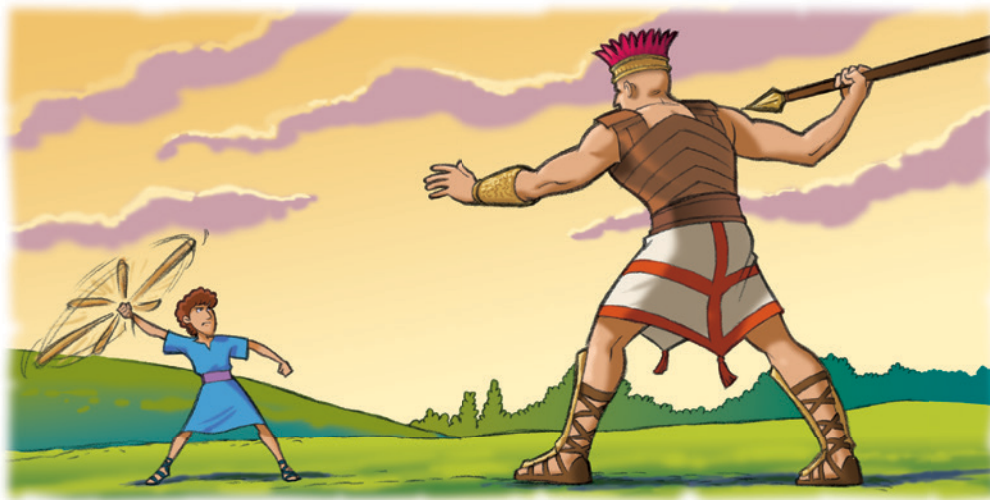


Then Jesse brought forward his youngest son, David. What did the Lord immediately tell Samuel (1 Sam. 16:12–13)? *Anoint David as king.*



Samuel anointed David, and the *Spirit* of the *Lord* came upon David in power (1 Sam. 16:13).

David And Goliath



David had been anointed by God to be the next king of Israel, but Saul was still the king. David would have to wait for God's timing. For now, David would go to the king's court and play the harp before Saul, who was constantly troubled by an evil spirit. His music would soothe Saul and make him feel better.



During this time, the Israelites were in battle against the Philistines. After reading 1 Samuel 17, match the following parts of each sentence to tell the story of David and Goliath:

D	All the men of Israel...
G	The man who killed Goliath...
H	Goliath made fun...
A	David believed that God...
F	Saul wanted David...
B	David took only...
C	When they saw Goliath was dead...
E	David slew Goliath...

a	...would deliver him.
b	...a sling and five smooth stones.
c	...the Philistines turned and ran.
d	...were afraid of Goliath.
e	...with one shot of his sling.
f	...to wear his armor.
g	...would receive great wealth.
h	...of David when he saw him coming.

A Heart Of Jealousy

All of Israel celebrated because of the death of their great foe. There was singing and celebration, and David immediately became the hero of Israel. After Saul heard his people singing greater praises to David than to himself, Saul began to be jealous of David. Saul was allowing an evil spirit to gain more and more control of his heart. The jealousy began to grow, and very soon, Saul had a deep hatred for David. Saul came to hate David so much that he wanted him killed. Describe what Saul tried to do in the following verses:



1 Samuel 18:10–11: ***An evil spirit came upon Saul, and he hurled the spear at David.***



1 Samuel 19:10: ***Saul again tried to kill David with a spear.***



1 Samuel 19:15: ***Saul wanted David brought to him so he could kill him.***

Conquering The Enemy

Think about Proverbs 29:25 and how it applied to David.



Can you apply this verse to a situation in your own life? Write about a situation in which you were afraid, but God gave you the courage you needed.

Answers will vary.



The above pattern was the basic problem in Saul's life. You surely would not be guilty of murder, but Christ said that when you have hatred in your heart, it is as bad as murder. You should ask God to keep the spirit of jealousy and hatred out of your heart and to fill your heart with love for others.