

Adult Bible Class

The Book of First Samuel

Lesson 7 - June 5, 2022

In 1 Samuel chapter 8 Israel demanded a human king. The people were given what they asked for - a king like the other nations had. Although they were out of the will of God, the Lord gave them the desire of their hearts so that they might learn something from it. The people of Israel did not ask God to give them a king as *He chooses*, but they asked for a king like *they wanted* - to help them defeat the Philistines. The Lord gave them Saul - a young man who fit the description of what Israel asked for. He authorized Samuel to anoint Saul king.

1 Samuel 8:19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel's warning. "Even so, we still want a king," they said. **20** "We want to be like the nations around us. Our king will judge us and lead us into battle." . . . **22** So the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king."

Saul started out well, but as time went by he proved himself to be disobedient to God's commands. When Israel was preparing to fight the Philistines, Saul was supposed to wait on Samuel to offer sacrifices before the Israelite army went out to battle. Saul became impatient as the seven days were about to come to an end, so he offered up the first sacrifice himself. At that moment, Samuel arrived. Then Saul made excuses to explain why he had offered the sacrifice.

1 Samuel 13:13 (NKJV) And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. **14** But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him *to be* commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you."

Some may look at Saul's sin and say, "It was a small thing to lose patience and to offer the sacrifice before Samuel arrived." However, the principle here is very important. Saul was definitely told to wait on Samuel. It was a test of his character. He failed the test, going against God's direct command, placing religious activity ahead of obedience to God's word. Then, Saul made excuses instead of repenting.

Each one of us has a "defining moment" whereby the principles of God are revealed in us - or refused by us. Saul continues to be king, and no doubt the Lord is looking for repentance and obedience in his life.

He is tested again in chapter fifteen.

1 Samuel Chapter 15

1 Samuel 15:1 (NKJV) Samuel also said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord. **2** Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. **3** Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"

Who were the people of Amalek, and why would God say such a fierce thing - commanding His people, Israel, to completely destroy every living thing among them?

Amalek is mentioned in Genesis 36:15 as a grandson of Esau (Esau, Jacob's brother who despised his birthright, was the father of the Edomites). The Amalekites were bedouins - a semi-nomadic people, roaming here and there, living in tents (although they did have some cities), in the area of the Negev desert (see Numbers 13:29) which is in the south part of Israel.

Scripture records that when the Israelites were coming out of Egypt and heading toward the promised land:

Exodus 17:8 (NLT) **8** While the people of Israel were still at Rephidim, the warriors of Amalek attacked them. **9** Moses commanded Joshua, "Choose some men to go out and fight the army of Amalek for us. Tomorrow, I will stand at the top of the hill, holding the staff of God in my hand." **10** So Joshua did what Moses had commanded and fought the army of Amalek. Meanwhile, Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed to the top of a nearby hill. **11** As long as Moses held up the staff in his hand, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he dropped his hand, the Amalekites gained the advantage. **12** Moses' arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset. **13** As a result, Joshua overwhelmed the army of Amalek in battle.

14 After the victory, the Lord instructed Moses, "Write this down on a scroll as a permanent reminder, and read it aloud to Joshua: I will erase the memory of Amalek from under heaven." **15** Moses built an altar there and named it Yahweh-Nissi (which means "the Lord is my banner"). **16** He said, "They have raised their fist against the Lord's throne, so now the Lord will be at war with Amalek generation after generation."

Why would the Lord swear such an oath? The people of Amalek were brutal toward God's people when they were traveling to the promised land. They were certainly the first to make war against them, trying to hinder them.

Deuteronomy 25:17 (NLT) "Never forget what the Amalekites did to you as you came from Egypt. **18** They attacked you when you were exhausted and weary, and they struck down those who were straggling behind. They had no fear of God. **19** Therefore, when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your enemies in the land he is giving you as a special possession, you must destroy the Amalekites and erase their memory from under heaven. Never forget this!

They must have attacked the women, children, and elderly who were stragglers in the rear of the group. Israel passed by the various nations on their way to the promised land. They were to pass through without taking anything from these nations (unless they paid for it). The Amalekites were, for the most part, nomads and wanderers, and if anyone should have had no quarrel with Israel, it should have been them. But Amalek brutally attacked Israel.

After the settling of the promised land, the Israelites battled the many peoples who warred against them. The Amalekites banded together with several different nations to war against Israel (see Judges 3:12-14 and Judges 6:3).

We should not be too surprised when we read in our text that God had appointed a time when Amalek would be judged - and God was going to use His people, Israel, to do it. After nearly 400 years with no repentance, judgment day for Amalek had come.

1 Samuel 15:4 (NKJV) So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. **5** And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

6 Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

The Kenites were always friendly to the Israelites. They were also a bedouin nation.

7 And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. **8** He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. **9** But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all *that was good*, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

Amalek was to be utterly destroyed - devoted for destruction, which means that all living things were to be completely destroyed and set apart unto God. They could not be redeemed but must be slain. No spoils of war were to be taken, but every living thing slain, then all was to be burned with fire. Those things that would not burn (silver, gold, etc.) were to be brought into the treasury of the house of God. Everything, in short, belonging to such a nation was looked upon as accursed. It was a very serious moment - a moment of judgment that was a long time in coming.

Saul knew this. Yet, he spared Agag and the best of the animals. Saul disobeyed the commandment of the Lord - which he as king was supposed to obey.

Saul Rejected as King

10 Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, **11** "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night.

Samuel is known in Scripture as an intercessor. Many times in the book of 1 Samuel he cries out to the Lord for the people (1 Samuel 7:9, 12:23). In fact, Samuel is given by God Himself as an example of a great intercessor. Jeremiah 15:1 says (in speaking of the Lord's decision to judge His people), "*Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people . . .*" This shows that God highly esteemed Samuel's prayers and intercession.

12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."

Now we see Saul exhibiting pride. He "*set up a monument for himself,*" something to call attention to his victory over Amalek.

13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed *are* you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord."

14 But Samuel said, "What then *is* this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

15 And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

Saul did not obey God, and here we read that he blamed the soldiers for not obeying completely God's commandment. In verse 13, Saul says, "*I have performed the commandment of the Lord.*" It is evident that Saul does not want to shoulder the responsibility as Israel's ruler to see that the commands of the Lord are obeyed. Instead, he wants to do what he wants to do.

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on."

17 So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel? **18** Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'

19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?"

Saul was supposed to:

- 1) obey the commandment of the Lord to completely destroy all of Amalek.
- 2) see that his men obeyed as well.
- 3) burn everything with fire unto the Lord.
- 4) keep nothing as a spoil of war.
- 5) treat this as a solemn mission of serious consequence.

Sin is deceptive. It fools the sinner into thinking that all is well, and that sin is not a serious matter. We are usually bothered by other people's sin more than our own because sin is deceptive.

20 And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. **21** But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."

No repentance . . . only justification of actions. Saul is deceived. He says, "*But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord.*" Again, he blames the people.

22 So Samuel said:

"Has the Lord *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,

As in obeying the voice of the Lord?

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,

And to heed than the fat of rams.

Other Scriptures testify to the fact that God should be served with the heart. The problem with Saul is that his heart was not right, or he would have purposed to obey God's command fully in this very serious matter.

Psalms 51:16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*;

You do not delight in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,

A broken and a contrite heart—

These, O God, You will not despise.

See also Isaiah 1:11-20. Samuel continued speaking to Saul...

1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry.

Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from *being* king."

Witchcraft is a horrible sin. It is "divination", or seeking knowledge from a spiritual source other than the one true God.

Disobedience comes from unbelief. Saul didn't believe the word and commandment of God, so he disobeyed, discounting the word of God to be unimportant or even worthless. He replaced the word of God with his own will and way. It was a form of idolatry.

Then came the words that got Saul's attention. He would no longer be king (he would continue to be king for awhile, but his dynasty would end with him - and another man, "*a man after God's own heart*" would be king after him).

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. **25** Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord."

26 But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel."

Saul was convicted of his sin, but he did not truly repent. He is like Pharaoh who said, "*I have sinned this time. The Lord is righteous, and my people and I are wicked*" (Exodus 9:27). He confessed momentarily, but he had no change of heart. He only wanted the circumstances to be changed. He was not sorry of the sin itself, but of the results of the sin.

1 Samuel 15:27 And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. **28** So Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. **29** And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent."

The tearing of the prophet's robe was itself prophetic. The kingdom would be torn from Saul and his descendants. It is announced for a second time that a better man would be king - a man after God's own heart, meaning, a man that has a heart to seek God's will and believe and obey His word.

30 Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God." **31** So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord.

32 Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." So Agag came to him cautiously.

And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

33 But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.

Whether Samuel himself slew Agag, or whether he ordered it done is debated. It is common to speak of leaders as doing things that they order to be done. Samuel did what Saul should have done - fulfilled the commandment of the Lord.

34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. **35** And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

The first king of Israel was tested and failed miserably. He would continue to be king - but behind the scenes, God was preparing the shepherd boy, David, to be a king after God's own heart. In due time, David would be anointed and then revealed to the people as the king of Israel.

1 Samuel Chapter 16

David Anointed King

1 Samuel 16:1 (NKJV) Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

Samuel, as prophet and judge in Israel, mourned deeply for Saul. King Saul had started out well, but over time had proven himself to be disobedient to God's commands. In the beginning of his reign he was humble, and he was careful to lead the troops into battle against the enemies of Israel, obeying the will of God. But as time went by, he changed. Saul wanted the glory for himself.

In short, Saul's heart was not right, and he was not fit to rule. He had been the people's choice for king, and he looked the part, but he was a failure. Samuel was mourning over Saul, because Saul really was a great person. He had exceptional skills, especially as general of the army. He brought Israel from being a feeble nation at the mercy of the Philistines to a nation rightly claiming their territory that God gave them as an inheritance. But now that Saul had proven unfit because of his self-centeredness and his disobedience, Samuel was mourning for him. What a waste of a great person! However, sometimes great people sin and separate themselves from God.

Saul's greatness makes his fall all the more upsetting. That's why Samuel was mourning so long for him. But the Lord tells him to stop mourning over Saul. The time has come to anoint another - this time, the Lord's choice for king. The Lord tells Samuel, "*Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.*"

1 Samuel 16:2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me."

This may sound strange to us - Saul wanting to kill Samuel? But what God asked Samuel to do would undermine the current dynasty. A dynasty would usually continue until there was a coup - someone would kill the king and all of his heirs, then begin a new dynasty (this happened over and over in the Northern Kingdom of Israel a little later in their history). If news got around that Samuel was anointing a new king of Israel that was not connected to Saul - well, Saul would put a stop to it, considering it open treason!

In fact, God was going to allow Saul to continue being king until the next king was ready to take the throne, but God was not going to allow Saul's dynasty to continue (and it's a shame, because Saul's son, Jonathan, was such a great person). God was going to move behind the scenes and anoint the next king of Israel privately, even though publicly this person would not be revealed for quite some time. God was setting the stage for the future king of Israel - His choice.

But the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" **3** Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

Wise people don't tell everything they know. They don't lie, but neither do they volunteer information that might cause trouble. That is the case here. Samuel had no treason or civil war in mind. Samuel was about to privately anoint Israel's next king - who would be revealed publicly in due time. There is often a long period between a person's calling and the fulfillment of that calling.

It would have been a normal thing for Samuel to travel around and preside over fellowship offerings (remember that the tabernacle worship was still not completely restored, and the ark of the covenant was still at Kirjath-jearim and not in its proper place). A fellowship offering (or peace offering) was one of the five offerings described in the first few chapters of Leviticus. This particular offering was given to God, but most of the meat was eaten by the family that made the offering. When bringing a fellowship offering, God was honored (the fat belonged to the Lord), the man of God was honored (he got a certain portion of meat), and the people had fellowship and good food (they got most of the sacrifice).

1 Samuel 16:4 So Samuel did what the Lord said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

Remember, Samuel was a judge in Israel as well as a prophet. Therefore, his presence sometimes meant that he was there to right some wrong, or judge some crime that had been committed. That's why they were nervous about his coming.

5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

In order to "sanctify" themselves, they were to wash and purify themselves, put on special (clean) garments, and separate themselves from all other cares. Samuel made sure that Jesse and his sons were sanctified.

6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed *is* before Him!"

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the Lord does* not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

From the time that the animal was slain to the time that they sat down to eat would be quite some time. The animal had to be skinned and the meat prepared to be cooked. It was probably a few hours before the meal was ready to eat.

In the meantime, Samuel is looking at Eliab, Jesse's eldest son. We see Samuel doing what all human beings are prone to do - he makes a judgment based on the outward appearance. This is what got Israel in trouble in the first place! They wanted a king that looked good! The Lord tells Samuel that men cannot see the heart of a man, therefore, Samuel is going to have to wait on the Lord to tell him which son of Jesse is the Lord's anointed. Only the Lord knows the heart and true character of a person. Nothing is hidden from the Lord.

In that culture, the eldest son held important honor and responsibility. It was natural to look to the eldest son, especially this one who, like Saul, was tall and handsome. However, there are many examples in the Scriptures where the eldest son is overlooked for a younger son. For instance, the Lord had respect unto Abel and not to Cain. Remember that Jacob was younger than Esau, and Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob. Also, Jacob laid his hand of blessing on Ephraim, Joseph's youngest son, instead of Manasseh, the eldest. Moses was selected over his older brother, Aaron. Gideon was the youngest in his father's household. So here, once again, a younger son is preferred over the eldest.

8 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." **9** Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one."

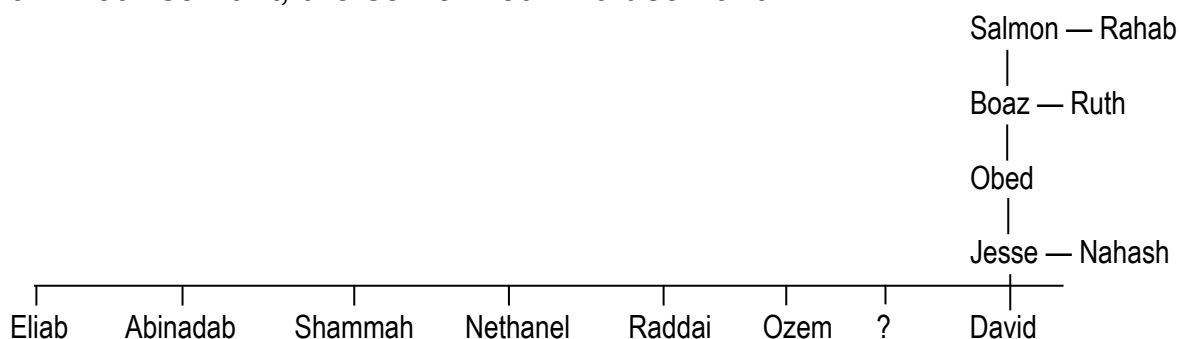
10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." **11** And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."

The Lord spoke to Samuel and told him that none of the sons of Jesse so far were God's anointed. Samuel kept looking and asked if there were any other sons. Yes, there was one more, but he wasn't even invited to the sacrifice. He was keeping the sheep. He must have been in a pasture close by.

The older sons were probably grown up or nearly grown up. David must have been a boy, but old enough to trust with chores such as watching flocks of sheep. He was overlooked this day - not even considered to come to the sacrifice.

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." **12** So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

David was "ruddy," or he had a healthy red complexion - which you would expect for someone who worked outdoors. He had beautiful eyes and was very handsome. David comes from an illustrious family tree in the tribe of Judah. His ancestor, Nahshon, was prince of the tribe in the days of Moses (Numbers 2:3). An ancestor, Salmon, married Rahab who had welcomed the spies and who saved her family by receiving a promise from them. David's great-grandfather, Boaz, married Ruth, the Moabitess (Ruth 4:13-17). David's father, Jesse, was a prosperous man with eight sons. The name of David's mother is not recorded, however, David refers to her as a servant of the Lord in Psalm 116:16, "*O Lord, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant.*"



God said concerning this youth, *“Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!”*

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers;

Just how much did David or his family understand concerning what had just happened? Not much. In the next chapter, we will read how Eliab doesn't think much of his kid brother when David comes to view the confrontation with Goliath (he says, *“Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.”*)

What did they think of this anointing? Perhaps they thought that David was anointed to be trained in Samuel's school for the prophets (and very probably Samuel did give David training). Most probably they did not consider that Samuel was anointing him to be the next king of Israel. But Samuel knew the significance of the anointing.

and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

The Spirit of God starts every great work mentioned in the Scriptures. The Spirit of God moved upon the waters at creation. On Pentecost, the Spirit of God ushered in the New Testament church. Here, the Spirit of God comes upon David and is with him from that day forward, shaping him for his future. David's future began with the Spirit of God.

A Distressing Spirit Troubles Saul

14 But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.

While the Spirit of God came upon David, and he grew from a youth into a man, the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul. A number of years ago, Samuel anointed Saul with oil. Samuel then told him to watch for several signs, one of them being, *“Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophesy . . . and be turned into another man.”* But now Saul was being turned into another man again - one that had once tasted spiritual victories, but now was in denial and lacking true repentance. The presence of God in men is what makes them truly great. There are certain conditions that must be met for the Spirit of God to stay. David would later write in one of the psalms, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me”* (Psalm 51:10-11).

Remember this biblical principle - sin separates. Sin separated the Spirit of God from Saul. Yet, Saul is still king. David will become the central figure of the chapters ahead even though Saul is still the king.

When the Spirit of God departs from a person, it does not leave a vacuum. It does leave an empty space. A *“distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him”* (literally, terrified him). Saul became subject to fits of mental anguish, temporary insanity, violence, etc. It is the horrible picture of a person who has rejected God and who will not repent.

1 Samuel 16:15 And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. **16** Let our master now command your servants, *who are* before you, to seek out a man *who is* a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."

It is amazing that Saul's servants could see things so clearly. They could see their master's character and they could see that God was in all of this. But they also thought of a solution. Music will help Saul during this time of distress and anguish.

Music is powerful. It has the power to bring heaven down to earth, so to speak. Music can soothe, inspire, excite, teach, and pave the way for a spiritual move. Music is one of the greatest tools of the church. It affects the mind and the spirit. When David played music for Saul, God was giving Saul the chance to repent, the music paving the way for it. David was using his skill as a gifted musician, song writer, and singer - all for the glory of God and to be a blessing to others. The music did not cause the distressing spirit to leave for good, but it did provide a time of relief. Saul could have taken advantage of the moment and truly repented, but he did not. He was satisfied with a period of relief.

In this world, a lot of music is the servant of sinful men. Much popular music is used to glorify sin, selfishness, lust, and evil. In the church, music must glorify God, call attention to His great salvation, and create an atmosphere for repentance. When music is played and sung in the church service, we must worship. We must involve ourselves in the great work that the music is doing because souls hang in the balance, and the music is often what ushers them into the presence of God.

David was truly an anointed musician and singer. Saul didn't send for an unskilled musician who lacked spiritual anointing. He wanted one that had skill and anointing. That is precisely what the church needs today. Psalm 33:3 says, "*Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.*"

17 So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring *him* to me."

18 Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord *is* with him."

This verse lets us know that David has now grown into a young man. He has learned to play musical instruments. He has also learned the art of war. He has had an education.

1 Samuel 16:19 Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who *is* with the sheep." **20** And Jesse took a donkey *loaded with* bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent *them* by his son David to Saul. **21** So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. **22** Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." **23** And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

Throughout David's life he wrote many songs (called psalms) which are recorded in the book of Psalms in the Scriptures. David wrote about his experiences and his relationship to God. The most beloved psalm is Psalm 23. Though David was a "shepherd boy," yet he called the Lord his Shepherd. It is a perfect expression of David's confidence in the Lord. See also Psalm 8 and 19.