

The Unstoppable Plan of God

The Asbury revival

Began in Wilmore, KY, at Asbury college on Feb 8, 2023.

A normal chapel service didn’t stop. They’ve been praying and singing and repenting and giving testimony now for (as of Thursday the 16th) 8 days straight. It’s still going.

Revival is a return to Jesus that looks absolutely normal – except in scale.

We can have confidence that God’s “blessing” is going forward even when it seems like hope might be lost!

Echoes of the Past – David’s Story is Written with Several Clear References to the Story of Jacob

Jacob’s story – Abraham’s blessing will come through Jacob (Gen 12:1-3)

Now the LORD said to Abram, “... I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Jacob and Laban	David and Saul
Laban originally viewed Jacob with favor	Saul originally viewed David with favor
Gen 29:13 As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister’s son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things, ¹⁴ and Laban said to him, “Surely you are my bone and my flesh!” And he stayed with him a month.	1 Sam 16:21 And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. ²² And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight.”
Laban changed his opinion on Jacob	Saul changed his opinion on David
Genesis 31:1-2 Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, “Jacob has taken all that was our father’s, and from what was our father’s he has gained all this wealth.” ² And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before.	1 Sam 19:2 And Jonathan told David, “Saul my father seeks to kill you.
Jacob sought out a wife (Gen 28:2)	David sought out a wife (1 Sam 17:25)
Laban promised a daughter but gave another, humiliating Jacob on his wedding day (Gen 29:18, 25)	Saul promised a daughter but didn’t give her, humiliating David on his wedding day (1 Sam 18:9)
Jacob had to work to pay the bride-price (Gen 29:18-20)	David had to work to pay the bride-price (1 Sam 18:18, 25)
Laban lied about the pay he would give Jacob, and refused to give it	Saul lied about the pay he would give David, and refused to give it (1 Sam 18:19)
Jacob gave double bride-price (14 years instead of 7) to get Rachel (Gen 29:27)	David gave double bride-price (200 foreskins instead of 100) to get Michal (1 Sam 18:27)
Rachel deceives Laban about the idols [Hebrew <i>tetraphim</i>] as they make their escape (Gen 31:35)	Michal deceives Saul with an idol [Hebrew <i>tetraphim</i>] as David makes his escape (1 Sam 19:13)
God blesses Jacob and takes away Laban’s position and wealth (the story of the spotted goats. Genesis 31:8-9 ⁸ If he said, ‘The spotted shall be your wages,’ then all the flock bore spotted; and if he said, ‘The striped shall be your wages,’ then all the flock bore striped. ⁹ Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.	God blesses David and takes away Saul’s position and wealth. 1 Sam 15:28 ²⁸ And Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

<p>Jacob wonders why Laban is against him</p> <p>Genesis 31:36 Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, “What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me?”</p>	<p>David wonders why Saul is against him</p> <p>1 Sam 20:1 Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, “What have I done? What is my guilt? And what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?”</p>
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Why is the author making this connection? What does the Bible want us to see?

What do Jacob and David have in common?

The story of Jacob answers the question: “How will God’s plan for blessing the nations move forward?”

The answer was: _____

The story of David answers the question: “How will God’s plan for blessing the nations move forward?”

The answer is: _____

More dots connected: why would 1 Samuel make this point?

When was 1 Samuel written?

Who was it written to?

What did they need to hear?

The Blessing Comes Through a King Who Loses Everything

- His job. He had a highly respected position in the king’s court. Now he’s on the run. (1 Sam. 19:18)
- His wife. David is on the run and separated from his wife. (1 Sam. 19:18)
- His home. (1 Sam. 19:18)
- The support of his godly mentor. His presence is a danger to Samuel and he must flee from Ramah. (1 Sam. 20:1)
- His safety. “Death is only one step away.” (1 Sam. 20:3)
- His friend. He has to say goodbye to Jonathan, only to see him twice more in his whole life. (1 Sam 20:42)
- His successful record. He’s the one who always won the battles, but in chp. 21 he runs to the capital city of the Philistines. (1 Sam. 21:10-12)

God’s Blessing Will Go Forward

David’s loss is remembered during a time when Judah was experiencing great loss. Are you going through loss?

We also, like them, must put our trust in God’s anointed and chosen king, Jesus.

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Is it hard for you to be hopeful today? Why or why not?
2. Why was Israel’s situation so dire during David’s rise to power? What was their situation?
3. How are David and Jacob similar? There are many other connections not listed in the table on these notes... if you read both stories, you can find more.
4. God’s blessing for the nations (the Gospel!) will go forward even in dark times. Why is this an encouragement for what you are facing right now in your life?