

THE ANOINTING OF DAVID AND THE FURTHER DECLINE OF SAUL

Introduction:

1. Chapters 1 – 8 took place during the time of the Judges and focused on the life of Samuel.
2. Chapters 9 – 12 deal with the transition of the nation into a kingdom.
3. Chapters 13 – 15 present the decline and rejection of Saul as King of Israel.
4. Chapters 16 – 20 shift the focus to David, God’s chosen King of Israel

- I. An Evil Spirit from the Lord Troubled Saul (16:14)
 - A. Before discussing the anointing of David as the new King of Israel, it is important to see the continuing spiritual decline of Saul.
 - B. When Saul became King, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him (10:6, 9-10; 11:6).
 - C. When David became King, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him (16:13).
 - D. At the same time, we are told that “an evil spirit from the Lord troubled” Saul.
 1. The word “troubled” literally means, “terrified; to be overtaken by a sudden terror; to be made afraid.”
 2. Thus, when Saul learned that the kingdom would be taken from him, he began to live in fear (cf. Proverbs 28:1).
 - E. What does this mean?
 1. Whatever it means, it must harmonize with the character of God.
 2. God is not the author or source of evil (cf. James 1:13).
 3. Therefore, God could not have directly sent or forced evil upon Saul.
 - F. Consider these passages...
 1. Judges 9:23 – *not a literal evil spirit (demon), nor directly sent by God*
 2. Job 1:12; 2:6 – *what God allows is sometimes said to come from God*
 3. 1 Kings 22:6-8, 13-23 – *allowed, but not directly caused by God*
 4. Isaiah 19:11-14
 5. Jeremiah 4:10; 5:12; 6:14; 8:11; 14:13-14
 6. Ezekiel 14:9 – *not directly, but He allows men to be deceived*
 7. Romans 1:24, 26, 28 – *God gave men over to their wicked desires*
 - a. Saul did exactly as they (the Gentiles) did.
 - b. He knew God, but did not glorify Him by obedience.
 - c. Thus, his “foolish heart was darkened.”
 8. 2 Corinthians 2:15-16 – *God’s Word attracts and repels*
 9. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12
 - a. God will allow men to teach and practice error.
 - b. God will allow those who reject the truth to hear and believe a lie.
 - c. God will allow souls to be condemned if they so choose.
 - G. Important facts...
 1. Saul’s “evil spirit” could be soothed by David’s playing the harp.
 2. Saul’s “evil spirit” was a heart overcome by fear and jealousy (18:12).
 3. Saul’s “evil spirit” was his own prideful desire to keep the kingdom for himself – no matter what must be done (19:9-10).
 - H. When one rebels against the Lord, he severs fellowship with Jehovah.
 - I. As he persists in his sin, he will move farther away from God and will be influenced by evil – from without and from within.

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- II. The Anointing of David as King (16:1-13)
- A. Samuel continued mourning for Saul.
1. For his spiritual condition
 2. For the damage he had done and could do to the nation
 3. For the break in fellowship
 4. This statement reveals much about the heart of Samuel.
- B. However, God had determined that it was time to move forward and instructed to Samuel to anoint a new king.
- C. He commanded Samuel to go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem, for the king would be selected from among his sons.
- D. Samuel understood the suspicious character of Saul and knew that his life would be in danger by going to Bethlehem.
1. The road from Ramah (Samuel's home) to Bethlehem (David's home) passed by Gibeah (Saul's home).
 2. If Saul knew that a new king was being chosen, he would have reacted violently.
- E. Thus, God commanded Samuel to make a sacrifice at Bethlehem and invite Jesse's family to the event.
1. This was not a deception by God or by Samuel.
 2. Samuel actually offered a sacrifice in the town of Bethlehem.
 3. However, his ultimate purpose was kept a secret.
 4. By his rebellion, Saul had forfeited his right to know the plans of Samuel or God (cf. Matthew 10:16).
- F. Upon arriving at Bethlehem, the elders of the city were afraid.
- G. Samuel assured them that his visit was a peaceful one and called them and the house of Jesse to the sacrifice.
- H. When he saw the sons of Jesse, Samuel thought that Eliab, the firstborn, would be chosen as the new king.
- I. However, God warned him against judging a man by his outward appearance.
1. This was what had been done with Saul (9:2; 10:23-24).
 2. He had the outward stature of a king, but lacked the inward strength of character.
- J. God judges a man by looking at his heart.
1. Literally, God said, "Man looks at the eyes, but God looks on the heart," or "Man looks for the eyes, but God looks for the heart."
 2. In fact, God had already sought out a man "after his own heart" (13:14; 15:28; Acts 13:22). *{He was already preparing David for the throne, possibly by his life among the sheep (cf. 17:34-37).}*
 3. What does it mean to be a man after God's own heart?
 4. Literally, in the Greek, it means, "A man who is, throughout, one with God's own heart."
 5. David fits this description (especially at this point in time) because in his life and as king, he wanted what God wanted.
 6. Even when David stumbled and committed sins (which certainly were not "after God's own heart") he always found his way back to God – by godly sorrow, repentance, and prayer (cf. 2 Sam. 24:17).
 7. Furthermore, David lived as though God were King of Israel and he was merely the Lord's servant.

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- 8. He labored to make sure that God's will for the nation was carried out – even desiring to build a Temple for the Lord.
 - K. As Jesse's other sons appeared before Samuel, none was chosen as king.
 - L. Finally, Samuel was informed of the youngest son who was out tending the sheep.
 - 1. David was the youngest son (the 8th) of Jesse.
 - 2. He is described as being "ruddy," meaning "reddish" – a reference to his hair color or his complexion.
 - 3. He is said to have had a beautiful appearance – he was goodly to look at, a handsome young man.
 - M. David was sent for, and when he appeared before Samuel God spoke: "Arise, anoint him: for this is he."
 - N. Thus, David was anointed with oil by Samuel in the presence of his family in Bethlehem.
 - O. This secret anointing was the first of three that David would experience.
- III. David, the Servant of King Saul (16:14-23)
- A. The evil spirit that troubled Saul could be soothed by music.
 - B. Thus, his servants sought for someone who could play the harp (or, lyre) and calm Saul's troubled emotions.
 - C. David was the man chosen for this job.
 - 1. He is described as a skillful player. *{He was also a poet/song writer.}*
 - 2. He is called a mighty, valiant man – a warrior.
 - 3. He is known as a man of battle, a courageous fighter.
 - 4. He is said to be prudent in matters – a man of good judgment.
 - 5. He is described as an attractive young man.
 - 6. Most importantly, it was obvious to all that the Lord was with David.
 - D. Saul instructed Jesse to send David to his service, and Jesse obeyed.
 - E. Saul instantly recognized the good qualities of David and "loved him greatly."
 - F. In fact, he appointed David as his armor bearer.
 - G. Thus, by David's service to the king, Saul's evil spirit was soothed and he was refreshed.