

David Anointed King (chapter 16)

CHARACTERS: Voice of God, Samuel, Michal, Merab, Jesse, Abner, Jonathan

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 16

VOICE OF GOD: I have rejected Saul as king over Israel? Go to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have selected a new king from his sons. Anoint the one I choose.

MERAB: Samuel did what the Lord directed and went to Bethlehem. He invited Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice. When Samuel saw Eliab he said,

SAMUEL: *(aside)* Certainly this one is the Lord's anointed one.

VOICE OF GOD: Do not look at his appearance or his stature, because I have rejected him. Man does not see what the Lord sees, for man sees what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.

MICHAL: Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel.

SAMUEL: The Lord hasn't chosen any of these. Are these all the sons you have?

JESSE: There is still the youngest, but right now he's tending the sheep.

SAMUEL: Send for him.

MICHAL: David arrived. He had beautiful eyes and a healthy, handsome appearance.

VOICE OF GOD: Anoint him, for he is the one.

MERAB: So Samuel took the horn of oil, anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the Lord took control of David from that day forward.

MICHAL: Meanwhile the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul, and an evil spirit sent from the Lord began to torment him.

ABNER: Let your servants look for someone who knows how to play the lyre. Whenever the evil spirit troubles you, that person can play the lyre, and you will feel better.

SAUL: Make it so.

JONATHAN: I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is also a valiant man, a warrior, eloquent, handsome, and the Lord is with him.

MICHAL: So David entered Saul's service, Saul admired him greatly, and David became his armor-bearer.

MERAB: Whenever the spirit from God troubled Saul, David would play his lyre, and Saul would feel better and the evil spirit would leave him.

David versus Goliath (chapter 17)

CHARACTERS: Michal, Merab, David, Goliath, Abner, Man, Jesse, Eliab, Saul, Voice of God,

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 6 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 17

Before you read: Merab and Michal are Jonathan's sisters and Saul's daughters. Michal will marry David. How may these facts influence their tone of voice as they narrate?

MICHAL: The Philistines gathered their forces for war. They were standing on one hill, and the Israelites were standing on another hill with a ravine between them.

MERAB: Then a champion named Goliath stepped out wearing a bronze helmet and scale armor that weighed 125 pounds.

GOLIATH: Why do you come out to line up in battle formation? Am I not a Philistine and are you not servants of Saul?

MICHAL: A bronze sword was slung between his massive shoulders.

ABNER: *(In fearful awe)* Look at him. He's Over 9 feet tall!

JONATHAN: A giant.

GOLIATH: Choose one of your men and have him come down against me. If he wins in a fight against me and kills me, we will be your servants.

ABNER: His spear is as long as three of us are tall!

GOLIATH: But if I win against him and kill him, then you will be our servants and serve us.

JONATHAN: The iron point of that spear must weigh 15 pounds if it weighs an ounce!

GOLIATH: I defy the ranks of Israel today. Send me a man so we can fight each other!

MICHAL: *(ashamed)* When Saul and all Israel heard these words from the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.

MERAB: Every morning and evening for 40 days the Philistine came forward, took his stand and shouted his usual words.

JESSE: David, take some supplies to your brothers in the army. Let me know how they are.

MICHAL: When David arrived, the Israelite men were terrified and retreating from Goliath.

MAN: *(to David)* Do you see this man who keeps coming out? He comes to defy Israel.

DAVID: Just who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?

ELIAB: (*angry*) Why did you come down here? Who did you leave those few sheep with in the wilderness? I know your arrogance and your evil heart—you came down to see the battle!

DAVID: (*protesting*) It was just a question. (*to Saul*) Don't let anyone be discouraged by Goliath; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!

ELIAB: You? A shepherd?

DAVID: The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom should I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom should I be afraid?

SAUL: You can't go fight this Philistine. You're just a youth, and he's been a warrior since he was young.

DAVID: Your servant has been tending his father's sheep. Whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock, I went after it, struck it down, and rescued the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it.

ELIAB: (*mocking*) So you killed an old lion or sick bear. Big deal.

DAVID: (*ignoring Eliab and speaking to Saul*) Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.

SAUL: Take my armor and go, and may the Lord be with you.

DAVID: I can't even walk in your armor because I'm not used to them. Besides, the Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.

MERAB: David chose five smooth stones and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then, with his sling in his hand, he approached the Philistine.

GOLIATH: Am I a dog that you come against me with sticks?

DAVID: You come against me with a dagger, spear, and sword, but I come against you in the name of Yahweh of Hosts, the God of Israel's armies—you have defied Him. Today, the Lord will hand you over to me.

GOLIATH: Keep coming and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts!

DAVID: Today, I'll strike you down, cut your head off, and give the corpses of the Philistine soldiers to the birds of the sky and the creatures of the earth. Then all the world will know that Israel has a God, and this whole assembly will know that it is not by sword or by spear that the Lord saves, for the battle is the Lord's. He will hand you over to us.

MICHAL: When Goliath started forward to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet him.

MERAB: David put his hand in the bag, took out a stone, and slung it, hitting the Philistine on his forehead.

JONATHAN: (*amazed*) The stone sunk into Goliath's forehead!

SAUL: (*awed*) He's fallen on his face to the ground.

JONATHAN: (*awed*) David has defeated the Philistine with just a sling and a stone.

MERAB: David grabbed the Philistine's sword, pulled it from its sheath, and used it to kill him. Then he cut off his head.

MICHAL: When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they ran.

SAUL: Rally army! Rally! Chase and kill these Philistines!

ALL: (*Battle cry*)

VOICE OF GOD: Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God.

DAVID: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.

VOICE OF GOD: I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand.

DAVID: He renews my life

VOICE OF GOD: Be sure that all who are enraged against you will be ashamed and disgraced;

DAVID: Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me

VOICE OF GOD: those who contend with you will become as nothing and will perish.

DAVID: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies

VOICE OF GOD: You will look for those who contend with you, but you will not find them.

DAVID: Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life

VOICE OF GOD: Those who war against you will become absolutely nothing.

DAVID: I will dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I live

VOICE OF GOD: For I, Yahweh your God, hold your right hand and say to you: Do not fear, I will help you.

David, Jonathan and Saul, part 1

CHARACTERS: Merab, Michal, Jonathan, Saul, Abner, Leader of Women

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 6 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 18, Psalm 18:2-3, Psalm 144:9-10, Psalm 20: 5-8, Psalm 91:1-10

MERAB: Saul kept David with him from that day on and did not let him return to his father's house.

MICHAL: Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as much as himself.

JONATHAN: David, take my robe, my military tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

MERAB: David marched out with the army and was successful in everything Saul sent him to do

MICHAL: Saul put him in command of the soldiers, which pleased all the people and Saul's servants as well.

MERAB: When the army returned, the women came out from all the cities of Israel singing and dancing with tambourines, with shouts of joy, and with three-stringed instruments.

LEADER OF WOMEN: The Lord is our protector;

ALL: he is our strong fortress.

LEADER OF WOMEN: My God is my protection and with him I am safe.

ALL: He protects us like a shield;

LEADER OF WOMEN: he defends me and keeps me safe.

ALL: We call to the Lord, and he saves us from our enemies.

EVERYONE: Praise the Lord!

LEADER OF WOMEN: Saul has killed his thousands,

ALL: but David his tens of thousands.

LEADER OF WOMEN: God, I will sing a new song to You;

ALL: We will play on a ten-stringed harp for You—

LEADER OF WOMEN: the One who gives victory to kings,

ALL: who frees His servant David from the deadly sword.

LEADER OF WOMEN: Saul has killed his thousands,

ALL: but David his tens of thousands.

LEADER OF WOMEN: We will sing for joy over your victory,

ALL: And in the name of our God we will set up our banners.

LEADER OF WOMEN: Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed;

ALL: He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand.

LEADER OF WOMEN: Some boast in chariots and some in horses,

ALL: But we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God.

LEADER OF WOMEN: Saul has killed his thousands,
ALL: but David his tens of thousands.

SAUL: (*furious*) How dare they credit tens of thousands to David but only thousands to me? What more can he have but the kingdom?"

MERAB: The next day an evil spirit took control of Saul.

JONATHAN: My father Saul is raving inside the palace. Better have David play his lyre.

MICHAL: Saul was holding a spear, which he threw at David intending to pin him to the wall.

MERAB: But David got away.

SAUL: (*aside, jealous and fearful*) The Lord is with David but has left me. (*to Abner*) I appoint David commander over 1,000 men. (*aside to audience*) Let the Philistines kill him for me.

MICHAL: But David continued to be successful because the Lord was with him.

MERAB: All Israel and Judah loved David because he was leading their troops.

SAUL: I'll give you my oldest daughter Merab as a wife, if you will be a warrior for me and fight the Lord's battles.

DAVID: Who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel that I should become the king's son-in-law?

MERAB: So I was married off to a man named Adriel.

JONATHAN: Father, Michal, my younger sister is in love with David.

SAUL: (*pleased*) Good. She can marry David. (*aside to audience, conniving*) She'll be a trap and the hand of the Philistines will be against him. (*to servants*) Speak to David in private and tell him, 'Look, the king is pleased with you, and all his servants love you. Therefore, you should become the king's son-in-law.'

ABNER: David, you should become the king's son-in-law.

DAVID: Is it trivial in your sight to become the king's son-in-law? I am a poor man who is common. I'm not the sort of man who marries royalty.

ABNER: The king desires no other bride-price except 100 dead Philistines.

DAVID: That's different. With God's help it will be so. The one who lives under the protection of the Most High dwells in the shadow of the Almighty.

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ALL: The Lord is our refuge and our fortress,
DAVID: my God, in whom I trust.
LEADER OF WOMEN: He Himself will deliver you from the hunter's net,
ALL: from the destructive plague.
LEADER OF WOMEN: He will cover you with His feathers;
ALL: you will take refuge under His wings.
LEADER OF WOMEN: His faithfulness will be a protective shield.
ALL: You will not fear the terror of the night,
LEADER OF WOMEN: the arrow that flies by day,
DAVID: the plague that stalks in darkness,
ALL: or the pestilence that ravages at noon.
LEADER OF WOMEN: Though a thousand fall at your side
ALL: and ten thousand at your right hand,
LEADER OF WOMEN: the pestilence will not reach you.
ALL: You will only see it with your eyes
DAVID: and witness the punishment of the wicked.
LEADER OF WOMEN: Because you have made the Lord
DAVID: my refuge,
LEADER OF WOMEN: the Most High—your dwelling place,
ALL: no harm will come to you.

MICHAL: And so I married David.

SAUL: (*shocked and fearful*) This backfired! Not only is David not dead, the Lord is with David and Michal loves him. David is more successful than all of my other officers and his name has become well known. (*aside*) David is my enemy from now on.

Saul vs. David

CHARACTERS: Saul, Merab, Jonathan, David, Michal, Man

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 19

SAUL: *(to Jonathan and all his servants)* You are to kill David.

MERAB: But my brother liked David very much and warned him.

JONATHAN: My father Saul intends to kill you. Be on your guard and hide in a secret place. Stay there until I talk to my father, Saul. When I see what he says, I'll tell you. *(to SAUL)* The king should not sin against his servant David. He hasn't sinned against you; in fact, his actions have been a great advantage to you. He took his life in his hands when he struck down Goliath and the Lord brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced, so why would you sin against innocent blood by killing David for no reason?

SAUL: As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be killed.

MERAB: So Jonathan told David, brought him to Saul, and David served him as he did before.

MICHAL: But after war broke out again and David defeated the Philistines, an evil spirit sent from the Lord came on Saul as he was sitting in his palace holding a spear.

MERAB: David was playing the lyre, and Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear.

JONATHAN: As the spear struck the wall, David eluded Saul and escaped that night.

SAUL: *(to soldiers)* Go to David's house, watch for him and kill him in the morning.

MICHAL: David, if you don't escape tonight, you will be dead tomorrow! *(to audience)* I lowered David from the window, and he escaped. I dressed the household idol, placed some goat hair on its head, and covered it with a garment.

MAN: Open up in the name of King Saul. Where is David?

MICHAL: He's sick.

MAN: *(to Saul)* David was sick in bed.

SAUL: *(angry)* Then bring him on his bed so I can kill him.

MAN: *(surprised)* This is the household idol not David.

SAUL: *(to Michal)* Why did you deceive me like this? You sent my enemy away, and he has escaped!

MICHAL: *(fearfully lying)* He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?

MERAB: David then wrote this psalm

DAVID: Deliver me from my enemies, O God; be my fortress against those who are attacking me.

ALL: Deliver me from evildoers and save me from those who are after my blood.

DAVID: See how they lie in wait for me!

ALL: Fierce men conspire against me for no offense or sin of mine, Lord.

DAVID: I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me.

ALL: Arise to help me; look on my plight, Lord God Almighty

DAVID: You are my strength, I watch for you; you, God, are my fortress,

ALL: my God on whom I can rely.

DAVID: God will go before me

ALL: Then it will be known to the ends of the earth

DAVID: I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love;

ALL: for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.

DAVID: You are my strength, I sing praise to you;

ALL: you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.

David, Jonathan and Saul, part 2

CHARACTERS: Jonathan, Man, Saul, Merab, Michal, David

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 20

JONATHAN: David escaped to Samuel and told him everything Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel left and stayed at Naioth.

MAN: *(to Saul)* David is at Naioth.

SAUL: Seize him!

MERAB: Three times Saul sent his agents.

MICHAL: And three times God protected him.

MERAB: Finally Saul went himself.

MICHAL: David fled from Naioth and came to Jonathan.

DAVID: What have I done? What did I do wrong? How have I sinned against your father so that he wants to take my life?

JONATHAN: No, you won't die. Listen, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without telling me. So why would he hide this matter from me? This can't be true.

DAVID: He would hide it from you. Your father certainly knows that you have come to look favorably on me. He has said, 'Jonathan must not know of this, or else he will be grieved.' As surely as the Lord lives and as you yourself live, there is but a step between me and death.

JONATHAN: Whatever you say, I will do for you. I love you as much as I love myself.

MERAB: So David asked my brother to lie for him.

DAVID: If your father misses me at the New Moon meal, tell him I had to go home. If he says, 'Good,' then I'm safe, but if he becomes angry, you will know he has evil intentions. Remember the covenant between us and deal faithfully with me. If I have done anything wrong, then kill me yourself; why take me to your father?

JONATHAN: If I ever find out my father has evil intentions against you, I will send you away so you may go in peace. May the Lord be with you, just as He was with my father. If I continue

to live, treat me with the Lord's faithful love, but if I die, don't ever withdraw your faithful love from my household.

MICHAL: My father did notice David's absence and got angry at my brother.

SAUL: You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you are siding with David to your own shame? Every day he lives on earth you and your kingship are not secure. Now send for him and bring him to me—he deserves to die.

JONATHAN: Why is he to be killed? What has he done?

MERAB: Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him, so he knew that his father was determined to kill David.

MICHAL: Jonathan was grieved because of his father's shameful behavior toward David and warned David.

JONATHAN: Go in the assurance the two of us pledged in the name of the Lord when we said: The Lord will be a witness between you and me and between my offspring and your offspring forever.

OPTIONAL COMMENTARY SKIT

HOST: Welcome to tonight's show - commentary on the Bible and the people it talks about.

GUEST: Thanks for having me.

HOST: What can you tell us about the beginning of David's life?

GUEST: We see here the start of a man faithful and trusting in God, but also one who sometimes resorts to his own ways of dealing with problems. Sometimes relying on himself gets David in trouble.

HOST: What do you mean?

GUEST: David asks Jonathan to lie for him because he fears Saul will kill him. Jonathan does it. David will lie again when Saul is after him. Seventy people will die because of that lie.

HOST: That paints a very different picture of David compared to the mighty hero who killed Goliath with one smooth stone.

GUEST: It does. So does having idols at home.

HOST: Idols?

GUEST: Remember Michal dressed up a household idol to deceive the men coming to get David?

HOST: That's right. One of the reasons we know the Bible is true is that it doesn't paint people as perfect. It shows their flaws and weaknesses.

GUEST: True. A fictional account might leave out or even change things like Peter denying Christ or James and John wanting to call fire down from heaven to kill people. It might leave out these bad things about David.

HOST: Saul seems more like a bad guy in these chapters than God's anointed king.

GUEST: He does. He tries to kill both David and Jonathan. I have to wonder if someone later on told David that Saul tried to kill him off indirectly, using the Philistines and that is where David got the idea to kill Uriah off during a battle.

HOST: Possibly. Saul just keeps getting further and further from God when he tried to fix things his own way rather than let God handle them.

GUEST: True. Saul wants to retain the throne both literally and in his heart. He refuses to let God be in control of his life.

HOST: But David does have his moments when he thoroughly trusts God. Look at the Goliath situation.

GUEST: David was able to see God's protection in his everyday life as a shepherd. He credited God, not himself for victories over wild animals.

HOST: He could see the parallels between himself and his sheep and God as his shepherd, protecting and leading him.

GUEST: Yes. In both words and actions, David credits God and gives him the glory.

HOST: Thanks for coming on the show and we look forward to seeing you next time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Where did David show infinite trust in God? Where did he try to handle things himself?

What should Jonathan done when David asked him to lie?

Why do you think Eliab was so critical of his brother David? How might this relate to primogeniture - the rights of inheritance including titles and hereditary positions belonging to the firstborn child, especially the eldest son?

How does Saul become extremely jealous David? Describe some specific incidents.

Put yourself in Saul's sandals. His daughter and firstborn son both seem to side with David over their own flesh and blood. How do you think he felt? How deeply would that have hurt you if you were in his place?

Jonathan had the same opportunity to face Goliath as David did but instead of becoming jealous of David, he loved and admired him. What does that tel you about his heart? How did primogeniture apply to Jonathan's situation?