

Samuel Anoints David

CHARACTERS: VOG, Samuel, David, Jesse, narrator

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 16

VOG: Samuel, how will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have selected a king from his sons.

SAMUEL: How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me!

VOG: Invite Jesse to your sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for Me the one I indicate to you.”

JESSE: Do you come in peace?

SAMUEL: In peace. I’ve come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.

JESSE: This is my son, Eliab.

SAMUEL: (*aside to audience*) Certainly the Lord’s anointed one is here before Him.

VOG: 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.

JESSE: These are my sons Abinadab and Shammah.

SAMUEL: The Lord hasn’t chosen these.

NARATOR: Samuel met seven sons but not one was the one chosen by God.

SAM: Are these all the sons you have?

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

SAM: Send for him. We won’t sit down to eat until he gets here.

NARATOR: So Jesse sent for him. David had beautiful eyes and a healthy, handsome appearance.

VOG: Anoint him, for he is the one.

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

David in Saul’s Court

CHARACTERS: Narrator, Abner, Saul, Man,

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 16

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

ABNER: You see that an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. Let us 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: Find me someone who plays well and bring him to me.

MAN: 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.

SAUL: Ask Jesse to send me his son David, who is with the sheep.

NARRATOR: David came to Saul and entered his service, Saul admired him greatly, and David became his armor-bearer.

SAUL: Send word to Jesse that I want David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him.

NARR: Whenever the spirit from God troubled Saul, David would pick up his lyre and play, and Saul would then be relieved, feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

David versus Goliath

CHARACTERS: Saul, Goliath, David, narrator,

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 17 & 18

NARR: The Philistines gathered their forces for war, standing on one hill, while the Israelites were standing on another hill with a ravine between them. Their champion named Goliath came out from the Philistine camp.

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

NARR: He was nine feet, nine inches tall and wore 125 pounds of bronze armor.

SAUL: That giant's spear shaft is like a weaver's beam. The iron point of his spear must weigh 15 pounds.

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

NARR: Saul and all Israel heard these words from the Philistine; they lost their courage and were terrified. Every morning and evening for 40 days he challenged the Israelites.

DAVID: King Saul, don't let anyone be discouraged by him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!

SAUL: You can't go fight this Philistine.

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.

SAUL: You're just a youth, and he's been a warrior since he was young.

DAVID: 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. 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."

SAUL: Go, and may the Lord be with you.

NARR: Saul had had his own military clothes, armor and weapons put on David.

DAVID: I can't walk in these. I'm not used to them.

NARR: David took them off. Instead, he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in the pouch, 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

GOLIATH: Come here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts!

DAVID: Today, the Lord will hand you over to me. Today, I'll strike you down, cut your head off, and give the corpses of the Philistine camp 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.

NARR: When the Philistine started forward to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line and put his hand in the bag, took out a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

SAUL: David has defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone.

NARR: David ran, pulled the Philistine's sword from its sheath, and used it to kill him, cutting off his head.

SAUL: The Philistines are fleeing because their hero is dead. Attack!

NARR: The men of Israel and Judah rallied, shouting their battle cry, and Philistine bodies were strewn all along the road to Gath and Ekron.

SAUL: David, you are to stay with me and not return to Bethlehem.

NARR: Jonathon was impressed by David.

JONATHON: Your courage and trust in the Lord amazes me. David, take my robe, along with my military tunic, sword, bow, and my belt. This is a covenant between us.

David's Success

CHARACTERS: Saul, Jonathon, David, Narrator

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 18

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

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

SAUL (*furious*) They credited tens of thousands to David, but they only credited me with thousands. What more can he have but the kingdom?

NARR: The next day an evil spirit sent from God took control of Saul. David was playing the lyre as usual, but Saul was holding a spear.

SAUL: (*raving*) I'll pin David to the wall with this spear!

NARR: David escaped but Saul raved, afraid of David, because the Lord was with David but had left him.

SAUL: (*to himself*) My hand doesn't need to be against him; let the hand of the Philistines be against him. I will make David commander over 1,000 men and he can die in battle.

NARR: But David continued to be successful because the Lord was with him. Israel and Judah loved David because he was leading their troops.

SAUL: Here is my oldest daughter Merab. I'll give her to you 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?

NARR: So Saul wed her to another.

JONATHON: My sister Michal loves David.

SAUL: I'll give her to him. (*aside to self*) She'll be a trap for him, and the hand of the Philistines will be against him.

JONATHON: Look, the king is pleased with you, and all his servants love you. Therefore, you should become the king's son-in-law. Marry Michal.

DAVID: It is no trivial thing to become the king's son-in-law? I am a poor man who is common.

SAUL: The only bride-price you need is to kill 100 Philistine. (*aside to self*) He will die by the hands of the Philistines trying to kill them.

NARR: But David and his men killed 200 Philistines. Saul gave his daughter Michal to David as his wife.

SAUL: (*aside to self*) This is bad. The Lord is with David and that my daughter Michal loves him. I fear David, I do.

NARR: Saul was David's enemy from then on. David was more successful than all of Saul's officers. So his name became well known.

David Delivered from Saul

CHARACTERS: Narrator, David, Jonathon, Saul, Man, Michal

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 19

SAUL: I want David dead!

JJJ: 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 the Philistine, 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: You are right, Jonathon. As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be killed.

NARR: But later, an evil spirit sent from the Lord came on Saul. Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear but David eluded Saul, ran away, and escaped that night.

MICHL: David, if you don't escape tonight, you will be dead tomorrow!

NARR: Michal lowered David from the window, and he fled and escaped. Then she took the household idol and put it on the bed, and covered it with a garment.

MAN: Open up in the name of Saul and hand David over to us.

MICHAL: He cannot come, he is sick.

NARR: They told Saul but Saul sent the agents back to David.

SAUL: Bring him on his bed so I can kill him.

NARR: But instead of finding David, they found, to their surprise, the household idol was on the bed with some goat hair on its head.

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

MICHAL: He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?'

NARR: David fled and escaped to Samuel at Ramah and told him everything Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel left for Natioth.

Jonathan Protects David

CHARACTERS: Narrator, Saul, Jonathan. David

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 20

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

JJJ: 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: Because he 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.

JJJ: If I find out that he is favorable toward you, will I not send for you and tell you? If my father intends to bring evil on you, may God punish Jonathan and do so severely if I do not tell you and send you away so you may go in peace.

DAVID: I will hide in the field. See what your father's attitude is toward me.

JJJ: 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—not even when the Lord cuts off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth

NARR: David hid in the field. Saul became angry when David did not come to the feast and shouted at Jonathan.

SAUL: You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you are siding with Jesse's son to your own shame and to the disgrace of your mother? 31 Every day Jesse's son lives on earth you and your kingship are not secure. Now send for him and bring him to me—he deserves to die.

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

NARR: Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him, so he knew that his father was determined to kill David. He got up from the table grieved because of his father's shameful behavior toward David. In the morning Jonathan went out to the field to meet David.

JJJ: My father is determined to kill you. 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.

NARR: Then David left, and Jonathan went into the city.

David Flees to Nob

CHARACTERS: David, Ahimelech, Saul, Doeg

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 21 &22

NARR: David fled to the priest at Nob.

AHIMELECH: (*fearful*) Why are you alone and no one is with you?

DAVID: The king gave me a mission, but he told me, 'Don't let anyone know anything about the mission I'm sending you on or what I have ordered you to do. I have stationed my young men at a certain place. Now what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread or whatever can be found.'

Ahimelech: There is no ordinary bread on hand. However, there is consecrated bread.

DAVID: The young men's bodies are consecrated today. Do you have a spear or sword on hand? I didn't even bring my sword or my weapons since the king's mission was urgent.

AHH: The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed. If you want to take it for yourself, then take it, for there isn't another one here.

DAVID: There's none like it! Give it to me.

NARR: The priest gave David the consecrated bread, and Doeg, chief of Saul's shepherds witnessed it.

DOEG: Saul, I saw Ahimelech the priest inquire of the Lord for David and gave him provisions. He also gave him the sword of Goliath.

NARR: Meanwhile David became of leader of 400 men including his father's whole family as well as every man who was desperate, in debt, or discontented. He became the leader of those 400 men.

Slaughter of the Priests

CHARACTERS: Ahimelech, Narrator, Saul, Abiathar

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 22

NARR: The king summoned Ahimelech the priest and his father's whole family who were priests in Nob.

Ahimelech: I'm at your service, my lord.

SAUL: Why did you and Jesse's son conspire against me? You gave him bread and a sword and inquired of God for him, so he could rise up against me.

Ahimelech: Who among all your servants is as faithful as David? He is the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard, and honored in your house. Today wasn't the first time I inquired of God for him. Please don't let the king make an accusation against your servant or any of my father's household, for your servant didn't have any idea about all this.

SAUL: Guards! Kill the priests of the Lord because they sided with David. For they knew he was fleeing, but they didn't tell me.

NARR: The king's servants would not so Doeg the Edomite executed them. Only Abiathar the son of Ahimelech escaped.

ABIATHAR: David, Doeg the Edomite executed not only my father and the 85 priests but the whole the city of Nob: men and women, children and infants, oxen, donkeys, and sheep.

DAVID: *(with regret)* I knew that Doeg the Edomite was there that day and that he was sure to report to Saul. I myself am responsible for the lives of everyone in your father's family. Stay with me. Don't be afraid, for the one who wants to take my life wants to take your life. You will be safe with me.

Deliverance at Keilah

CHARACTERS: David, Narrator,

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 23

NARRATOR: When David learned the Philistines were raiding the threshing floors of Keilah, he rescued them. Then Saul summoned all the troops to go to war at Keilah and besiege David and his men.

DAVID: Lord God of Israel, Your servant has heard that Saul intends to come to Keilah and destroy the town because of me. Will the citizens of Keilah hand me over to Saul? Lord God of Israel, please tell Your servant.

VOG: He will.

NARRATOR: David and his 600 men moved from place to place in the wilderness. Saul searched for him every day, but God did not hand David over to him.

JONATHAN: Don't be afraid, for my father Saul will never lay a hand on you. You yourself will be king over Israel, and I'll be your second-in-command. Even my father Saul knows it is true.

DAVID: Let us make covenant in the Lord's presence.

NARRATOR: The two of them made the covenant and Jonathan encouraged David in his faith in God before returning home.

David Spares Saul

CHARACTERS: Narrator, David, Saul

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 24

NARR: David was hiding in a cave from Saul when he had the opportunity to kill him. Instead David only cut off the corner of Saul's robe.

DAVID: My lord the king! Why do you listen to the words of people who say, 'Look, David intends to harm you'?

NARR: David held up the corner of Saul's robe that he had cut.

DAVID: See, my father! Look at the corner of your robe in my hand, for I cut it off, but I didn't kill you. Look and recognize that there is no evil or rebellion in me. I haven't sinned against you even though you are hunting me down to take my life.

SAUL: Is that your voice, David my son? You are more righteous than I, for you have done what is good to me though I have done what is evil to you. When the Lord handed me over to you, you didn't kill me. May the Lord repay you with good for what you've done for me today.

David, Nabal, and Abigail

CHARACTERS: Narrators 1 and 2, Joab, Ashael, David, Nabal, Abigail, Servant, hand maids 1 & 2
 SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 25

NARR: David sent 10 young men to Nabal, a rich man in Carmel, during sheep shearing time.

NARR 2: His wife, Abigail, was intelligent and beautiful, but Nabal was harsh and evil in his dealings.

JOAB: Long life to you, Nabal and peace to you, to your family, and to all that is yours.

ASHAEL: When your shepherds were with us, we did not harass them, and nothing of theirs was missing the whole time they were in Carmel. So let my young men find favor with you. Please give whatever you can afford to your servants and to your son David.

NABAL: Who is David? Am I supposed to take my bread, my water, and my meat that I butchered for my shearers and give them to these men? I don't know where they are from. Get lost.

JOAB: David, Nabal answered us harshly and refused.

DAVID: I guarded everything that belonged to this man in the wilderness for nothing. He was not missing anything, yet he paid me back evil for good. All of you, put on your swords!

SERVANT: Abigail, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he yelled at them. The men treated us well. They were a wall around us, both day and night, the entire time we were herding the sheep. Now consider carefully what you must do, because there is certain to be trouble for our master and his entire family. He is such a worthless fool nobody can talk to him!

ABIGAIL: Pack up 200 loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five butchered sheep, a bushel of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of pressed figs, and load them on donkeys. I will follow you as you deliver them to David.

NARR: As Abigail rode the donkey down a mountain pass hidden from view, she saw David and his men coming toward her and quickly got off the donkey and fell with her face to the ground in front of David.

ABIGAIL: The guilt is mine, my lord, but please let your servant speak to you directly. I, your servant, didn't see my lord's young men whom you sent.

HANDMAID 1: Now my lord, as surely as the Lord lives and as you yourself live,

ABIGAIL: it is the Lord who kept you from participating in bloodshed

HANDMAID 2: and avenging yourself by your own hand.

HANDMAID 1: May your enemies and those who want trouble for my lord be like Nabal.

ABIGAIL: Accept this gift your servant has brought to my lord,

HANDMAID 2: and let it be given to the young men who follow my lord.

ABIGAIL: Please forgive your servant's offense, for the Lord is certain to make a lasting dynasty for my lord because he fights the Lord's battles.

HANDMAID 1: Throughout your life, may evil not be found in you.

DAVID: Praise to the Lord God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today! 33 Your discernment is blessed, and you are blessed. Today you kept me from participating in bloodshed and avenging myself by my own hand. Go home in peace. See, I have heard what you said and have granted your request.”

NARR: In the morning when Nabal was sober Abigail told him what happened. He had a seizure, became paralyzed and 10 days later, the Lord struck Nabal dead.

DAVID: Praise the Lord who championed my cause against Nabal’s insults and restrained me from doing evil. The Lord brought Nabal’s evil deeds back on his own head.

NARR: Then David sent messengers to ask to Abigail to marry him.

NARR 2: She got up quickly, and with her five female servants accompanying her, rode on the donkey following David’s messengers.

NARR: And so she became his wife.

NARR 2: David also married Ahinoam of Jezreel but Saul gave his daughter Michal, David’s wife, to Palti.

David Again Spares Saul

CHARACTERS: Narrator, Saul, David, Abishai

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 26

NARR: Saul, accompanied by 3,000 soldiers went to the wilderness to search for David.

DAVID: “Who will go with me into the camp to Saul?”

ABISHAI: I’ll go with you.

NARR: Saul was asleep in the inner circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground by his head.

ABISHAI: Today God has handed your enemy over to you. Let me thrust the spear through him into the ground just once. I won’t have to strike him twice!

DAVID: Don’t destroy him, for who can lift a hand against the Lord’s anointed and be blameless? Either his day will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. I will never lift my hand against the Lord’s anointed. Instead, take the spear and the water jug by his head, and let’s go.

NARR: No one saw them, no one knew, and no one woke up; they all remained asleep because a deep sleep from the Lord came over them.

DAVID: Abner! Who in Israel is your equal? So why didn’t you protect your lord the king when one of the people came to destroy him? What you have done is not good. Look around; where are the king’s spear and water jug that were by his head?

SAUL: Is that your voice, my son David?

DAVID: “It is my voice, my lord and king. Why are you chasing me? I mean you no harm

SAUL: I have sinned. Come back, my son David, I will never harm you again because today you considered my life precious. I have been a fool! I’ve committed a grave error.

DAVID: Here is the king’s spear; have one of the young men come over and get it. May the Lord repay every man for his righteousness and his loyalty. I wasn’t willing to lift my hand against the Lord’s anointed, even though the Lord handed you over to me today.

SAUL: You are blessed, my son David. You will certainly do great things and will also prevail.

DAVID: Just as I considered your life valuable today, so may the Lord consider my life valuable and rescue me from all trouble.

NARR: David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

David Again Spares Saul

CHARACTERS: Narrators 1 & 2, David, Saul, Abishai, Achish

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 26 & 27

NARR: Saul, accompanied by 3,000 soldiers went to the wilderness to search for David there.

NARR 2: David went to the place where Saul had camped.

ABISHAI: Look, Saul is lying inside the inner circle of the camp with the troops camped around him.

DAVID: Who will go with me into the camp to Saul?

ABISHAI: I'll go with you.

NARR: David and Abishai got right next to Saul because a deep sleep from the Lord came over them.

ABISHAI: Today God has handed your enemy over to you. Let me thrust the spear through him into the ground just once. I won't have to strike him twice!

DAVID: Don't destroy him, for who can lift a hand against the Lord's anointed and be blameless? Either his day will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. However, because of the Lord, I will never lift my hand against the Lord's anointed. Let's go.

NARR: David took the spear and the water jug by Saul's head, and they went their way.

NARR 2: No one saw them, no one knew, and no one woke up; they all remained asleep

NARR: David crossed to the other side and stood on top of the mountain at a distance.

DAVID: Abner! Who in Israel is your equal? So why didn't you protect your lord the king when one of the people came to destroy him? What you have done is not good. As the Lord lives, all of you deserve to die since you didn't protect your lord, the Lord's anointed. Now look around; where are the king's spear and water jug that were by his head?"

SAUL: Is that your voice, my son David?

DAVID: It is my voice, my lord and king. What have I done? What evil is in my hand? None.

SAUL: I have sinned. Come back, my son David, I will never harm you again because today you considered my life precious. I have been a fool! I've committed a grave error.

DAVID: Here is the king's spear; have one of the young men come over and get it. May the Lord repay every man for his righteousness and his loyalty. I wasn't willing to lift my hand against the Lord's anointed, even though the Lord handed you over to me today. Just as I considered your life valuable today, so may the Lord consider my life valuable and rescue me from all trouble.

SAUL: You are blessed, my son David. You will certainly do great things and will also prevail.

NARR 2: Then David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

DAVID: One of these days I'll be swept away by Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape immediately to the land of the Philistines.

NARR: David and his 600 men went to Achish, the king of Gath.

DAVID: If I have found favor with you, let me be given a place in one of the outlying towns, so I can live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?

ACHISH: I give you the city of Ziklag.

Saul and the Medium

CHARACTERS: Narrators 1 & 2, Saul, Witch, David, Samuel

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 28

NARR: The Philistines brought their military units together into one army to fight against Israel.

NARR 2: When Saul saw the Philistine camp, he was afraid and trembled violently.

NARR: He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him in dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets.

SAUL: Find me a woman who is a medium, so I can go and consult her.

NARR 2: Saul disguised himself by putting on different clothes and set out with two of his men.

SAUL: Consult a spirit for me. Bring up for me the one I tell you.

WITCH: You surely know what Saul has done, how he has killed the mediums and spiritists in the land. Why are you setting a trap for me to get me killed?"

SAUL: As surely as the Lord lives, nothing bad will happen to you because of this.

WITCH: Who is it that you want me to bring up for you?

SAUL: Bring up Samuel for me.

NARR: When the witch saw a spirit form coming up out of the earth, she screamed.

WITCH: Why did you deceive me? You are Saul!

SAUL: Don't be afraid. What do you see? What does he look like?

WITCH: An old man is coming up wearing a robe.

SAMUEL Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?

SAUL: I'm in serious trouble. The Philistines are fighting against me and God has turned away from me. He doesn't answer me anymore, either through the prophets or in dreams. So I've called on you to tell me what I should do.

SAMUEL: The Lord has done exactly what He said through me: The Lord has torn the kingship out of your hand and given it to your neighbor David because you did not obey the Lord and did not carry out His burning anger against Amalek. The Lord will also hand Israel over to the Philistines along with you. Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me, and the Lord will hand Israel's army over to the Philistines.

NARR 2: Saul fell flat on the ground. He was terrified by Samuel's words.

Philistine Leaders Reject David

CHARACTERS: Achish, David, Philistine leaders 1 & 2

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 28 & 29

ACHISH: David, you and your men must march out in the army with me to fight against Saul

DAVID: Good, you will find out what your servant can do.

PHILISTINE LEADER: What are these Hebrews doing here?

ACHISH: David has been with me a considerable period of time. From the day he defected until today, I've found no fault with him.

PHILISTINE LEADER: Send that man back and let him return to the place you assigned him. He must not go down with us into battle only to become our adversary during the battle.

PHILISTINE LEADER 2: What better way could he regain his master's favor than with the heads of our men?

ACHISH: David, as the Lord lives, you are an honorable man. I think it is good to have you working with me, because I have found no fault in you from the day you came to me until today. But the leaders don't think you are reliable. Now go back quietly and you won't be doing anything the Philistine leaders think is wrong."

DAVID: From the first day I was with you until today, what have you found against your servant to keep me from going along to fight against the enemies of my lord the king?

ACHISH: I'm convinced that you are as reliable as the Angel of God. But the Philistine commanders have said, 'He must not go into battle with us.' So get up early in the morning and go as soon as it's light.

David's Defeats the Amalekites

CHARACTERS: Narrator, David, Soldier 1 & 2, Abiathar, Egyptian

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 30

NARR: When David and his men reached their city Ziklag, the Amalekites had attacked and burned down it down.

SOLDIER 1: The Amalekites have kidnapped the women and everyone in it from the youngest to the oldest.

SOLDIER 2: (*bitterly*) David is responsible for this. We should stone him.

NARR: David found strength in the Lord his God.

DAVID: Abiathar ask the Lord if I should pursue these raiders. Will I overtake them?

ABIATHAR: The Lord says to pursue them, for you will certainly overtake them and rescue the people.

NARR: David and 600 men pursued them.

SOLDIER 1: 200 of the men are too exhausted continue.

DAVID: Have them stay here with the baggage while the rest of us go on.

SOLDIER 2: We have found an Egyptian, left behind in the open country. He looks half dead.

DAVID: Give him water and something to eat.

SOLDIER 2: Here are some pressed figs and two clusters of raisins.

EGYPTIAN: Thank you. I haven't eaten food or drunk water for three days and three nights.

DAVID: Who do you belong to? Where are you from?

EGYPTIAN: I'm an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite who abandoned me when I got sick three days ago. He was one of those who burned down Ziklag.

DAVID: Will you lead me to these raiders?

EGYPTIAN: Yes, if you will swear to me by God that you won't kill me or turn me over to my master."

DAVID: I agree. Lead us to them.

SOLDIER 1: The Amalekites are eating, drinking, and celebrating because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from us

NARR: David attacked and recovered everything the Amalekites had taken; nothing was missing from the youngest to the oldest, including the sons and daughters,

SOLDIER 2: Because those 200 men with the baggage didn't go with us, we will not give any of the plunder we recovered to them except for each man's wife and children.

DAVID: My brothers, you must not do this with what the Lord has given us. He protected us and handed over to us the raiders who came against us. The share of the one who goes into battle is to be the same as the share of the one who remains with the supplies. They will share equally.

SOLDIER 1: (*to audience*) David established this policy as a law and an ordinance for Israel and it continues to this very day.

SOLDIER 2: It reminds us the battle belongs to the Lord.

DAVID: The Lord is the one who gives victory.

The Death of Saul and His Sons

CHARACTERS: News Anchor, reporter

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 31, 2 Samuel 1

NEWS ANCHOR: The battle with the Philistines is over and they have won. Good evening; you're watching all the news from Israel.

REPORTER: The army of Israel is scattered with many lying dead on Mount Gilboa. King Saul and three of his sons including the crown prince Jonathan are dead. Eye witnesses in Philistine territory report the corpses of these former leaders have been hung on the wall of Beth-shan.

NEWS ANCHOR: Entire cities have been abandoned and the Philistines appear to be settling in them.

REPORTER: This just in – a strike force from Jabesh-gilead has retrieved the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons under the cover of darkness. A burial and fast will be held for seven days.

NEWS ANCHOR: We now take you live to David's camp in Ziklag. A messenger in torn clothes and dust on his head is reporting to David.

DAVID: Where have you come from?

MESS: I've escaped from the Israelite camp. The troops fled from the battle and many are dead. Also, Saul and his son Jonathan are dead.

DAVID: How do you know Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?

MESS: I happened to be on Mount Gilboa as the chariots and the cavalry were closing in on Saul. He begged me, 'Stand over me and kill me, for I'm mortally wounded, but my life still lingers.' So I killed him because I knew that after he had fallen he couldn't survive. I took the crown that was on his head and the armband that was on his arm, and I've brought them here to my lord.

DAVID: Where are you from?

MESS: I'm an Amalekite.

DAVID: How is it that you were not afraid to lift your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed? Your blood is on your own head because your own mouth testified against you by saying, 'I killed the Lord's anointed.'

NEWSANCHOR: David and all the men with him mourned, wept, and fasted for those who died by the sword—for Saul, his son Jonathan, the Lord's people, and the house of Israel.

The Song of the Bow

A choral reading

CHARACTERS: David, all

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 2 Samuel 1

DAVID: The splendor of Israel lies slain on your heights.

ALL: How the mighty have fallen!

DAVID: Jonathan's bow never retreated,

ALL: Saul's sword never returned unstained,

DAVID: from the blood of the slain,

ALL: from the bodies of the mighty.

DAVID: Saul and Jonathan, loved and delightful,

ALL: they were not parted in life or in death.

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DAVID: They were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions.

ALL FEMALES: Daughters of Israel, weep!

ALL: How the mighty have fallen in the thick of battle!

ALL FEMALES: Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

DAVID: I grieve for you, Jonathan, my brother. You were such a friend to me.

ALL: Your love for me was more wonderful than the love of women.

DAVID: How the mighty have fallen and the weapons of war have perished!

Free online games

David in the early years battleship <http://www.quia.com/ba/221878.html>

David the Warrior, David the Fugitive hangman <http://www.quia.com/hm/816300.html>

David the Warrior, David the Fugitive matching <http://www.quia.com/jg/1507643.html>

David becomes king rags to riches <http://www.quia.com/rr/916746.html>

David challenge board 1 <http://www.quia.com/cb/817716.html>

Psalms of David the fugitive rags to riches <http://www.quia.com/rr/918768.html>

Psalms of David unscramble <http://www.quia.com/jw/466712.html>

Psalms of deliverance (2-6) unscramble <http://www.quia.com/jw/465847.html>