

1 Samuel 18 “How God Prepares a King”[\[1\]](#)

Series: “*Learning to Wait on God: The Life of David Before He Became King*”

1 Samuel 16-31

Think about it: "Teach me, Lord, that if I do not live a life that satisfies Thee, I shall not live a life that will satisfy myself." (Puritan prayer in *The Valley of Vision*)

Tonight we are going to continue a series we began a few weeks ago in the book of 1 Samuel. We're investigating the life of David *before* he became king. God made a promise to David in chapter 16 that he would become Israel's next king. In chapter 17 God enabled young David to kill mighty Goliath. In chapter 18, David will discover that the road to the throne will involve in some significant obstacles, not arbitrary obstacles but God-ordained ones that a wise and good God will use to prepare David to be a king.

Review: An Overview of I Samuel

Who's the main character in 1 Samuel? God is, as He is in every part of His self-revelation. He gave us His Word so that we might *know Him*. I encourage you to look for God throughout the book, indeed throughout the Bible. A key question to be asking is: *What does this passage teach us about God?*

Granted, God has chosen people to reveal Himself and accomplish His redemptive plan. Let's take a moment to remind ourselves of the human characters through which He worked in 1 & 2 Samuel...

The Main Human Characters of 1 & 2 Samuel:

*Samuel--born in 1120 B.C.

*Saul

*David--died in 971 B.C.

Thus, I & II Samuel span a period of 150 years.

An Outline of I Samuel:

- I. Israel under the Leadership of Eli (1-2)
- II. Israel under the Leadership of Samuel (3-8)
- III. Israel under the Leadership of Saul (9-15)
- IV. Israel under the Leadership of both Saul & David (16-31)
- V. Israel under the Leadership of David (II Samuel)

Tonight: I Samuel 8 "How God Prepares a King"

How does God prepare a person to be king? We see how He did with David in 1 Samuel. David was anointed to be king in 1 Sam 16, when he was but an obscure, young teenager. Over the next 15 years, God prepared him. Let's look at the process.

The Big Picture: What happened to David in 1 Samuel...

A Preparation Process: How God prepared David to be King

The phases God used to mold David's life...

1. **Obscurity:** As a Shepherd boy
2. **Privilege:** As Saul's musician
3. **Miracle:** The Goliath Experience
4. **Popularity:** Military Campaigns in Saul's army
5. **Opposition:** Hated and hunted by Saul

Discuss: What did David learn in each of these phases of preparation?

A Closer Look: What happened in 1 Samuel 18

Let's look now at the five scenes in 1 Samuel 18...

I. David prospers (1-7)

In the first scene David prospered in three ways...

A. Friendship with Jonathan (1-4)

Read verses 1-4.

Q: What stands out to you about David's relationship with Jonathan?

Q: What is the basis of their friendship? We see three marks here...

1. The right chemistry (1)
2. Commitment (3)
3. Selflessness (4)

Application: What are the marks of a true friend? These same traits are important, aren't they?

B. Military Success (5)

Q: How successful was David? *Whatever* Saul sent him to do...

C. Public Opinion (6-7)

Q: How widespread was this song? See 21:11—the Philistines knew it!

II. Saul goes down hill (8-12)

A. Uncontrolled anger (will get worse, not better; 8)

Q: What bothered Saul?

Note: Anger is an indicator. Anger itself is not sin, not necessarily (see Eph. 4:26). When does anger become sin? What does Saul's anger here indicate about him?

B. Jealousy (9)

Q: Why is Saul so insecure? It goes back to a very basic problem. He is not right with God (15:17-19). He is therefore carrying guilt, God's good gift to tell him to get right with God. But he refuses.

See: Proverbs 28:1 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

C. Evil spirit (10)

God is not the author of evil (see James 1:13). Yet God is sovereign over all. Nothing exists in God's universe if God has not decreed it. Saul has disobeyed God and refused to repent, and now God sends into his life another expression of His grace.

Discuss: How is this 'evil spirit' an expression of God's grace for Saul?

D. Attempted murder (failed twice, 11)

E. Fear and Paranoia (12)

F. The Lord left him (12).

Discuss: First, what does this statement *not* mean? It doesn't mean Saul was saved and lost his salvation. What does it mean? The Spirit came upon him for *service*, but now leaves Saul because Saul's service is ending.

III. More prosperity for David (13-14)

A. Military campaigns (13)

B. The Lord is with him (14)

Note this important phrase, "The Lord was with him" (in v 12 also). What does this mean? Note the contrast with Saul.

IV. More decline for Saul (15-27)

A. More fear (15)

B. Another Murder plot by Saul (17-19)

1. Offer to marry Merab (note 17:25, Saul already reneged once)
2. David declines in humility.

C. Another murder plot (20-27)

1. Offer to marry Michal
2. David victorious over Philistines

D. More Fear (28-29)

E. Became David's enemy (29)

V. More prosperity for David (28-30)

Q: What kind of prosperity? Success after success in battle with the Philistines. Also, a growing reputation of fame amongst the officers and people alike.

Notice the contrast between...

Contrast three characters in 1 Samuel 18:

**Jonathan:*

1. Lost his right to rule, but accepted the fact graciously
2. Submitted to God's plan

**Saul:*

1. Lost his right to rule, but refused to accept the fact
2. Rejected God's plan, and followed his own

**David:*

1. Success from God
2. Humble and gracious response to success

Lessons from 1 Samuel 18:

1. *When you put God first, don't expect everyone to applaud.*
2. *The enemy can destroy us. So can success.*

Discuss: Success destroyed Saul, but not David. What made the difference? How should we respond to success, blessing, and victory?

[\[1\]](#) These are unedited teaching notes used initially for a Wednesday evening Bible study at Wheelersburg Baptist Church . They are provided for your edification as you personally study God's life-changing Word. Pastor Brad Brandt