

June 15–21

1 Samuel 17–18; 24–26; 2 Samuel 5–7

“The Battle Is the Lord’s”



David and Goliath

1Sam 17:32-37

How had David's past experiences prepared him to trust the Lord in this challenge?

Camille N. Johnson

“[David] reflected upon his experience saving lambs from a lion and a bear. And building on those heroic feats, he mustered the faith and courage to let God write his story, declaring, ‘The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.’ With a desire to let God prevail, with an ear to the Holy Ghost and a willingness to let the Savior be the author and finisher of his story, the boy David defeated Goliath and saved his people.” (CR, Oct. 2021)

David and Goliath

1 Sam 17:42-47

What does David mean when he says, “the battle is the Lord’s”?

James E. Faust

"Goliath made sport of David's youth and lack of armament. David responded that he came in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel and that the whole assembly would learn that the Lord saveth not by the sword and the spear, 'for the battle is the Lord's.' Then David threw a rock from his sling with such force and accuracy that the stone sank deep into the forehead of Goliath. Goliath fell to the earth a dying man, and the Philistines fled in fear." (CR, April 1980)

David and Jonathan

1Sam 18:1-4

How did Jonathan respond to the Lord's choosing David to be Israel's next king?

Jeffrey R. Holland

“Jonathan, the son of King Saul, was a valiant soldier in his own right and a worthy young prince in Israel. But when David came onto the scene fresh from his mighty victory over Goliath, having already been anointed by the prophet Samuel, it was he, not Jonathan, who would be successor to the increasingly disobedient Saul.

“To a lesser man—or a lesser friend—than Jonathan, David would have been a terrible threat, a natural rival. But he wasn’t. So great was their devotion to one another that they ‘made a covenant’ of loyalty. As a symbolic token of his devotion to the newly anointed king, Jonathan stripped himself of the princely robe he wore ‘and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.’” (1 Sam. 18:4). (“Real Friendship,” New Era, June 1998)

David and Jonathan

1Sam 18:5-9,12

What caused Saul to become angry and fearful of David?

Ezra Taft Benson

“Saul became an enemy to David through pride. He was jealous because the crowds of Israelite women were singing that ‘Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.’

“The proud stand more in fear of men’s judgment than of God’s judgment. When pride has a hold on our hearts, we lose our independence of the world and deliver our freedoms to the bondage of men’s judgment. The world shouts louder than the whisperings of the Holy Ghost. The reasoning of men overrides the revelations of God, and the proud let go of the iron rod.” (CR, April 1989)

Saul Seeks to Kill David

1Sam 19:1,4-6

What does Jonathan say to defend David, and what can we learn from his example?

Saul Seeks to Kill David

1Sam 19:9-10

JST 1Sam 19:9 And the evil spirit which was not of the Lord was upon Saul...

What can we learn from this passage about how unchecked anger can lead to destructive actions?

Saul Seeks to Kill David

1Sam 22:12-13,17-19

What does this passage teach us about the destructive effects of jealousy, envy, and pride?

Keith Meservy

“Over the years these seeds [of envy] ripened into full bloom as jealousy began to eat away at Saul’s rational powers and move him to seek David’s death.

“Saul subordinated everything else to his all-consuming desire to kill David. Eighty-five priesthood leaders, mistakenly accused of aiding David, were butchered in a pitiless massacre; whenever David’s whereabouts was ascertained, Saul led a personal campaign against him.

“David had succeeded in staying alive, despite Saul’s best efforts to the contrary. Never did he make any effort to avenge the accumulating wrongs committed against him by Saul. The king’s actions were left entirely to the Lord to judge and to reward in his own due time.” (“The Peaceful Life through Reconciliation” Ensign, July 1986)

Saul Seeks to Kill David

1 Sam 24:6-12

Why did David refuse to take revenge on Saul, even when he had the opportunity to do so?

Abraham H. Cannon

We of all people upon the face of the earth should be filled with that love of God which cannot be overcome by the acts of men, even though these acts are injurious to us. We should be able to say when wrong is done us, "The Lord judge between me and thee;" and from our hearts there should be crushed out every feeling of bitterness and hatred; for if we allow a spark thereof to remain, it will rankle, and it will grow as the weed, choking out the good seed and preventing the development of the power of the Spirit of God within us. (Brian H. Stuy, Collected Discourses, vol. 4, Feb 2, 1896)

Saul Seeks to Kill David

1Sam 24:16-20

What does Saul's response teach us about responding to evil with righteousness and mercy?

Saul Seeks to Kill David

2Sam 1:11-12,23-26

How does David's response to Saul's death teach us about forgiveness, loyalty, and love?

James L. Ferrell

“What is striking about David’s response here is that there is almost no difference in his expressed feelings for Saul and for Jonathan. He is devastated by both of their deaths. One would expect him to feel that way about Jonathan, but Saul? How could David’s feelings for one who tried to destroy him be so similar to the feelings he had for one who loved him as his own soul?...

“Few questions are more pertinent to our lives, for who has not felt envious, angry, or embittered toward others? Such feelings seem to haunt our lives, but Jonathan and David suggest that they don’t have to. Their lives testify of a better way.” (The Hidden Christ, pg. 163-165)

David Unites Israelite

2Sam 5:1-3,12

David Unites Israelite

2Sam 6:4-7,17

What does the death of Uzzah teach us about obedience, humility, and trusting in the Lord?

David O. McKay

“It is a little dangerous for us to go out of our own sphere and try unauthoritatively to direct the efforts of a brother. You remember the case of Uzzah who stretched forth his hand to steady the ark. He seemed justified when the oxen stumbled in putting forth his hand to steady that symbol of the covenant. We today think his punishment was very severe. Be that as it may, the incident conveys a lesson of life. Let us look around us and see how quickly men who attempt unauthoritatively to steady the ark die spiritually. Their souls become embittered, their minds distorted, their judgment faulty, and their spirit depressed. Such is the pitiable condition of men who, neglecting their own responsibilities, spend their time in finding fault with others” (CR, Apr. 1936)

David Unites Israelite

2Sam 5:18-24

How did David demonstrate faith in God as he sought victory over Israel's enemies?



- Saul's kingdom
- Territory conquered by David

David Unites Israelite

2Sam 7:1-7

What does this teach us about why it is important to use the best materials and workmanship available when building temples?

Summary

Up to this point in his life, David was a great example of how a follower of Christ should act:

- His great faith when challenging Goliath
- His compassion and forgiveness toward Saul
- His obedience and humility while leading Israel to victory
- His reverence regarding the Ark and building a temple

Next Week:

June 22–28

2 Samuel 11–12; 1 Kings 3; 6–9; 11

“Hear Thou in Heaven Their Prayer”

