

1 Samuel Lesson 33 David's Rise and Saul's Descent Part One

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Jonathan's robe: Jonathan, Saul's son, was a prince in Israel. In the ancient Near East it was deemed a great honor to receive any clothing which had been worn by a sovereign or his eldest son and heir. Jonathan's robe was probably an indication of his royalty.

Thousands and ten thousands: These two numbers are being used in a poetical sense in 18:7 to represent very large numbers.

"he went out and came in before them" a Hebrew phrase which refers to a person leading. It originated with the idea of a shepherd leading a flock.

Key Words:

prosper: Strong's H7919 "sakal": The literal meaning is to be prudent or to act wisely. Since the end result of acting wisely usually involves success of some type the word "sakal" can also be translated as prosper in the sense of having success.

dreaded: Strong's H1481 "gur": to be afraid of; to be intimidated by a stronger or superior being or thing.

raved: Strong's H5012 "naba" The basic meaning is to prophesy (utter words), but in 18:10 it means to rave or exhibit ecstatic speaking that excites to violence

Read I Samuel 18:1-16

In the last lesson we saw David, a humble shepherd from a lowly family, defeat the giant from the Philistine army. Saul, impressed with what David had done, took David from his father's house to be part of his court.

1. In 1 Samuel 18:1;3 we read that David and Saul's son Jonathan are bound together in a covenant relationship based on mutual love Jonathan gave David gifts. What do the gifts that Jonathan gave David in 18:4 reveal about Jonathan's view of who David is and Jonathan's attitude toward him?

2. According to 18:5 how did the Lord use Saul to prosper David? What evidence can we find in this verse regarding David's leadership ability?

3. At first Saul was impressed with David but what happened in 18:6-7 to make Saul change his mind? According to 18:8-9 what were Saul's feelings towards David now?

Application: As Christians why shouldn't we compare ourselves to others? What should we do if we find ourselves being threatened by the success of another?

4. In 18:10-11 we see that Saul's feelings toward David quickly deteriorated to open and violent hostility. This occurred as David began to prosper. According to 18:12 what is the reason for Saul's fear? What does 18:14 say is the reason for David's success?

5. What position does Saul appoint David to in 18:13? How does God take what Saul probably meant for evil (hoping David would be killed in battle) and turn it around for David's good? When we are attacked by an enemy what kinds of blessings can God bring about in our lives?

6. I Samuel is a book of juxtapositions. Contrast the relationship of Jonathan and David with the relationship of Saul and David.

