

THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER 11 – FROM SHEPHERD TO KING

DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God's grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God's expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

Key Events: David anointed as king, David and Goliath, Saul tries to kill David, the death of Saul, David becomes king of Israel

DIGGING IN

- 1) When Samuel went to the home of Jesse and saw his oldest sons he was sure based on what he saw that one of them would be king. The LORD instead told Samuel, "The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (pg 146) Give examples of times when this is an important truth to remember.
- 2) As the youngest son and mere shepherd, David appears to be an unlikely candidate for greatness. From the account of David and Goliath (pages 147-150), what were David's occupational and spiritual qualifications?

Note: On page 151 it records, “The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul.” We read last chapter that the LORD had departed from Saul because he had repeatedly rejected God’s ways for his own ways. That God sent the evil spirit shows that his judgment had already come upon Saul in his lifetime.

- 3) One might expect David would have assumed a “kill-or-be-killed” mentality when Saul tried to take his life. What did David do when he had a chance to kill Saul? Explain what kept David from do it? (pg 153)
- 4) David’s prayer on page 152 is recorded as Psalm 59 in the Bible. Read those words again. How do they explain David’s perseverance in the face of such ongoing trials?
- 5) Saul’s life ended in tragedy and despair. Was his fall sudden or did it happen in small increments? What warning is there for us in the pathetic fall of King Saul?
- 6) David commanded that the Ark of the Covenant be brought to its new home in Jerusalem. Along the way God struck a man named Uzzah dead for touching the ark. Read Numbers 4:15 for insight. What does this episode teach us about God’s character?
- 7) In humility David offered to build a house for God, but instead God promised to build a “house” for David. What specific promises did God make to David? Read Luke 1:32-33. How were these promises ultimately fulfilled?
- 8) David had a single goal (that the God of Israel be glorified) because he had a single love (the God of Israel). What can we do to cultivate a heart like David’s? (We’ll see next chapter how David himself failed in this)

FOR NEXT TIME

Chapter 12: The Trials of a King

Bible Reference: 2 Samuel 11-12; 18-19; 1 Chronicles 22; 29; Psalms 23; 32; 51