

# I Samuel 16-20

---

Historical Books II  
Lecture #7

# I Samuel

## Chapter 16

---

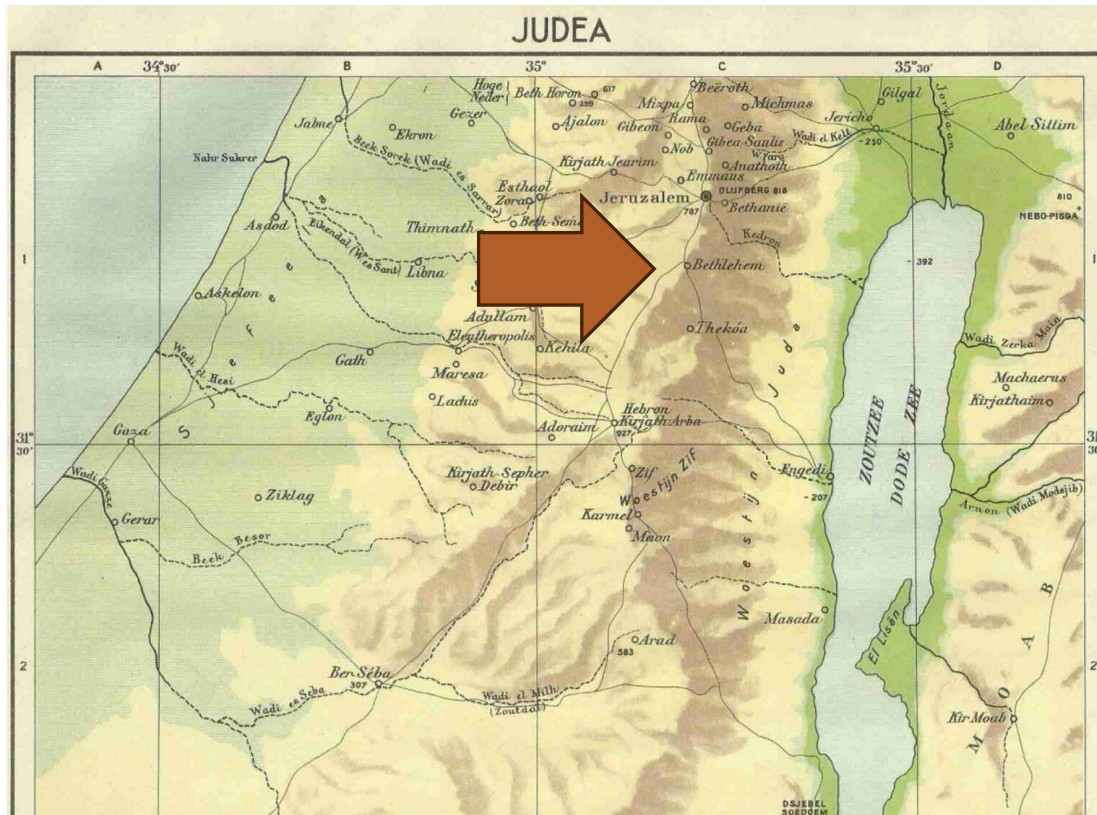
David's Anointing

# Samuel and Saul

- Samuel still mourns for Saul because of his personal and national concerns.
- Saul is increasingly paranoid and unstable.
- Where Samuel boldly confronted Saul in chapter 15, now he fears Saul's retribution.



# Visit to Bethlehem



- Samuel must have made many trips like this to offer sacrifices at various places.
- The family of Jesse is chosen to aid in the feast...
  - ...and to have the next king chosen from their ranks.

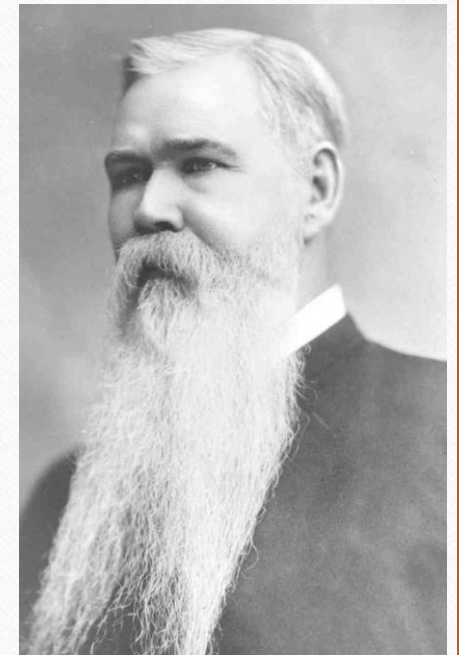
# David

- Eliab may have looked like a king (ala Saul), but David had the heart of a king.
- David is described as:
  - Ruddy – red hair or complexion.
  - Beautiful countenance – big, bright eyes.
  - Goodly to look at – handsome
- David is basically good-looking and personable.



# B.H. Carroll on David

- “The history we are studying makes it evident that Saul had neither the character nor the training to become a great ruler, but David had both. Woe to any of us who under-estimate the knowledge of these three things: (1) a right state of heart toward God, (2) the discipline of preparation and training, and (3) dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **“Only men of great heart, great preparation, and great power with God achieve anything worth while in the ministry.”**





# Psalms



- This is the first writing of Psalms in our study.
- I am following Reese's chronology for their appearances.
- "Apart from the history of David, we cannot understand the Psalms, and apart from the Psalms, we cannot understand the history. A great number of these Psalms, written by David himself, reflect and expound his own life experiences, and forecast the experiences of Christian people of all subsequent generations. Most of the others were written by his singers and their successors. There is for every Psalm an historic occasion and background." – B.H. Carroll
- These first two Psalms speak of the glory of God in nature.
- "In his earliest days the psalmist, while keeping his father's flock, had devoted himself to the study of God's two great books—nature and Scripture; and he had so thoroughly entered into the spirit of these two only volumes in his library that he was able with a devout criticism to compare and contrast them, magnifying the excellency of the Author as seen in both." - Spurgeon

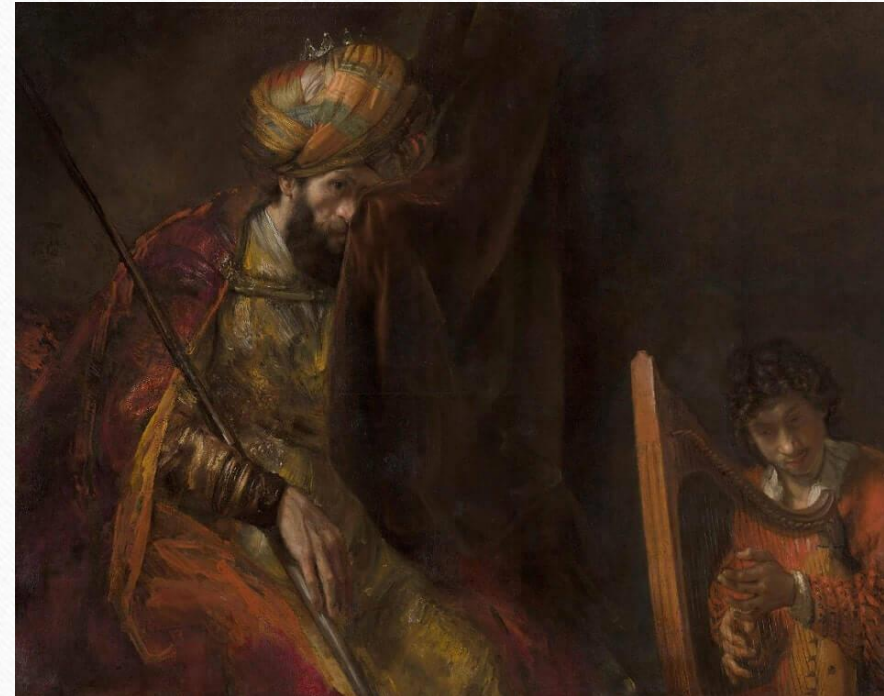
# Diagnosing Saul

- 
- Six references to an “evil spirit” on Saul
    - I Samuel 16:14,15,16,23; 18:10; 19:9
  - Some think this is a demon, referring to the demonic “evil spirits” in the New Testament.
  - However, Saul’s actions are deeply human.
    - Depression? Bipolar?
  - I think there is combination of natural and supernatural.
    - God’s empowering Spirit is removed.
    - Saul is acting in his own strength.
  - “But what about the evil spirit from the Lord? Well, that is deep and mysterious surely. But this is not the only place where such allusions occur. (Job 1:6; 1 Kings 22:19-23.) Some would resolve this whole circumstance into an experience of melancholy on Saul's part, but the narrative clearly speaks of an objective spiritual wicked power that had control over him. But how did this come from the Lord? Only in the same sense that Pharaoh's heart was hardened by the Lord. ‘The Lord gave him over to the power and might of this spirit as punishment for his disobedience and defiant self-will.’” – James Gray



# David and Saul

- Can you imagine what Jesse thought when David was summoned?
- David's playing for Saul is a wonderful illustration of the power of music.





# David's Preparation

---

- (1) his work as a shepherd
- (2) his place in his family
- (3) his supernatural equipping by the Spirit
- (4) his service as a soldier – 16:18
- (5) his time in Saul's court.

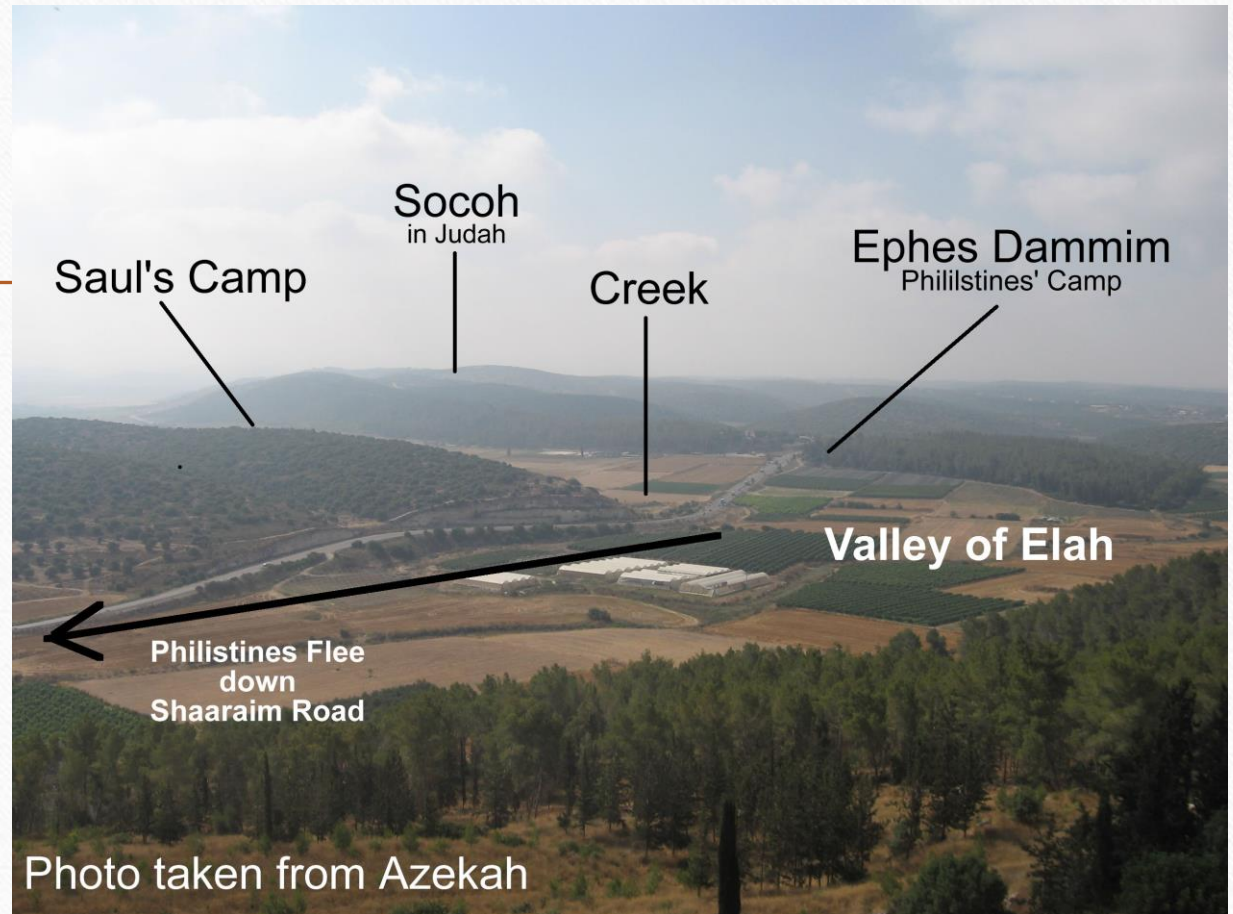
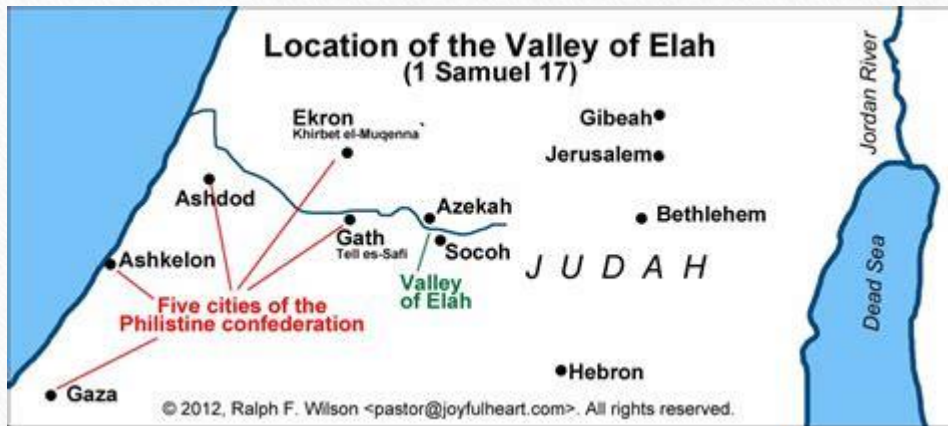
# I Samuel

## Chapter 17

---

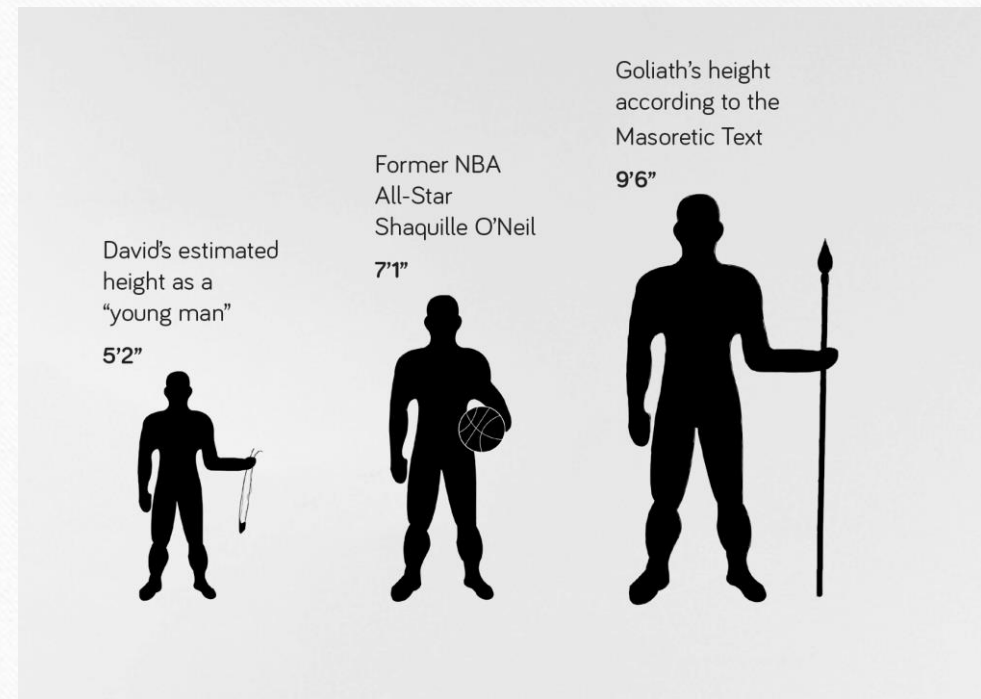
David and Goliath

# Valley of Elah



# Goliath

- Perhaps related to the children of Anak – Numbers 13:33
- How tall?
  - Cubit = ~18 inches
  - Span = ~9 inches
  - So about 9 feet 9 inches
- He is also *massive* to be able to carry his armor and weapons.



# Goliath

---

- An ostrakon found at Tell es-Safi *might* have the name Goliath on it.



# Concerning Brass...

- Some critics today claim the KJV is inaccurate in using the term *brass* instead of *bronze*.
- Brass is a copper-zinc alloy.
- Bronze is a copper-tin alloy
- There is historical and archaeological proof that



## Concerning Brass...

---

- There is historical and proof that brass existed in ancient times.
- The term *brass* originally was generic for any copper alloy (including bronze).
- The fine metallurgical distinction is not present in English until the 1700's.





# Concerning Brass...

---

- Brass by its modern definition existed in ancient times,
- The term brass applied to a broader range of copper alloys before the 1700's.
- This proves the critics wrong on both accounts.
- However, we must be able to admit that what the Bible refers to as brass may by its modern definition not be brass and but instead bronze, which historically and archaeologically is much more prevalent.
- The distinction is so fine that it honestly does not matter very much at all.

# David to the Front!

---

- If anyone should have fought Goliath, it was Saul (who was the tallest man in Israel).
- This does not appear to have been intended as a climatic fight as not all available men have been mustered.
- The man who would fight Goliath was promised:
  - Great Riches
  - Marriage into royal family
  - His family elevated to noble status.

# Preparing for Battle

- Saul allows David to face Goliath.
  - Where's Jonathon? Probably elsewhere.
- David refuses Saul's armor.
- He takes his shepherd's slingshot.



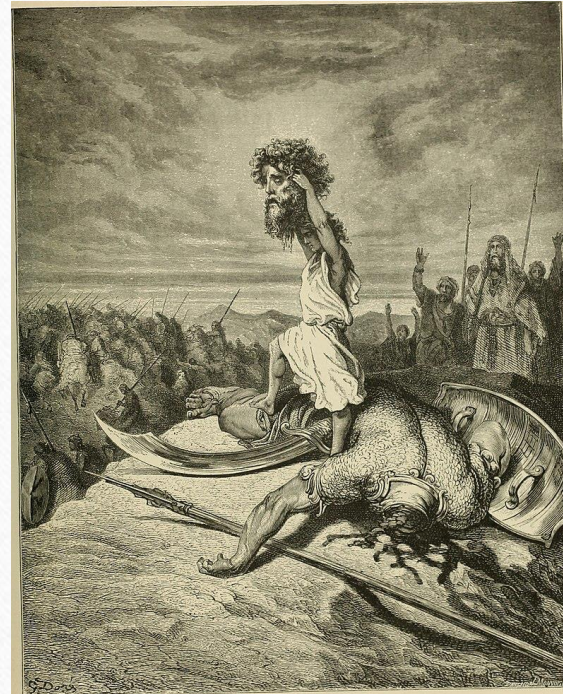
# Down Goes Goliath!



- “The text says that the giant so struck fell on his face. Why did not he fall backwards? It is a notable fact, witnessed a thousand times on the battlefield, and in executing men by shooting, that when the firing squad fires and the bullets enter the man’s heart, he always falls on his face, never backwards. It is one of these natural things that continually creep into Samuel’s narrative that makes one know it is a true story. I have seen thousands of men fall in battle, and I never saw a man shot through the brain or heart that did not fall forward.” - Carroll

# Saul's Inquiry

- Critics claim Saul does not know David because of the question in vs. 55.
- This implies the Biblical chronology is wrong.
- It is absurd – Saul is asking about David's family.



# I Samuel

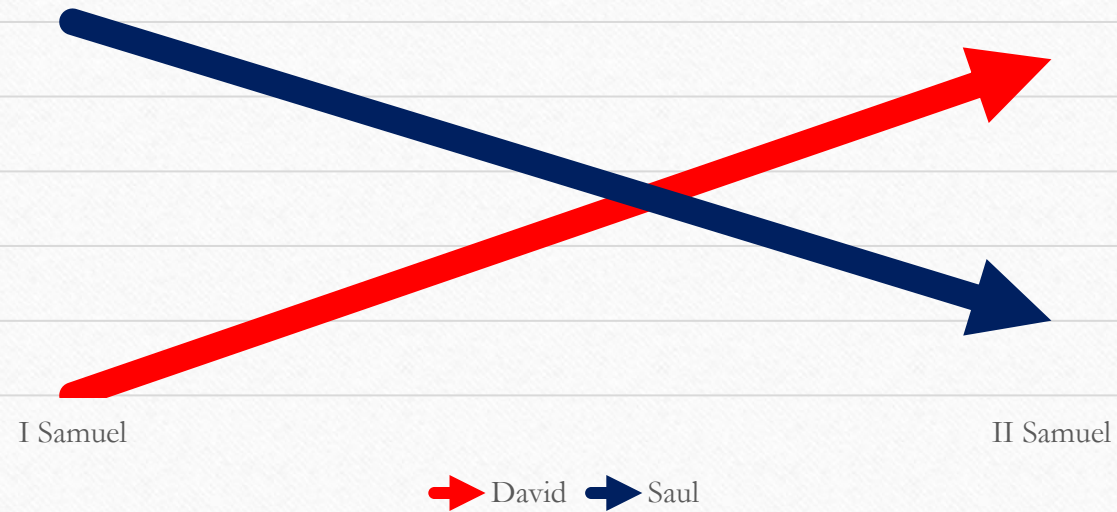
## Chapter 18

---

David in Saul's Court

# Trends

## Popularity of David and Saul



# New Role For David

- David is now a full-time member of the court.
- His friendship with Jonathan begins.
  - It is perverse to read any more into their relationship.





# Saul's Jealousy

- Saul has been king for almost 30 years.
- He knows he will be replaced.
- Saul becomes David's antagonist after his victory over Goliath.



# Saul's Jealousy

- I think Saul's "prophecy" is that he knows David is his successor.
- It is often pointed out that Saul has a spear – used like a royal scepter?
- He attempts to kill David TWICE in vs. 11



# More Traps for David

- David is put in charge of 1,000 soldiers.
  - David becomes a bigger hero!
- Saul asks for a “dowry” for the hand of Michal.
  - David brings double!



# I Samuel

## Chapter 19

---

David's Departure

# The Drama Continues

---

- Jonathan intercedes for David and things improve for a time.
- War returns (vs. 8) and David is a hero again.
- Saul tries to kill him with that spear again.



# A Narrow Escape

- Saul sends assassins to kill David.
- Michal helps David to escape by stalling and pretending David was sick.
  - Note – she uses *teraphim* (likely an idol) as a decoy.
- David will be on the run for almost 10 years.



# Another Narrow Escape

- David is at Naioth (likely in Ramah) with Samuel
- Saul sends messengers (assassins?) three times to kill David, each time they start to prophesy.
- Saul finally goes himself, and he also prophesies.



# I Samuel

## Chapter 20

---

David and Jonathan



# Jonathan's Test

- Jonathan love for David blinds him to his father's hatred for David.
- At the coming feast for the new moon, he would see how Saul responds to David's absence.
- Jonathan will signal to David with arrows.



# The Final Break

- Saul's anger erupts and he tries to kill his own son with that spear.
- Jonathan signals to David the situation.
- David departs.
- David and Jonathan will only meet once more.



I SAM. XX.  
Iam Ionathas animus novit, furiasq; parentis,  
Davidemq; monet jacla sagitta fugae.  
Mutuo nunc sibi cor suprema per oscula tradunt;  
Sic quoq; cor duplex verus amicus habet.  
Ernz Jonathan kennt schon des Vatters Grim und Eherzen,  
warnt David mit dem Pfeil, daß er nicht länger bleib.  
Und redlich geben sie mit finem Kyß die Herzen.  
Es erregt ein wahrer Freund zwey Herzen in den Leib.