

David—Relationship With Saul

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—There are many lessons in the Bible surrounding the history and prophecies of King David of the Old Testament.

Today we will talk about David’s relationship with Saul.

Saul became jealous

When God agreed to give Israel a king, He chose Saul and instructed Samuel to anoint Saul with oil (1 Samuel 10:1).

As we mentioned last week, Samuel anointed David (1 Samuel 16:13), and David was acting only as a king-elect. David was not going to assume responsibility until after Saul died.

David set a marvelous example of dealing with abuse—without taking revenge.

- Saul witnessed David’s popularity, and he became jealous of David (1 Samuel 18:6-9).
- Saul threw a javelin at David twice (verses 10-11).
- On two occasions, Saul sent David into battle hoping that he would perish (1 Samuel 18:17, 21).
- Saul again threw a javelin at David (1 Samuel 19:9-10).
- Saul sought David every day (1 Samuel 23:14).

There are two memorable events that reveal David’s lack of revenge toward Saul.

In the cave

Saul took 3,000 men to capture David (1 Samuel 24:2). When Saul went into a cave to go to the bathroom, David and his men were hiding in the shadows (verse 3).

David’s men encouraged David to take the opportunity to kill Saul (verse 4). David did cut off a piece of Saul’s clothing but felt badly about doing so (verse 5).

Notice David’s words in verse 6.

1 Samuel 24:6—“And he said to his men, ‘The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.’ ”

Into the camp

Later, Saul and his 3,000 men were still trying to capture David (1 Samuel 26:1-4).

David and Abishai crept into the camp at night (verses 5-7). Abishai offered to kill Saul on David’s behalf (verse 8).

Notice David’s words in verses 9-11.

1 Samuel 26:9-11—“And David said to Abishai, ‘Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD’s anointed, and be guiltless?’ David said furthermore, ‘As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish. The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD’s anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go.’ ”

Asked to return

Many people (even some believers) make an erroneous conclusion that, when a person forgives someone, the one doing the forgiving must automatically go back to the previous terms of the relationship.

This is not true.

Notice Saul’s offer for David to rekindle a relationship with Saul.

- Saul said: “I have sinned. Return, my son David” (1 Samuel 26:21).
- David did not accept Saul’s offer (verses 22-24).
- It is my perspective that David forgave Saul.

It is also my perspective that David no longer trusted Saul. Therefore, David kept his distance from Saul.

Although David kept his distance from Saul, when David learned about the death of Saul (2 Samuel 1:1-10) he mourned for him (verses 11-27).