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(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺,  
[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

## 1 Samuel

The Book of 1 Samuel is a historical and religious text in the Old Testament of the Christian Bible. It covers the lives of several key figures in Israelite history, including the prophet Samuel, King Saul, and King David.

The book begins with the story of Samuel's birth and his eventual calling as a prophet. The people of Israel, led by Samuel, ask for a king to rule over them, and God chooses Saul to be the first king of Israel. However, Saul disobeys God's commands and eventually loses favor with God.

David, a shepherd boy, is anointed by Samuel as the future king of Israel. David becomes a close friend of Saul's son, Jonathan, but Saul grows increasingly jealous of David and tries to kill him. David becomes a fugitive, gathering a group of loyal followers around him.

Eventually, Saul dies in battle, and David becomes king of Israel. David's reign is marked by both military victories and personal failures, including his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband. Despite his shortcomings, David is remembered as a great king and a man after God's own heart.

Overall, the Book of 1 Samuel provides an important account of the early history of Israel, including the establishment of the monarchy and the rise of two of Israel's most famous kings. It also illustrates the importance of obedience to God and the consequences of disobedience. , here's a brief overview of each chapter in the Book of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

Chapter 1: Hannah, a barren woman, prays to God for a son and vows to dedicate him to the Lord. She gives birth to Samuel and fulfills her vow by leaving him at the tabernacle with the priest Eli.

Chapter 2: Hannah praises God for answering her prayer and giving her a son. Eli's wicked sons are rebuked for their sinful behavior. Samuel continues to grow in the Lord's presence.

Chapter 3: God speaks to Samuel while he is sleeping, calling him to be a prophet. Samuel responds by saying, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Chapter 4: The Israelites go to battle against the Philistines but are defeated and the Ark of the Covenant is captured. Eli's sons are killed and he dies upon hearing the news.

Chapter 5: The Philistines take the Ark of the Covenant into their own territory, but God sends plagues upon them until they return it to the Israelites.

Chapter 6: The Philistines return the Ark to the Israelites and make offerings to God. The people of Beth-shemesh are punished for looking inside the Ark.

Chapter 7: Samuel leads the Israelites in repentance and prayer, and they defeat the Philistines in battle. The Philistines are subdued and do not invade Israel again during Samuel's lifetime.

Chapter 8: The Israelites ask for a king to rule over them like the other nations, despite Samuel warning them of the consequences. God grants their request and Samuel anoints Saul as king.

Chapter 9: Saul is chosen by God to be king and anointed by Samuel. Saul sets out to find his father's lost donkeys and meets Samuel along the way.

Chapter 10: Samuel publicly anoints Saul as king and gives him instructions from God. Saul's reign begins well, but he disobeys God's commands and loses his favor.

Chapter 11: Saul leads the Israelites in a victory over the Ammonites, and the people confirm him as king.

Chapter 12: Samuel gives a farewell speech to the Israelites, warning them to fear God and obey Him. He also reminds them of their past disobedience and God's faithfulness.

Chapter 13: Saul disobeys God's command by offering a sacrifice and is rebuked by Samuel. The Philistines gather for war against Israel.

Chapter 14: Jonathan, Saul's son, and his armor-bearer defeat a Philistine garrison. The Israelites win a great victory over the Philistines.

Chapter 15: God commands Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites, but Saul disobeys and spares their king and the best of their livestock. Samuel confronts Saul and pronounces God's judgment on him.

Chapter 16: Samuel anoints David as the future king of Israel, and the Spirit of the Lord comes upon him. David serves as Saul's armor-bearer and musician.

Chapter 17: David defeats the giant Philistine warrior Goliath with a slingshot and a stone, becoming a hero among the Israelites.

Chapter 18: David and Jonathan become close friends, but Saul becomes jealous of David and tries to kill him. David marries Saul's daughter Michal.

Chapter 19: Saul continues to try to kill David, who escapes with the help of Michal and Jonathan. Samuel also helps David flee from Saul.

Chapter 20: Jonathan helps David escape from Saul's wrath and they make a covenant of friendship. David and Jonathan say their goodbyes and part ways.

Chapter 21: David goes to the priest Ahimelech and receives bread and a sword, claiming to be on a secret mission for Saul. David flees to Gath, where he is recognized and pretends to be insane to escape.

Chapter 22: David gathers a group of followers and becomes their leader. Saul orders the execution of Ahimelech and his family for helping David.

Chapter 23: David saves the city of Keilah from the Philistines, but learns that Saul plans to attack him there. David escapes and continues to evade Saul.

Chapter 24: David has an opportunity to kill Saul but spares his life, showing mercy and respect for God's anointed king.

Chapter 25: David's men ask for provisions from a wealthy man named Nabal, but he refuses. Abigail, Nabal's wise and beautiful wife, intervenes and gives David the supplies he needs.

Chapter 26: David has another opportunity to kill Saul but chooses to spare his life again, showing honor and loyalty to God's anointed king.

Chapter 27: David and his men live among the Philistines and raid neighboring towns, deceiving the Philistine king Achish.

Chapter 28: Saul, desperate for guidance in battle against the Philistines, consults a medium to summon the spirit of the deceased prophet Samuel. Samuel's spirit predicts Saul's defeat and death.

Chapter 29: David and his men are prepared to fight alongside the Philistines against Israel, but are sent away by Achish.

Chapter 30: David's camp is raided by the Amalekites, and his wives and possessions are taken. David and his men pursue and defeat the Amalekites, recovering everything that was taken.

Chapter 31: Saul and his sons are killed in battle against the Philistines on Mount Gilboa. The Philistines display Saul's body on the wall of Beth-shan, and the men of Jabesh-gilead retrieve and bury it. David becomes king over Judah.

## 1 SAMUEL

### CHAPTER 1

1Sa. 1:1 There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite [Or from Ramathaim Zuphim] from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

1Sa. 1:2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

1Sa. 1:3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD.

1Sa. 1:4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters.

1Sa. 1:5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb.

1Sa. 1:6 And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her.

1Sa. 1:7 This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.

1Sa. 1:8 Elkanah her husband would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

1Sa. 1:9 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. [That is, tabernacle]

1Sa. 1:10 In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD.

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1Sa. 1:11 And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

1Sa. 1:12 As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth.

1Sa. 1:13 Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk

1Sa. 1:14 and said to her, "How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine."

1Sa. 1:15 "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD.

1Sa. 1:16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."

1Sa. 1:17 Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."

1Sa. 1:18 She said, "May your servant find favour in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

1Sa. 1:19 Early the next morning they arose and worshipped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

1Sa. 1:20 So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, [Samuel sounds like the Hebrew for heard of God.] saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

1Sa. 1:21 When the man Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfil his vow,

1Sa. 1:22 Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always."

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1Sa. 1:23 "Do what seems best to you," Elkanah her husband told her. "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the LORD make good his [Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint and Syriac your] word." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

1Sa. 1:24 After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, [Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint and Syriac; Masoretic Text with three bulls] an ephah [That is, probably about 3/5 bushel (about 22 litres)] of

flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh.

1Sa. 1:25 When they had slaughtered the bull, they brought the boy to Eli,

1Sa. 1:26 and she said to him, "As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD.

1Sa. 1:27 I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him.

1Sa. 1:28 So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he shall be given over to the LORD." And he worshipped the LORD there.

Chapter 1 introduces us to a man named Elkanah who lived in Ramathaim-Zophim, a town in the hill country of Ephraim. Elkanah had two wives, Peninnah and Hannah, but Hannah was unable to have children. Every year, Elkanah would take his family to the tabernacle in Shiloh to offer sacrifices to the Lord. On one of these trips, Hannah was so distraught about her inability to have children that she wept and refused to eat. In her distress, Hannah prayed to the Lord, promising that if he gave her a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord's service for his entire life. Eli the priest was sitting nearby and observed Hannah's prayer. He thought she was drunk and rebuked her, but Hannah explained her situation to him. Eli then blessed Hannah and told her that the Lord had heard her prayer.

After returning home, Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son named Samuel, which means "asked of God." When Samuel was weaned, Hannah brought him to the tabernacle in Shiloh and presented him to Eli, reminding him of her vow to dedicate her son to the Lord. Samuel would live there and serve the Lord under Eli's guidance.

Chapter 1 sets the stage for the story of Samuel and his role in Israel's history. It also introduces important themes, such as the power of prayer and the idea of dedicating oneself to God's service. Additionally, the story of Hannah illustrates the pain and stigma associated with infertility in ancient times, and the importance of having compassion and empathy for those struggling with such issues.

Here are some important verses in chapter 1 of the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible:

1. "There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite." (1 Samuel 1:1)
2. "But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb." (1 Samuel 1:5)
3. "In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly." (1 Samuel 1:10)

These verses describe the introduction of Hannah, who was barren and deeply distressed about her inability to have children. She prayed to the Lord for a child and made a vow to dedicate her child to the Lord if he granted her request. The story of Hannah's prayer and her eventual blessing with a son, Samuel, is a powerful testament to the faithfulness of God and the power of prayer.

1 Samuel chapter 1 introduces us to the story of Hannah, a woman who deeply desires to have a child. However, she is barren, and her husband's other wife, Peninnah, frequently taunts and provokes her because of her infertility. In the midst of her pain and anguish, Hannah turns to the Lord in prayer, pouring out her heart and seeking His intervention.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the power of persistent prayer. Hannah's prayer is heartfelt and sincere. She vows to dedicate her child to God if He grants her the blessing of motherhood. Her prayer is not a mere recitation of words; it is a deep and intimate conversation with God. This chapter reminds us that we can bring our deepest longings and struggles before the Lord, trusting that He hears us and cares about our pain.

Another important aspect to note is Hannah's faithfulness and trust in God's plan. Despite the years of disappointment and the emotional distress caused by Peninnah, Hannah remains steadfast in her belief that God can change her circumstances. She demonstrates a resilient faith, choosing to rely on God's faithfulness rather than succumbing to despair or bitterness. This serves as a reminder for us to hold on to our faith, even in the face of adversity, knowing that God is at work in our lives and His timing is perfect.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 1 highlights the significance of surrendering our desires and dreams to God. When Eli, the priest, misunderstands Hannah's prayer and accuses her of being drunk, she humbly explains her situation and her deep longing for a child. Eli blesses her and prays that God grants her request. In due time, Hannah conceives and gives birth to a son, Samuel, whom she joyfully dedicates to God as she had vowed. This act of surrender demonstrates Hannah's recognition that her child is ultimately a gift from God and that her primary responsibility is to honor Him.

In our own lives, this chapter prompts us to examine our desires and dreams. Are we willing to surrender them to God, trusting His plan and purpose? Are we open to His leading and willing to dedicate our gifts and blessings back to Him? Hannah's story challenges us to consider the posture of our hearts and to seek God's will above our own.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 1 offers valuable insights into the power of persistent prayer, the importance of unwavering faith, and the significance of surrendering our desires to God. Through Hannah's example, we are encouraged to approach God with honesty and vulnerability, trusting in His faithfulness and surrendering our lives to His divine purposes.

## CHAPTER 2

1Sa. 2:1 Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn [Horn here symbolises strength; also in verse 10.] is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.

1Sa. 2:2 “There is no-one holy [Or no Holy One] like the LORD; there is no-one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

1Sa. 2:3 “Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.

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1Sa. 2:4 “The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength.

1Sa. 2:5 Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry hunger no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.

1Sa. 2:6 “The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave [Hebrew Sheol] and raises up.

1Sa. 2:7 The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.

1Sa. 2:8 He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honour. “For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s; upon them he has set the world.

1Sa. 2:9 He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness. “It is not by strength that one prevails;

1Sa. 2:10 those who oppose the LORD will be shattered. He will thunder against them from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth. “He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

1Sa. 2:11 Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the LORD under Eli the priest.

1Sa. 2:12 Eli’s sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD.

1Sa. 2:13 Now it was the practice of the priests with the people that whenever anyone offered a sacrifice and while the meat was being boiled, the servant of the priest would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand.

1Sa. 2:14 He would plunge it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot, and the priest would take for himself whatever the fork brought up. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh.

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1Sa. 2:15 But even before the fat was burned, the servant of the priest would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, “Give the priest some meat to roast; he won’t accept boiled meat from you, but only raw.”

1Sa. 2:16 If the man said to him, “Let the fat be burned up first, and then take whatever you want,” the servant would then answer, “No, hand it over now; if you don’t, I’ll take it by force.”

1Sa. 2:17 This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD’s



sight, for they [Or men] were treating the LORD's offering with contempt.

1Sa. 2:18 But Samuel was ministering before the LORD — a boy wearing a linen ephod.

1Sa. 2:19 Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.

1Sa. 2:20 Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home.

1Sa. 2:21 And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

1Sa. 2:22 Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.

1Sa. 2:23 So he said to them, “Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours.

1Sa. 2:24 No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the LORD's people.

1Sa. 2:25 If a man sins against another man, God [Or the judges] may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?” His sons, however, did not listen to  
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their father's rebuke, for it was the LORD's will to put them to death.

1Sa. 2:26 And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favour with the LORD and with men.

1Sa. 2:27 Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Did I not clearly reveal myself to your father's house when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh?

1Sa. 2:28 I chose your father out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your father's house all the offerings made with fire by the Israelites.

1Sa. 2:29 Why do you [The Hebrew is plural.] scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honour your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?’

1Sa. 2:30 “Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that your house and your father's house would minister before me for ever.’ But now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from me! Those who honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained.

1Sa. 2:31 The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and



the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your family line

1Sa. 2:32 and you will see distress in my dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, in your family line there will never be an old man.

1Sa. 2:33 Every one of you that I do not cut off from my altar will be spared only to blind your eyes with tears and to grieve your heart, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.

1Sa. 2:34 “And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you — they will both die on the same day.

1Sa. 2:35 I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly  
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establish his house, and he will minister before my anointed one always.

1Sa. 2:36 Then everyone left in your family line will come and bow down before him for a piece of silver and a crust of bread and plead, “Appoint me to some priestly office so that I can have food to eat.”“

Chapter 2 begins with a prayer of thanksgiving from Hannah, Samuel's mother, to the Lord for answering her prayer and giving her a son. In her prayer, Hannah praises the Lord's power and sovereignty, and acknowledges that every good thing in life comes from God.

The chapter then shifts to Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who are serving as priests in the tabernacle in Shiloh. They are described as corrupt and sinful, taking advantage of their position to steal from the offerings and sleep with the women who served at the entrance to the tabernacle. Eli confronts his sons about their behavior, but they do not listen to him.

A man of God visits Eli and delivers a message from the Lord, condemning Eli and his family for their sins and announcing that their priesthood will be taken away from them. The man also prophesies the rise of a new priest who will be more faithful and obedient to God.

The rest of the chapter describes the contrast between Samuel, who is growing up in the tabernacle under Eli's guidance, and Hophni and Phinehas, who continue to sin and disrespect the Lord. Samuel is described as growing in stature and in favor with both the Lord and the people. The chapter ends with a prophecy of judgment against Eli's family and a promise of blessing for the faithful.

Chapter 2 continues the theme of God's power and sovereignty, and contrasts the faithfulness of Samuel with the sinfulness of Eli's sons. It also introduces the idea of prophetic messages and divine judgment, which will be recurring themes throughout the book.

Here are some important verses in chapter 2 of the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible:

1. "Then Hannah prayed and said: 'My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.'" (1 Samuel 2:1)
2. "Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed." (1 Samuel 2:3)
3. "Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away." (1 Samuel 2:5)

These verses continue the story of Hannah's prayer and gratitude to God for blessing her with a son, Samuel. The chapter also introduces the character of Eli, the priest who initially mistook Hannah's fervent prayer for drunkenness. Eli's sons, who were corrupt and disobedient, are also described in this chapter, as well as the prophetic warning they received. Additionally, the chapter contains some powerful statements about God's sovereignty and justice.

1 Samuel chapter 2 contains a powerful prayer of Hannah, expressing her gratitude and praise to God after the birth of her son, Samuel. This chapter also contrasts the character of Hannah with the corrupt behavior of Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who serve as priests in the tabernacle.

One of the main themes that emerge from this chapter is the faithfulness and sovereignty of God. Hannah's prayer exalts God for His holiness, power, and knowledge. She acknowledges that every good thing in her life, including the gift of Samuel, comes from God. Hannah's prayer reminds us of the importance of recognizing and acknowledging God's faithfulness and provision in our own lives. It encourages us to cultivate a spirit of gratitude and praise, knowing that all blessings flow from His loving hand.

Furthermore, this chapter highlights the contrast between the righteous and the wicked. Hophni and Phinehas, despite being born into a privileged position as priests, are depicted as corrupt and immoral. They disregard the sacredness of their role and engage in sinful practices, taking advantage of the offerings brought to the Lord's house. In contrast, Hannah, a woman of humility and integrity, offers her child back to God, honoring her vow and prioritizing her commitment to Him.

Through this stark contrast, we are reminded of the importance of living a life of righteousness and obedience to God's commands. The actions of Hophni and Phinehas serve as a cautionary tale, warning us against the dangers of abusing authority and compromising our integrity. It challenges us to examine our own lives and ensure that our actions align with God's standards of righteousness.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 2 emphasizes God's ability to exalt the humble and bring down the proud. Hannah's song acknowledges that God has the power to reverse human fortunes and bring justice to the oppressed. She celebrates the fact that God lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things, while the rich and mighty are brought low.

This chapter encourages us to trust in God's justice and to have faith in His ultimate plan. It reminds us that our worth and significance are not determined by worldly standards but by God's grace and favor. It calls us to seek humility and to place our trust in God, knowing that He is the one who ultimately lifts us up and provides for our needs.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 2 invites us to reflect on the faithfulness and sovereignty of God, the importance of living a life of righteousness and integrity, and the power of humility and trust in God's plan. Through the contrasting examples of Hannah and Eli's sons, we are challenged to examine our own lives and strive to honor God in all that we do. May we, like Hannah, offer prayers of gratitude and praise to the Lord, and may our lives reflect His righteousness and grace.

### CHAPTER 3

1Sa. 3:1 The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

1Sa. 3:2 One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.

1Sa. 3:3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple [That is, tabernacle] of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

1Sa. 3:4 Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am."

1Sa. 3:5 And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

1Sa. 3:6 Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

1Sa. 3:7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

1Sa. 3:8 The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realised that the LORD was calling the boy.

1Sa. 3:9 So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

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1Sa. 3:10 The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

1Sa. 3:11 And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle.

1Sa. 3:12 At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke

against his family — from beginning to end.

1Sa. 3:13 For I told him that I would judge his family for ever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, [Masoretic Text; an ancient Hebrew scribal tradition and Septuagint sons blasphemed God] and he failed to restrain them.

1Sa. 3:14 Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, `The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'“

1Sa. 3:15 Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision,

1Sa. 3:16 but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.” Samuel answered, “Here I am.”

1Sa. 3:17 “What was it he said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.”

1Sa. 3:18 So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes.”

1Sa. 3:19 The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of his words fall to the ground.

1Sa. 3:20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognised that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD.

1Sa. 3:21 The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

Chapter 3 begins with Samuel serving as a young boy in the tabernacle under Eli's guidance. One night, while Samuel was sleeping, the Lord called out to him by name. Thinking it was Eli, Samuel went to him and asked what he wanted. Eli told Samuel he had not called him and instructed him to go back to bed. This happened two more times, and each time Eli told Samuel it was not him and to go back to sleep.

Finally, the Lord called out to Samuel a fourth time, and Samuel responded by saying "Speak, for your servant is listening." The Lord then spoke to Samuel, telling him that he was going to judge Eli's family because of their sins and that he had chosen Samuel to be his prophet. The Lord's message was a difficult one for Samuel to hear, but he was faithful and relayed the message to Eli the next morning.

From that day forward, Samuel continued to grow in his prophetic abilities, and the Lord continued to reveal himself to him. People throughout Israel began to recognize Samuel as a prophet of the Lord, and he became known throughout the land.

Chapter 3 emphasizes the importance of listening for and responding to God's voice, even when it may be difficult to hear or understand. It also highlights the role of prophecy in Israel's history and the power of God's word to bring judgment and restoration. The chapter sets the stage for Samuel's prophetic ministry and his important role in guiding Israel through some of its most significant moments.

Here are some important verses in chapter 3 of the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible:

1. "The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions." (1 Samuel 3:1)
2. "Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, 'Here I am.'" (1 Samuel 3:4)
3. "The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word." (1 Samuel 3:21)

These verses describe the call of Samuel, who was a boy serving under Eli in the temple. Samuel initially mistook the voice of God for that of Eli, but after three calls from the Lord, he realized who was speaking to him. The chapter highlights the significance of Samuel's prophetic role and the importance of listening to and obeying God's voice. Additionally, the chapter provides insight into the spiritual climate of Israel during this time, emphasizing the rarity of divine communication and the spiritual decline of the priesthood.

1 Samuel chapter 3 recounts the well-known story of Samuel, the young boy who hears the voice of God speaking to him in the night. This chapter is significant because it marks a pivotal moment in Samuel's life and establishes him as a prophet of God.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the importance of hearing and responding to God's voice. The narrative begins with Samuel, who is serving under Eli the priest, lying down in the temple. In the silence of the night, Samuel hears a voice calling his name. Initially, Samuel mistakes the voice for that of Eli, but after Eli realizes it is the Lord who is calling Samuel, he instructs Samuel to respond, saying, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

This interaction between Samuel and God serves as a reminder that God desires to speak to His people, and He often does so in ways that may surprise us. It requires attentiveness and openness on our part to recognize His voice amidst the noise and distractions of life. Just as Samuel had to learn to discern and respond to God's call, we too need to cultivate a listening heart, ready to hear and obey God's instructions.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 3 highlights the importance of humility and obedience in our relationship with God. Samuel demonstrates both of these qualities throughout the chapter. When Eli reveals that it is God who is calling Samuel, Samuel humbly positions himself as God's servant, ready to listen and obey. He receives a message from God that contains a difficult prophecy against Eli's household, and yet Samuel faithfully delivers the message to Eli without hesitation.

Samuel's example challenges us to examine our own response to God's calling in our lives. Are we willing to humble ourselves before Him, acknowledging our role as His servants? Are we obedient to His instructions, even when they are difficult or go against our own desires? The story of Samuel reminds us that true spiritual growth and maturity come through a posture of humility and obedience to God's will.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 3 teaches us about the faithfulness and persistence of God in pursuing a relationship with us. Despite the spiritual decline and corruption in Israel during that time, God continues to call Samuel and reveal His plans. God's voice breaks

through the darkness of the night, calling Samuel by name, and ultimately establishes Samuel as a prophet who will play a crucial role in Israel's history.

This chapter encourages us to trust in God's faithfulness and to be attentive to His calling in our own lives. It reminds us that God never stops seeking a relationship with His people, even in the midst of challenging circumstances or personal struggles. We are invited to respond like Samuel did, saying, "Speak, for your servant is listening," and to embrace the calling and purpose that God has for each of us.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 3 reminds us of the importance of hearing and responding to God's voice, the significance of humility and obedience in our relationship with Him, and the faithfulness and persistence of God in pursuing us. May we cultivate hearts that are attuned to God's voice, ready to listen and obey, and may we embrace the calling and purpose that He has for each of our lives.

#### CHAPTER 4

1Sa. 4:1 And Samuel's word came to all Israel. Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek.

1Sa. 4:2 The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield.

1Sa. 4:3 When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the LORD bring defeat upon us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh, so that it [Or he] may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies."

1Sa. 4:4 So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

1Sa. 4:5 When the ark of the LORD's covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook.

1Sa. 4:6 Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, "What's all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?" When they learned that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp,

1Sa. 4:7 the Philistines were afraid. "A god has come into the camp," they said. "We're in trouble! Nothing like this has happened before.

1Sa. 4:8 Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the desert.

1Sa. 4:9 Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!"

1Sa. 4:10 So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and

every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers.

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1Sa. 4:11 The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

1Sa. 4:12 That same day a Benjamite ran from the battle line and went to Shiloh, his clothes torn and dust on his head.

1Sa. 4:13 When he arrived, there was Eli sitting on his chair by the side of the road, watching, because his heart feared for the ark of God. When the man entered the town and told what had happened, the whole town sent up a cry.

1Sa. 4:14 Eli heard the outcry and asked, "What is the meaning of this uproar?" The man hurried over to Eli,

1Sa. 4:15 who was ninety-eight years old and whose eyes were set so that he could not see.

1Sa. 4:16 He told Eli, "I have just come from the battle line; I fled from it this very day." Eli asked, "What happened, my son?"

1Sa. 4:17 The man who brought the news replied, "Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured."

1Sa. 4:18 When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backwards off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man and heavy. He had led [Traditionally judged] Israel for forty years.

1Sa. 4:19 His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labour and gave birth, but was overcome by her labour pains.

1Sa. 4:20 As she was dying, the women attending her said, "Don't despair; you have given birth to a son." But she did not respond or pay any attention.

1Sa. 4:21 She named the boy Ichabod, [Ichabod means no glory.] saying, "The glory has departed from Israel" — because of

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the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband.

1Sa. 4:22 She said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

Chapter 4 begins with the Israelites going to war against the Philistines. They bring the Ark of the Covenant, which represents the presence of God, with them to the battlefield, hoping that it will bring them victory. However, the Philistines defeat them in battle, killing 4,000 Israelites.



The Israelites are confused and distraught, and they decide to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the battle in the hopes that it will help them win. When the Philistines see that the Israelites have brought the Ark, they become afraid and fight even harder. The Israelites are once again defeated, and the Philistines capture the Ark and kill Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas.

When Eli hears the news, he falls over and dies. His daughter-in-law, who was pregnant and about to give birth, hears the news and goes into labor. She gives birth to a son and names him Ichabod, meaning "the glory has departed," because she believes that the Lord has left Israel.

Chapter 4 is a tragic chapter in Israel's history, as the Ark of the Covenant is captured and Eli's family is punished for their sins. It also serves as a warning about the dangers of taking God's presence for granted and trying to manipulate his power for our own purposes. The chapter sets the stage for the rise of Samuel as Israel's new prophet and leader, as the nation begins to look for a way to return to the Lord and regain his favor.

Here are some important verses in chapter 4 of the book of 1 Samuel in the Bible:

1. "And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek." (1 Samuel 4:1)
2. "When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, 'Why did the Lord bring defeat on us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh, so that he may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies.'" (1 Samuel 4:3)
3. "So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell." (1 Samuel 4:10)

These verses describe the Israelites' defeat at the hands of the Philistines and their decision to bring the ark of the covenant into battle, believing that it would guarantee their victory. However, their actions were based on superstition rather than genuine faith in God, and as a result, they suffered a devastating defeat. The chapter highlights the consequences of treating God's presence as a good luck charm rather than recognizing the need for genuine repentance and faith in Him. Additionally, it sets the stage for the subsequent chapters, which detail the consequences of the Israelites' disobedience and the rise of Samuel as a prophet and judge.

1 Samuel chapter 4 recounts the events surrounding the Israelites' defeat at the hands of the Philistines and the capture of the Ark of the Covenant. This chapter serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of misplaced faith, presumption, and the consequences of disobedience.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the importance of genuine devotion and obedience to God. The Israelites, after suffering a defeat in battle against the Philistines, decide to bring the Ark of the Covenant—a symbol of God's presence—into the battle, presuming that it would guarantee victory. However, they approach the situation with a superstitious mindset, treating the Ark as a good luck charm rather than acknowledging the need for true repentance and submission to God's will.

The defeat that follows serves as a reminder that genuine devotion to God goes beyond external rituals and symbols. It requires a sincere heart, a life that aligns with His commands, and a willingness to seek His guidance and wisdom. The chapter challenges us to examine our own faith and ensure that it is grounded in a genuine relationship with God, rather than relying on empty religious practices or outward displays.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 4 highlights the consequences of disobedience and the danger of presuming upon God's favor. The Israelites assumed that the presence of the Ark would guarantee victory, even though they had not sought God's counsel or addressed the sins in their midst. As a result, they suffered a severe defeat, and the Ark was captured by the Philistines.

This chapter serves as a warning against presuming upon God's grace or taking His presence and favor for granted. It reminds us that obedience and reverence for God's commands are essential components of our relationship with Him. When we ignore His instructions or live in rebellion, we risk experiencing the consequences of our actions. It calls us to examine our own lives and ensure that we are actively pursuing obedience to God's Word and seeking His guidance in all that we do.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 4 teaches us about God's sovereignty and His ability to bring about justice and redemption even in the face of defeat. Despite the capture of the Ark and the apparent triumph of the Philistines, God ultimately reveals His power and authority by afflicting the Philistine cities with plagues. He brings humiliation upon the false gods of the Philistines and restores the Ark to His people in due time.

This chapter encourages us to trust in God's sovereignty and to remember that He is in control, even in the midst of difficult and seemingly hopeless situations. It reminds us that God can use even our failures and defeats to bring about His purposes and to display His glory. It calls us to place our faith and trust in Him, knowing that He is the ultimate victor over all powers and principalities.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 4 serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of misplaced faith, presumption, and disobedience. It reminds us of the importance of genuine devotion and obedience to God, the consequences of taking His presence for granted, and the assurance of His sovereignty and redemptive power. May we seek to cultivate hearts that are truly devoted to God, rooted in obedience to His Word, and fully reliant on His guidance and grace.

## CHAPTER 5

1Sa. 5:1 After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.

1Sa. 5:2 Then they carried the ark into Dagon's temple and set it beside Dagon.

1Sa. 5:3 When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there

was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place.

1Sa. 5:4 But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD!

His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained.

1Sa. 5:5 That is why to this day neither the priests of Dagon nor any others who enter Dagon's temple at Ashdod step on the threshold.

1Sa. 5:6 The LORD's hand was heavy upon the people of Ashdod and its vicinity; he brought devastation upon them and afflicted them with tumours. [Hebrew; Septuagint and Vulgate tumours. And rats appeared in their land, and death and destruction were throughout the city]

1Sa. 5:7 When the men of Ashdod saw what was happening, they said, "The ark of the god of Israel must not stay here with us, because his hand is heavy upon us and upon Dagon our god."

1Sa. 5:8 So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and asked them, "What shall we do with the ark of the god of Israel?" They answered, "Have the ark of the god of Israel moved to Gath." So they moved the ark of the God of Israel.

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1Sa. 5:9 But after they had moved it, the LORD's hand was against that city, throwing it into a great panic. He afflicted the people of the city, both young and old, with an outbreak of tumours. [Or with tumours in the groin (see Septuagint)]

1Sa. 5:10 So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. As the ark of God was entering Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought the ark of the god of Israel round to us to kill us and our people."

1Sa. 5:11 So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and said, "Send the ark of the god of Israel away; let it go back to its own place, or it [Or he] will kill us and our people." For death had filled the city with panic; God's hand was very heavy upon it.

1Sa. 5:12 Those who did not die were afflicted with tumours, and the outcry of the city went up to heaven.

Chapter 5 continues the story of the Philistines' capture of the Ark of the Covenant. They take the Ark to the temple of their god, Dagon, and set it up next to the statue of Dagon. The next morning, they find that the statue of Dagon has fallen face down in front of the Ark. They put the statue back up, but the next morning, they find it has fallen again and its head and hands have been broken off.

The Philistines begin to experience a series of plagues and disasters, including a widespread outbreak of tumors, which they believe are caused by the presence of the Ark.

They decide to move the Ark to the city of Gath, but the people of Gath also suffer from the plagues and disasters. They then move the Ark to the city of Ekron, but the people there also suffer.

Finally, the Philistine leaders decide that they must return the Ark to the Israelites. They make a new cart for it and put it on the cart with gifts of gold as an offering to the God of Israel. They also include five golden tumors and five golden rats as a symbol of their suffering. They then send the cart off with two cows who have just given birth and have never been yoked before.

The cows take the cart straight to the Israelite town of Beth-shemesh, where the people rejoice at the return of the Ark. However, the Lord strikes down seventy men from the town who look inside the Ark, showing that his power and presence cannot be treated casually or irreverently.

Chapter 5 emphasizes the power and holiness of the God of Israel and the dangers of taking him lightly. It also shows how the Philistines, who were enemies of Israel, came to recognize the power of the God of Israel and the importance of respecting him. The chapter sets the stage for Israel's repentance and return to the Lord, as they begin to recognize his sovereignty and the need for obedience to his commands.

. Here are some important verses from this chapter:

- 1 Samuel 5:2: "Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon."
- 1 Samuel 5:3: "And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place."
- 1 Samuel 5:6: "The hand of the Lord was heavy against the people of Ashdod, and he terrified and afflicted them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory."
- 1 Samuel 5:11: "They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" And they answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath." So they brought the ark of the God of Israel there."
- 1 Samuel 5:12: "But after they had brought it around, the hand of the Lord was against the city, causing a very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them."

These verses show the consequences that the Philistines faced for taking the Ark of the Covenant and disrespecting the Lord.

1 Samuel chapter 5 recounts the events that take place after the Philistines capture the Ark of the Covenant and place it in the temple of their god, Dagon. This chapter highlights the power and sovereignty of the true God and serves as a reminder that He cannot be mocked or defeated.

One of the key themes that emerge from this chapter is the contrast between the false gods of the Philistines and the one true God of Israel. The Philistines mistakenly believe that capturing the Ark and placing it alongside their idol, Dagon, would symbolize their triumph over the God of Israel. However, God demonstrates His superiority by causing Dagon to fall before the Ark and to be broken. This happens not just once but twice,

emphasizing the futility of worshiping false gods and the inability of idols to withstand the power of the true God.

This chapter reminds us of the exclusivity and uniqueness of the God of Israel. It underscores the fact that there is no other god like Him, and He alone deserves our worship and reverence. It challenges us to examine our own lives and ensure that we are not placing our trust in false idols or seeking fulfillment in anything other than the one true God.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 5 reveals the consequences of disrespecting and dishonoring the presence of God. The Philistines, unaware of the power and holiness associated with the Ark, suffer afflictions and plagues as a result of their actions. These afflictions serve as a reminder that God's presence is not to be taken lightly or treated with irreverence. It teaches us the importance of approaching God with humility, reverence, and obedience.

This chapter also showcases the faithfulness of God to protect His people and to demonstrate His power in the midst of adversity. Despite the capture of the Ark and the temporary exaltation of Dagon, God does not abandon His people. He intervenes by afflicting the Philistines and causing them to recognize His superiority.

The chapter encourages us to trust in God's faithfulness and to rely on His power in times of trial and difficulty. It reminds us that God is not limited by human circumstances or the schemes of those who oppose Him. Even when it appears that false gods or worldly powers have the upper hand, God can assert His authority and bring about justice.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 5 reminds us of the power and sovereignty of the true God and the futility of worshiping false idols. It emphasizes the importance of honoring and revering God's presence and the consequences of disrespecting Him. It also highlights God's faithfulness and His ability to protect His people and demonstrate His power in the face of adversity. May we worship and serve the one true God, humbly approaching Him with reverence and trust, knowing that He alone is worthy of our devotion.

## CHAPTER 6

1Sa. 6:1 When the ark of the LORD had been in Philistine territory for seven months,

1Sa. 6:2 the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we should send it back to its place."

1Sa. 6:3 They answered, "If you return the ark of the god of Israel, do not send it away empty, but by all means send a guilt offering to him. Then you will be healed, and you will know why his hand has not been lifted from you."

1Sa. 6:4 The Philistines asked, "What guilt offering should we send to him?" They replied, "Five gold tumours and five gold rats,

according to the number of the Philistine rulers, because the same plague has struck both you and your rulers.

1Sa. 6:5 Make models of the tumours and of the rats that are destroying the country, and pay honour to Israel's god.

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Perhaps he will lift his hand from you and your gods and your land.

1Sa. 6:6 Why do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh did? When he [That is, God] treated them harshly, did they not send the Israelites out so that they could go on their way?

1Sa. 6:7 "Now then, get a new cart ready, with two cows that have calved and have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up.

1Sa. 6:8 Take the ark of the LORD and put it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering. Send it on its way,

1Sa. 6:9 but keep watching it. If it goes up to its own territory, towards Beth Shemesh, then the LORD has brought this great disaster on us. But if it does not, then we shall know that it was not his hand that struck us and that it happened to us by chance."

1Sa. 6:10 So they did this. They took two such cows and hitched them to the cart and penned up their calves.

1Sa. 6:11 They placed the ark of the LORD on the cart and along with it the chest containing the gold rats and the models of the tumours.

1Sa. 6:12 Then the cows went straight up towards Beth Shemesh, keeping on the road and lowing all the way; they did not turn to the right or to the left. The rulers of the Philistines followed them as far as the border of Beth Shemesh.

1Sa. 6:13 Now the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the ark, they rejoiced at the sight.

1Sa. 6:14 The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and there it stopped beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.

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1Sa. 6:15 The Levites took down the ark of the LORD, together with the chest containing the gold objects, and placed them on the large rock. On that day the people of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices to the LORD.

1Sa. 6:16 The five rulers of the Philistines saw all this and then returned that same day to Ekron.

1Sa. 6:17 These are the gold tumours the Philistines sent as a guilt offering to the LORD — one each for Ashdod, Gaza,



Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron.

1Sa. 6:18 And the number of the gold rats was according to the number of Philistine towns belonging to the five rulers — the fortified towns with their country villages. The large rock, on which [A few Hebrew manuscripts (see also Septuagint); most Hebrew manuscripts villages as far as Greater Abel, where] they set the ark of the LORD, is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh.

1Sa. 6:19 But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy [A few Hebrew manuscripts; most Hebrew manuscripts and Septuagint 50,070] of them to death because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them,

1Sa. 6:20 and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, “Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?”

1Sa. 6:21 Then they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim, saying, “The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up to your place.”

Chapter 6 continues the story of the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Israel. The people of Beth-shemesh, who received the Ark, send messengers to the town of Kiriath-jearim to tell them of its arrival. The men of Kiriath-jearim come and take the Ark to their town, where it remains for twenty years.

The Philistines, meanwhile, continue to suffer from the plagues and disasters that began when they took the Ark. Their priests and diviners advise them to send the Ark back to Israel with gifts as an offering to the God of Israel. They make gold models of the tumors and rats that had afflicted them, and put them in a chest alongside the gifts. They also add five gold mice as an additional offering.

They then hitch two cows to a cart carrying the chest, and let the cows go where they will. The cows go straight to the Israelite town of Beth-shemesh, and the people there rejoice at the return of the Ark. They take the chest from the cart and burn the cart and the cows as a sacrifice to the Lord.

However, the Lord strikes down seventy men from the town who look inside the chest, showing that his power and presence cannot be treated casually or irreverently.

The people of Beth-shemesh are afraid and ask the men of Kiriath-jearim to come and take the Ark. The Ark remains in Kiriath-jearim for twenty years, during which time Samuel becomes a prophet and leader in Israel.

Chapter 6 emphasizes the holiness and power of the God of Israel and the importance of treating his presence and symbols with reverence. It also shows how the Philistines, who were enemies of Israel, came to recognize the power of the God of Israel and the need to offer him respect and worship. The chapter highlights the continuing importance of the Ark of the Covenant as a symbol of God's presence among his people, and sets the stage for the rise of Samuel as a prophet and leader in Israel.



Chapter 6 of 1 Samuel recounts the return of the Ark of the Covenant to the Israelites after it had been captured by the Philistines. Some important verses in this chapter include:

- 1 Samuel 6:2: "The Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, 'What shall we do with the ark of the Lord? Tell us how we should send it back to its place.'"
- 1 Samuel 6:7-9: "Now then, get a new cart ready, with two cows that have calved and have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up. Take the ark of the Lord and put it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering. Send it on its way, but keep watching it. If it goes up to its own territory, toward Beth Shemesh, then the Lord has brought this great disaster on us. But if it does not, then we will know that it was not his hand that struck us but that it happened to us by chance."
- 1 Samuel 6:14-15: "The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and there it stopped beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the Lord."

These verses demonstrate the Philistines' recognition of the power of the God of the Israelites and their desire to make amends for having taken the Ark. The instructions for the return of the Ark also highlight the importance of following God's commands and the consequences of disobedience. The Israelites' response to the Ark's return, including the sacrifice of the cows, shows their reverence for the presence of God among them.

1 Samuel chapter 6 continues the narrative of the Ark of the Covenant and the consequences faced by the Philistines for capturing it. This chapter focuses on the return of the Ark to the Israelites and explores themes of repentance, humility, and the recognition of God's power.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the recognition of God's holiness and the need for repentance. The Philistines, plagued by various afflictions and recognizing the power of the God of Israel, seek counsel from their priests and diviners. They acknowledge their wrongdoing in capturing the Ark and devise a plan to return it to the Israelites, accompanied by offerings to make amends for their actions.

This chapter emphasizes the importance of humility and repentance in our relationship with God. The Philistines demonstrate a willingness to admit their wrongs and seek reconciliation with the true God. Their actions serve as a reminder that when we recognize our sins and turn away from them, seeking forgiveness and restoration, God is gracious and ready to receive us.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 6 reveals the awe-inspiring power and holiness of God. As the Ark is returned to the Israelites, it becomes evident that God's presence is not to be treated lightly. The people of Beth-shemesh, upon seeing the Ark, are struck with fear and reverence. However, some of them fail to maintain the proper respect for the holiness of the Ark, and as a result, they are struck down by God.

This chapter serves as a reminder of the need to approach God with reverence and respect. It shows that our actions and attitudes toward His presence have consequences. It challenges us to consider our own approach to God and ensure that we honor Him with genuine reverence, recognizing His holiness and power.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 6 highlights the providence and guidance of God. Through a series of events involving cows, a cart, and a path that leads straight to the land of the Israelites, God orchestrates the return of the Ark. This demonstrates His sovereignty over all creation and His ability to work through unexpected means to accomplish His purposes.

This chapter encourages us to trust in God's guidance and providence in our own lives. It reminds us that God can use ordinary circumstances and even unlikely sources to bring about His plans. It calls us to rely on His leading and to surrender our own desires and agendas, knowing that His ways are higher and His plans are perfect.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 6 highlights the themes of repentance, humility, and the recognition of God's power and holiness. It reminds us of the importance of approaching God with reverence, seeking His forgiveness when we err, and trusting in His providence and guidance. May we learn from the example of the Philistines and the people of Beth-shemesh, recognizing God's holiness, repenting of our sins, and entrusting our lives to His sovereign care.

## CHAPTER 7

1Sa. 7:1 So the men of Kiriath Jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD. They took it to Abinadab's house on the hill and consecrated Eleazar his son to guard the ark of the LORD.

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1Sa. 7:2 It was a long time, twenty years in all, that the ark remained at Kiriath Jearim, and all the people of Israel mourned and sought after the LORD.

1Sa. 7:3 And Samuel said to the whole house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

1Sa. 7:4 So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only.

1Sa. 7:5 Then Samuel said, "Assemble all Israel at Mizpah and I will intercede with the LORD for you."

1Sa. 7:6 When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel was leader [Traditionally judge] of Israel at

Mizpah.

1Sa. 7:7 When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them.

And when the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines.

1Sa. 7:8 They said to Samuel, “Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.”

1Sa. 7:9 Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it up as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel’s behalf, and the LORD answered him.

1Sa. 7:10 While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites.

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1Sa. 7:11 The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Car.

1Sa. 7:12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, [Ebenezer means stone of help.] saying, “Thus far has the LORD helped us.”

1Sa. 7:13 So the Philistines were subdued and did not invade Israelite territory again. Throughout Samuel’s lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines.

1Sa. 7:14 The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to her, and Israel delivered the neighbouring territory from the power of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

1Sa. 7:15 Samuel continued as judge over Israel all the days of his life.

1Sa. 7:16 From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places.

1Sa. 7:17 But he always went back to Ramah, where his home was, and there he also judged Israel. And he built an altar there to the LORD.

Chapter 7 begins with the Israelites returning to the Lord under the leadership of Samuel. They gather at Mizpah, where they confess their sins and offer sacrifices to the Lord. Samuel serves as their leader and judge, and the people turn to him for guidance. The Philistines hear that the Israelites have gathered at Mizpah, and they send their armies to attack them. The Israelites are afraid and plead with Samuel to intercede for them. Samuel offers a burnt offering to the Lord and prays for his help.

The Lord answers Samuel's prayer by sending a thunderstorm that confuses the Philistine army, causing them to flee in disarray. The Israelites pursue them and achieve a great victory, driving them out of their territory and regaining control of several towns. After the battle, Samuel sets up a stone as a monument to the Lord's help, calling it Ebenezer ("stone of help"). He also travels around the region, serving as a judge and leader and bringing the people back to the Lord.

Chapter 7 emphasizes the importance of repentance, prayer, and obedience to God in achieving victory and success. It also shows the importance of a strong leader like Samuel in guiding the people and inspiring them to trust in God. The chapter highlights the continuing conflict between the Israelites and the Philistines, and the role of the Lord in delivering his people from their enemies.

Chapter 7 of 1 Samuel marks the turning point in Israel's history, where they return to the Lord and defeat the Philistines. The following verses are important in this chapter:

1 Samuel 7:3 - "Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, 'If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.'"

1 Samuel 7:10-11 - "Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the Lord thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car."

1 Samuel 7:12 - "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.'"

These verses show the importance of repentance, faith, and obedience to the Lord, as well as the power of God to deliver His people from their enemies. The setting up of the stone Ebenezer serves as a reminder to the Israelites of the Lord's faithfulness and deliverance.

Chapter 8 begins with Samuel growing old and appointing his sons as judges over Israel, but they do not follow in his footsteps and are corrupt. The elders of Israel approach Samuel and demand a king to rule over them like the other nations, despite Samuel warning them of the consequences of having a king.

Samuel is distressed by the request, and he consults with the Lord, who tells him to listen to the people but warn them about the dangers of having a king. Samuel relays the Lord's warning to the people, explaining that a king will take their sons for his army and their daughters as servants, and will take their crops and livestock for his own use.

Nevertheless, the people insist on having a king to rule over them.

The Lord tells Samuel to listen to the people and give them a king, but to warn them again about the consequences. Samuel anoints Saul, a handsome and tall man from the tribe of Benjamin, as the first king of Israel.

Chapter 8 shows the Israelites rejecting God as their true king and demanding a human king instead. This decision will have far-reaching consequences for the nation of Israel. It also introduces Saul as the first king of Israel and sets the stage for the rest of the book, which will explore the reigns of Saul and his successor, David.

1 Samuel chapter 7 portrays a significant turning point in the narrative as the Israelites repent and turn back to God under the leadership of Samuel. This chapter highlights themes of repentance, prayer, and the faithfulness of God.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the importance of repentance and returning to God. The Israelites, recognizing their sinful behavior and idolatry, gather together to seek the Lord with all their hearts. They confess their sins and commit to turning away from their false gods and idols. Samuel, acting as their spiritual leader, encourages them to put away their foreign gods and direct their hearts toward the Lord alone.

This chapter serves as a powerful reminder that repentance is a necessary step towards restoring our relationship with God. It requires acknowledging our sins, turning away from them, and seeking God's forgiveness and guidance. The example of the Israelites teaches us the significance of genuine repentance and the restoration it brings.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 7 highlights the power of prayer and the faithfulness of God in response to genuine repentance. As the Israelites gather at Mizpah, Samuel intercedes for them, offering a burnt offering and crying out to the Lord on their behalf. God responds by thundering against the Philistines and causing confusion among them. The Israelites are granted victory over their enemies and regain the cities that were previously lost.

This chapter emphasizes the importance of prayer as a means of seeking God's intervention and guidance in our lives. It demonstrates that when we humble ourselves before God, confess our sins, and earnestly seek His help, He hears and responds to our prayers. It reminds us that God is faithful to His promises and that He actively works on behalf of those who trust in Him.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 7 highlights the faithfulness of God in delivering His people. Throughout the book of Samuel, we see God's faithfulness in raising up leaders and intervening on behalf of His chosen people. In this chapter, God demonstrates His faithfulness once again by granting the Israelites victory over their enemies and protecting them.

This chapter encourages us to trust in God's faithfulness in our own lives. It reminds us that even in times of difficulty, when we turn to God with repentant hearts, He remains faithful to His promises. It calls us to place our trust in Him, knowing that He is able to deliver us from our enemies and provide for our needs.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 7 highlights the themes of repentance, prayer, and the faithfulness of God. It reminds us of the importance of genuine repentance in restoring our relationship with God, the power of prayer in seeking His intervention, and the faithfulness of God to His people. May we follow the example of the Israelites, turning our hearts towards God, seeking His forgiveness, and trusting in His faithfulness to guide and protect us.

## CHAPTER 8

1Sa. 8:1 When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel.

1Sa. 8:2 The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba.

1Sa. 8:3 But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

1Sa. 8:4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah.

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1Sa. 8:5 They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead [Traditionally judge; also in verses 6 and 20] us, such as all the other nations have."

1Sa. 8:6 But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD.

1Sa. 8:7 And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

1Sa. 8:8 As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you.

1Sa. 8:9 Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do."

1Sa. 8:10 Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king.

1Sa. 8:11 He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots.

1Sa. 8:12 Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plough his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

1Sa. 8:13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.

1Sa. 8:14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants.

1Sa. 8:15 He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants.

1Sa. 8:16 Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle [Septuagint; Hebrew young men] and donkeys he will take for his own use.

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1Sa. 8:17 He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves.

1Sa. 8:18 When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

1Sa. 8:19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us.

1Sa. 8:20 Then we shall be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

1Sa. 8:21 When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the LORD.

1Sa. 8:22 The LORD answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.” Then Samuel said to the men of Israel, “Everyone is to go back to his town.”

Chapter 8 of 1 Samuel is an important chapter as it describes the Israelites' request for a king to rule over them instead of God, which sets the stage for the establishment of the monarchy in Israel. Here are some important verses from the chapter:

1 Samuel 8:5-7 - "They said to [Samuel], 'You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.' But when they said, 'Give us a king to lead us,' this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him: 'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.'"

1 Samuel 8:10-18 - In this passage, Samuel warns the people of the consequences of having a human king, including taxation, conscription, and loss of personal freedoms.

1 Samuel 8:19-20 - "But the people refused to listen to Samuel. 'No!' they said. 'We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.'"

These verses illustrate the tension between Israel's desire for a human king and God's desire to be their king. It also foreshadows the problems that will arise with the establishment of the monarchy, including abuses of power by the kings and the eventual division of the kingdom.

Chapter 9 introduces Saul, a young man from the tribe of Benjamin, who is searching for his father's lost donkeys. With the help of his servant, he travels to the city of Zuph, where they meet Samuel, who is a prophet and judge of Israel.

As Saul and his servant approach Samuel, the Lord reveals to Samuel that Saul is the man he has chosen to be king over Israel. Samuel invites Saul to dine with him and reveals to him that he is the one chosen by God to be king.

The next day, Samuel anoints Saul as the new king of Israel, and Saul and his servant return home. On their journey, they encounter some prophets who are singing and playing musical instruments. The Spirit of the Lord comes upon Saul, and he joins in the singing and prophesying with the prophets.

Chapter 9 sets the stage for the anointing of Saul as king of Israel and introduces him as a young and humble man who is unexpectedly chosen by God to lead his people. The



chapter also shows the power of the Spirit of the Lord, which comes upon Saul and enables him to prophesy.

1 Samuel chapter 8 presents a pivotal moment in the history of Israel when the people demand a king to rule over them. This chapter explores themes of human desires, the consequences of rejecting God's leadership, and the importance of trusting in His sovereignty.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the human desire for worldly power and leadership. The people of Israel, influenced by the surrounding nations, express their desire to have a king like other nations. They believe that a human king will provide stability, protection, and prestige. However, their request reflects a lack of trust in God's providence and a desire to conform to the ways of the world rather than relying on His guidance.

This chapter raises important questions about our own desires and motivations. It challenges us to examine whether we are seeking power, control, and recognition in our lives, often at the expense of submitting to God's will. It reminds us that our ultimate allegiance should be to God alone, and we should be cautious about pursuing worldly desires that may lead us away from His plan for our lives.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 8 highlights the consequences of rejecting God's direct leadership. Samuel, as the faithful prophet and judge appointed by God, is deeply troubled by the people's request for a king. He warns them about the potential abuses and limitations of human kingship, such as conscription into military service, taxation, and loss of freedom. However, the people persist in their demand, ultimately rejecting God's rule over them.

This chapter reminds us of the importance of aligning our desires with God's purposes and trusting in His perfect plan. It warns us about the potential dangers of seeking alternatives to God's leadership and ignoring His wisdom and guidance. It calls us to reflect on whether we are truly surrendering our lives to God's authority or attempting to establish our own kingdoms.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 8 underscores the sovereignty of God in the face of human choices and the consequences that follow. Despite the people's rejection, God instructs Samuel to heed their request and anoint a king for Israel. While God permits their choice, He also warns them about the limitations and potential negative outcomes of having a human king. God remains sovereign over the affairs of His people, even when they deviate from His ideal plan.

This chapter encourages us to trust in God's sovereignty and to surrender our desires and plans to Him. It reminds us that even in the midst of our human decisions and their consequences, God is still at work. It calls us to seek His will above our own and to trust that He can bring about His purposes even in situations that may seem contrary to His perfect plan.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 8 raises important reflections on human desires, the consequences of rejecting God's leadership, and the importance of trusting in His sovereignty. It challenges us to examine our own motives and desires, to align ourselves with God's will, and to trust in His perfect plan for our lives. May we submit to God's authority, trusting in His guidance and surrendering our desires to His sovereign rule.

## CHAPTER 9

1Sa. 9:1 There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah of Benjamin.

1Sa. 9:2 He had a son named Saul, an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites — a head taller than any of the others.

1Sa. 9:3 Now the donkeys belonging to Saul's father Kish were lost, and Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the servants with you and go and look for the donkeys."

1Sa. 9:4 So he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and through the area around Shalisha, but they did not find them. They went on into the district of Shaalim, but the donkeys were not there. Then he passed through the territory of Benjamin, but they did not find them.

1Sa. 9:5 When they reached the district of Zuph, Saul said to the servant who was with him, "Come, let's go back, or my  
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father will stop thinking about the donkeys and start worrying about us."

1Sa. 9:6 But the servant replied, "Look, in this town there is a man of God; he is highly respected, and everything he says comes true. Let's go there now. Perhaps he will tell us what way to take."

1Sa. 9:7 Saul said to his servant, "If we go, what can we give the man? The food in our sacks is gone. We have no gift to take to the man of God. What do we have?"

1Sa. 9:8 The servant answered him again. "Look," he said, "I have a quarter of a shekel [That is, about 1/10 ounce (about 3 grams)] of silver. I will give it to the man of God so that he will tell us what way to take."

1Sa. 9:9 (Formerly in Israel, if a man went to enquire of God, he would say, "Come, let us go to the seer," because the prophet of today used to be called a seer.)

1Sa. 9:10 "Good," Saul said to his servant. "Come, let's go." So they set out for the town where the man of God was.

1Sa. 9:11 As they were going up the hill to the town, they met some girls coming out to draw water, and they asked them, "Is the

seer here?"

1Sa. 9:12 "He is," they answered. "He's ahead of you. Hurry now; he has just come to our town today, for the people have a sacrifice at the high place.

1Sa. 9:13 As soon as you enter the town, you will find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. The people will not begin eating until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterwards, those who are invited will eat. Go up now; you should find him about this time."

1Sa. 9:14 They went up to the town, and as they were entering it, there was Samuel, coming towards them on his way up to the high place.

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1Sa. 9:15 Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed this to Samuel:

1Sa. 9:16 "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him leader over my people Israel; he will deliver my people from the hand of the Philistines. I have looked upon my people, for their cry has reached me."

1Sa. 9:17 When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people."

1Sa. 9:18 Saul approached Samuel in the gateway and asked, "Would you please tell me where the seer's house is?"

1Sa. 9:19 "I am the seer," Samuel replied. "Go up ahead of me to the high place, for today you are to eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart.

1Sa. 9:20 As for the donkeys you lost three days ago, do not worry about them; they have been found. And to whom is all the desire of Israel turned, if not to you and all your father's family?"

1Sa. 9:21 Saul answered, "But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?"

1Sa. 9:22 Then Samuel brought Saul and his servant into the hall and seated them at the head of those who were invited — about thirty in number.

1Sa. 9:23 Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the piece of meat I gave you, the one I told you to lay aside."

1Sa. 9:24 So the cook took up the leg with what was on it and set it in front of Saul. Samuel said, "Here is what has been kept for you. Eat, because it was set aside for you for this occasion, from the time I said, 'I have invited guests.'" And Saul dined with Samuel that day.

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1Sa. 9:25 After they came down from the high place to the town, Samuel talked with Saul on the roof of his house.

1Sa. 9:26 They rose about daybreak and Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Get ready, and I will send you on your way." When Saul got ready, he and Samuel went outside together.

1Sa. 9:27 As they were going down to the edge of the town, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us" — and the servant did so — "but you stay here awhile, so that I may give you a message from God."

Chapter 9 in the book of 1 Samuel introduces the character of Saul, who will become the first king of Israel. Some important verses in this chapter include:

- 1 Samuel 9:1-2: "There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people."
- 1 Samuel 9:15-17: "Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed to Samuel: 'Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me.' When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, 'Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people.'"

These verses set the stage for Saul's introduction as the future king of Israel and the one who will deliver the people from their enemies, the Philistines.

1 Samuel chapter 9 introduces us to Saul, who becomes the first king of Israel. This chapter explores themes of divine providence, humility, and the unfolding of God's plan in unexpected ways.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the concept of divine providence. Saul, a young man from the tribe of Benjamin, is sent by his father to search for lost donkeys. In the course of his search, he meets Samuel, who is God's chosen prophet and the one who will anoint Saul as king. Unbeknownst to Saul, God orchestrates these events to fulfill His plan and to position Saul as the future king of Israel.

This chapter reminds us that God is actively at work in the details of our lives, even in seemingly mundane circumstances. It teaches us that God's providence can lead us to unexpected encounters, opportunities, and callings. It calls us to trust in His guiding hand, even when we may not fully comprehend His purposes or the significance of the events unfolding around us.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 9 highlights the importance of humility. When Saul and his servant arrive in the city where Samuel resides, they seek his guidance in finding the lost donkeys. Samuel, who is aware of God's plan for Saul, welcomes him and offers him

hospitality. Saul, despite being chosen for a significant role as king, displays humility and acknowledges his own unworthiness and insignificance.

This chapter emphasizes the value of humility in our own lives. It reminds us that no matter what positions or roles we may be called to, we should approach them with a humble heart, recognizing our reliance on God's guidance and grace. It challenges us to set aside pride and self-importance, instead seeking to serve God and others with humility and gratitude.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 9 reveals the unfolding of God's plan in unexpected ways. Samuel, as the prophet and representative of God, anoints Saul as the future king. This turn of events surprises both Saul and his servant, as they did not anticipate Saul's encounter with Samuel and the revelation of his destiny. It demonstrates that God's plan often surpasses our expectations and operates beyond our limited understanding.

This chapter encourages us to trust in God's wisdom and timing, even when His plan unfolds in ways we may not comprehend or anticipate. It reminds us that God's ways are higher than our ways, and His plans are perfect. It calls us to embrace a posture of faith, surrendering our own expectations and submitting to God's greater purpose for our lives.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 9 brings forth reflections on divine providence, humility, and the unfolding of God's plan. It reminds us of God's active involvement in the details of our lives, the importance of approaching our roles with humility, and the need to trust in God's wisdom and timing. May we embrace the lessons from this chapter, allowing God to guide our steps and surrendering to His greater purpose for our lives.

## CHAPTER 10

1Sa. 10:1 Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the LORD anointed you leader over his inheritance? [Hebrew; Septuagint and Vulgate over his people Israel? You will reign over the LORD's people and save them from the power of their enemies round about. And this will be a sign to you that the LORD has anointed you leader over his inheritance:]

1Sa. 10:2 When you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel's tomb, at Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you, "The donkeys you set out to look for have been found. And now your father has stopped thinking about them and is worried about you. He is asking, "What shall I do about my son?"

1Sa. 10:3 "Then you will go on from there until you reach the great tree of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there. One will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, and another a skin of wine.

1Sa. 10:4 They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which

you will accept from them.

1Sa. 10:5 “After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place  
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with lyres, tambourines, flutes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying.

1Sa. 10:6 The Spirit of the LORD will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.

1Sa. 10:7 Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

1Sa. 10:8 “Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, [Traditionally peace offerings] but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do.”

1Sa. 10:9 As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.

1Sa. 10:10 When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying.

1Sa. 10:11 When all those who had formerly known him saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other, “What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?”

1Sa. 10:12 A man who lived there answered, “And who is their father?” So it became a saying: “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

1Sa. 10:13 After Saul stopped prophesying, he went to the high place.

1Sa. 10:14 Now Saul’s uncle asked him and his servant, “Where have you been?” “Looking for the donkeys,” he said. “But when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel.”

1Sa. 10:15 Saul’s uncle said, “Tell me what Samuel said to you.”

1Sa. 10:16 Saul replied, “He assured us that the donkeys had been found.” But he did not tell his uncle what Samuel had said about the kingship.

1Sa. 10:17 Samuel summoned the people of Israel to the LORD at Mizpah

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1Sa. 10:18 and said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I brought Israel up out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the power of Egypt and all the kingdoms that oppressed you.’

1Sa. 10:19 But you have now rejected your God, who saves you out of all your calamities and distresses. And you have said, ‘No, set a king over us.’ So now present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and clans.”

1Sa. 10:20 When Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.

1Sa. 10:21 Then he brought forward the tribe of Benjamin, clan by clan, and Matri's clan was chosen. Finally Saul son of Kish was chosen. But when they looked for him, he was not to be found.

1Sa. 10:22 So they enquired further of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD said, "Yes, he has hidden himself among the baggage."

1Sa. 10:23 They ran and brought him out, and as he stood among the people he was a head taller than any of the others.

1Sa. 10:24 Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no-one like him among all the people." Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

1Sa. 10:25 Samuel explained to the people the regulations of the kingship. He wrote them down on a scroll and deposited it before the LORD. Then Samuel dismissed the people, each to his own home.

1Sa. 10:26 Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched.

1Sa. 10:27 But some troublemakers said, "How can this fellow save us?" They despised him and brought him no gifts. But Saul kept silent.

Chapter 10 begins with Samuel anointing Saul with oil and declaring him to be the new king of Israel. Samuel then gives Saul a series of signs that will confirm to him that he has been chosen by God.

The first sign is that he will meet two men near Rachel's tomb who will tell him that his father's donkeys have been found. The second sign is that he will meet three men going up to worship at Bethel, and they will give him two loaves of bread. The third sign is that he will meet a group of prophets and the Spirit of the Lord will come upon him, and he will prophesy with them.

As Saul sets out on his journey home, he meets the men who tell him that his father's donkeys have been found. He then meets the three men going up to worship at Bethel, who give him two loaves of bread. Finally, he meets the prophets and prophesies with them.

When Saul returns home, he is greeted by his uncle, who asks him where he has been. Saul tells him that he has been looking for his father's donkeys and then reveals that he has been anointed as the new king of Israel by Samuel.

Despite Saul's anointing, not everyone is happy with his selection. Some of the people are skeptical, and Saul must prove himself as a worthy leader.

Chapter 10 marks the beginning of Saul's reign as king of Israel and shows how he receives a divine confirmation of his anointing. The chapter also highlights Saul's prophetic ability and introduces the idea that not everyone will accept Saul as their new king.



Some important verses in chapter 10 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible are:

1 Samuel 10:1: "Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, 'Has not the Lord anointed you ruler over his inheritance?'"

1 Samuel 10:6-7: "The Spirit of the Lord will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you."

1 Samuel 10:9: "As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day."

1 Samuel 10:26: "Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, accompanied by valiant men whose hearts God had touched."

These verses mark the beginning of Saul's reign as king of Israel, including his anointing by Samuel, the manifestation of the Spirit of the Lord upon him, and the changes in his heart that were brought about by God.

1 Samuel chapter 10 marks a significant moment in the narrative as Saul is officially anointed as the king of Israel by Samuel. This chapter explores themes of divine calling, obedience, and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the concept of divine calling and appointment. Saul, after being anointed by Samuel, is given a series of signs that confirm his chosen status as king. These signs include encountering a group of prophets and experiencing a change in his heart, enabling him to prophesy. These events highlight the divine hand at work in Saul's life, guiding him towards his appointed role.

This chapter reminds us that God has a unique calling and purpose for each of us. Just as Saul was chosen by God to be king, each of us has a specific calling in God's plan. It encourages us to seek God's guidance and to be open to the signs and promptings of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It calls us to embrace our divine calling with humility, recognizing that it is God who equips and empowers us for the tasks He has set before us.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 10 emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands. Samuel instructs Saul to go to Gilgal and wait for him, and he assures Saul that he will receive further guidance and direction from God. Saul is faced with the choice to trust and obey God's instructions or to let fear and doubt hinder his obedience.

This chapter highlights the significance of our obedience to God's Word and leading in our lives. It challenges us to be attentive to God's instructions, to trust in His guidance, and to follow His path with wholehearted obedience. It reminds us that obedience to God's commands brings about blessings and fulfills His purpose in our lives.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 10 showcases the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. As Saul encounters the group of prophets, the Spirit of God comes upon him, and he prophesies alongside them. This supernatural empowerment signifies God's equipping of Saul for his kingly role and indicates the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of God's chosen people.

This chapter highlights the vital role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as believers. It reminds us that the Holy Spirit empowers us, gives us spiritual gifts, and enables us to fulfill our God-given calling. It calls us to be sensitive to the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit, to rely on His strength, and to allow Him to work in and through us for the glory of God.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 10 brings forth reflections on divine calling, obedience, and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. It reminds us of our unique calling in God's plan, the importance of obedience to His commands, and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. May we embrace our divine calling with humility and obedience, relying on the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's purposes in our lives.

## CHAPTER 11

1Sa. 11:1 Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to him, "Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you."

1Sa. 11:2 But Nahash the Ammonite replied, "I will make a treaty with you only on the condition that I gouge out the right eye of every one of you and so bring disgrace on all Israel."

1Sa. 11:3 The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days so that we can send messengers throughout Israel; if no-one comes to rescue us, we will surrender to you."

1Sa. 11:4 When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and reported these terms to the people, they all wept aloud.

1Sa. 11:5 Just then Saul was returning from the fields, behind his oxen, and he asked, "What is wrong with the people? Why are they weeping?" Then they repeated to him what the men of Jabesh had said.

1Sa. 11:6 When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he burned with anger.

1Sa. 11:7 He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel." Then the terror of the LORD fell on the people, and they turned out as one man.

1Sa. 11:8 When Saul mustered them at Bezek, the men of Israel numbered three hundred thousand and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

1Sa. 11:9 They told the messengers who had come, "Say to the men of Jabesh Gilead, 'By the time the sun is hot tomorrow, you will be delivered.'" When the messengers went and reported this to the men of Jabesh, they were elated.

1Sa. 11:10 They said to the Ammonites, "Tomorrow we will surrender

to you, and you can do to us whatever seems good to you.”

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1Sa. 11:11 The next day Saul separated his men into three divisions; during the last watch of the night they broke into the camp of the Ammonites and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

1Sa. 11:12 The people then said to Samuel, “Who was it that asked, ‘Shall Saul reign over us?’ Bring these men to us and we will put them to death.”

1Sa. 11:13 But Saul said, “No-one shall be put to death today, for this day the LORD has rescued Israel.”

1Sa. 11:14 Then Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there reaffirm the kingship.”

1Sa. 11:15 So all the people went to Gilgal and confirmed Saul as king in the presence of the LORD. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings [Traditionally peace offerings] before the LORD, and Saul and all the Israelites held a great celebration.

Chapter 11 begins with Nahash the Ammonite besieging the Israelite city of Jabesh Gilead. The people of Jabesh Gilead offer to make a treaty with Nahash, but he demands that he gouge out the right eye of every man in the city as a sign of his victory over them. The elders of Jabesh Gilead ask for a week to see if anyone will come to their aid. When Saul hears about the plight of Jabesh Gilead, he is filled with the Spirit of God and calls for all of Israel to gather together to help the city. Saul rallies the people and leads them into battle against the Ammonites, and they are victorious. The people of Jabesh Gilead are saved, and the Israelites celebrate their victory. After the battle, the people of Israel want to put to death those who had initially opposed Saul's kingship, but Saul shows mercy and forgives them. The chapter ends with Samuel calling the people together to renew their allegiance to God and to Saul as their king. Chapter 11 highlights Saul's leadership abilities as he successfully leads the Israelites into battle against the Ammonites and saves the people of Jabesh Gilead. The chapter also emphasizes Saul's compassion and mercy, as he forgives those who had opposed his kingship. Finally, the chapter underscores the importance of renewing one's allegiance to God and to the appointed king.

Some important verses in chapter 11 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible are:

Here are some important verses from chapter 11 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 11:6 - "Then the Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul, and he became very angry."

1 Samuel 11:7 - "He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, 'This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel.' Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they came out together as one."

1 Samuel 11:12-13 - "The people then said to Samuel, 'Who was it that asked, "Shall Saul reign over us?" Turn these men over to us so that we may put them to death.' But Saul said, 'No one will be put to death today, for this day the Lord has rescued Israel.'" These verses show the importance of Saul being filled with the Spirit of God, his military leadership in gathering and leading the people of Israel into battle, and the beginning of his reign as king. They also highlight the role of Samuel as a spiritual leader in guiding and supporting Saul's leadership.

1 Samuel chapter 11 recounts a significant event in the life of Saul, where he demonstrates his leadership as the newly anointed king of Israel. This chapter explores themes of courage, unity, and the importance of responding to God's call.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of courage. When Nahash the Ammonite threatens to gouge out the right eye of the people of Jabesh Gilead, the distress call reaches Saul. In response, the Spirit of God comes upon Saul, and he becomes filled with a righteous anger. He musters an army, inspires the people to unite, and leads a successful military campaign against Nahash.

This chapter highlights the importance of courageous leadership in times of crisis. It demonstrates that God equips and empowers individuals to rise up and confront challenges when they respond to His call. It inspires us to trust in God's strength and guidance, stepping forward with courage and determination when faced with adversity.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 11 underscores the significance of unity and rallying together as a community. Saul sends a message to all the tribes of Israel, and the people respond by gathering as one united force. This unity strengthens their resolve and contributes to their victory over Nahash and his army.

This chapter serves as a reminder of the power of unity within the body of believers. It highlights the strength that comes from standing together, supporting one another, and working in harmony towards a common goal. It encourages us to prioritize unity, setting aside differences, and recognizing the strength that comes from coming together under the banner of God's purpose.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 11 emphasizes the importance of responding to God's call and following His leading. When Saul hears the distress call from the people of Jabesh Gilead, he recognizes the urgency of the situation and acts decisively. He responds to God's prompting and steps into his role as the leader of Israel, rallying the people and leading them to victory.

This chapter encourages us to be attentive to God's voice and promptings in our own lives. It reminds us that God calls and equips individuals for specific tasks and challenges. It challenges us to be responsive to His call, stepping forward with faith and obedience, trusting that He will provide the strength and guidance needed to fulfill His purposes.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 11 brings forth reflections on courage, unity, and responding to God's call. It inspires us to embrace courageous leadership, to unite as a community, and to be responsive to God's leading in our lives. May we draw strength from God's presence, unite in purpose, and step forward with courage and obedience to fulfill the calling He has placed upon us.

## CHAPTER 12

1Sa. 12:1 Samuel said to all Israel, "I have listened to everything you said to me and have set a king over you.

1Sa. 12:2 Now you have a king as your leader. As for me, I am old and grey, and my sons are here with you. I have been your leader from my youth until this day.

1Sa. 12:3 Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the LORD and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these, I will make it right."

1Sa. 12:4 "You have not cheated or oppressed us," they replied. "You have not taken anything from anyone's hand."

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1Sa. 12:5 Samuel said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and also his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." "He is witness," they said.

1Sa. 12:6 Then Samuel said to the people, "It is the LORD who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your forefathers up out of Egypt.

1Sa. 12:7 Now then, stand here, because I am going to confront you with evidence before the LORD as to all the righteous acts performed by the LORD for you and your fathers.

1Sa. 12:8 "After Jacob entered Egypt, they cried to the LORD for help, and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your forefathers out of Egypt and settled them in this place.

1Sa. 12:9 "But they forgot the LORD their God; so he sold them into the hands of Sisera, the commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hands of the Philistines and the king of Moab, who fought against them.

1Sa. 12:10 They cried out to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned; we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths. But now deliver us from the hands of our enemies, and we will serve you.'

1Sa. 12:11 Then the LORD sent Jerub-Baal, [Also called Gideon] Barak, [Some Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac; Hebrew Bedan] Jephthah and Samuel, [Hebrew; some Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac Samson] and he delivered you from the hands of

your enemies on every side, so that you lived securely.

1Sa. 12:12 “But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving against you, you said to me, ‘No, we want a king to rule over us’ — even though the LORD your God was your king.

1Sa. 12:13 Now here is the king you have chosen, the one you asked for; see, the LORD has set a king over you.

1Sa. 12:14 If you fear the LORD and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the LORD your God — good!

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1Sa. 12:15 But if you do not obey the LORD, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

1Sa. 12:16 “Now then, stand still and see this great thing the LORD is about to do before your eyes!

1Sa. 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest now? I will call upon the LORD to send thunder and rain. And you will realise what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the LORD when you asked for a king.”

1Sa. 12:18 Then Samuel called upon the LORD, and that same day the LORD sent thunder and rain. So all the people stood in awe of the LORD and of Samuel.

1Sa. 12:19 The people all said to Samuel, “Pray to the LORD your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king.”

1Sa. 12:20 “Do not be afraid,” Samuel replied. “You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

1Sa. 12:21 Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless.

1Sa. 12:22 For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own.

1Sa. 12:23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.

1Sa. 12:24 But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.

1Sa. 12:25 Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will be swept away.”

Chapter 12 begins with Samuel speaking to the people of Israel, reminding them of God's faithfulness to them and warning them not to turn away from Him. Samuel then recounts his own history as a judge and prophet, reminding the people of his own faithfulness to them and to God.



Samuel then acknowledges that the people have asked for a king, and he reminds them that they have rejected God as their king. However, Samuel reassures the people that if they and their king obey God's commands, God will continue to bless them. Samuel then challenges the people to bear witness against him if he has ever wronged them or taken anything from them unjustly.

The people respond that Samuel has never wronged them or taken anything from them unjustly. Samuel then calls upon God to bear witness to the people's response and to continue to be their faithful and just God.

Chapter 12 emphasizes the importance of remaining faithful to God and His commands, even when faced with the temptation to follow human leaders. Samuel reminds the people that even though they have asked for a king, their true king is God, and they must obey Him above all else. The chapter also highlights Samuel's own faithfulness and integrity as a leader, as he challenges the people to bear witness against him if he has ever wronged them.

Some important verses in chapter 12 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible are:

Here are some important verses from chapter 12 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 12:2 - "Now here is the king walking before you, and I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. I have been your leader from my youth until this day."

1 Samuel 12:6 - "Then Samuel said to the people, 'It is the Lord who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors up out of Egypt.'"

1 Samuel 12:14-15 - "If you fear the Lord and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the Lord your God—good! But if you do not obey the Lord, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestors."

These verses show the transition of leadership from Samuel to Saul and the importance of following God's commands. Samuel reminds the people of Israel of their history and how God appointed leaders in the past, and he emphasizes the importance of obeying God's commands and serving Him. The verses also serve as a warning to the people, that if they do not follow God, His hand will be against them, just as it was against their ancestors.

1 Samuel chapter 12 marks a significant turning point in the narrative as Samuel addresses the people of Israel and reaffirms their covenant relationship with God. This chapter explores themes of accountability, repentance, and the faithfulness of God.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of accountability. Samuel, as the faithful prophet and judge of Israel, calls the people to witness and reminds them of his righteous leadership and integrity throughout his life. He challenges the people to testify against him if he has acted unjustly or taken anything from them. However, the people acknowledge Samuel's righteousness and affirm his blameless character.

This chapter highlights the importance of holding leaders accountable for their actions and character. It reminds us of the responsibility leaders have to act with integrity and righteousness, serving as examples to those they lead. It also encourages us as followers to discern and affirm leaders who demonstrate godly character and lead with integrity.



Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 12 emphasizes the significance of repentance and turning back to God. Samuel confronts the people with their history of disobedience, reminding them of God's faithfulness and the consequences they faced when they turned away from Him. He urges them to repent, to serve the Lord with all their hearts, and to put away the foreign gods and idols that they had embraced.

This chapter highlights the importance of sincere repentance and wholehearted devotion to God. It reminds us that God desires a genuine relationship with His people and calls us to turn away from sin and seek His forgiveness. It challenges us to examine our own lives, to identify areas of disobedience or idolatry, and to humbly return to God in repentance, seeking His mercy and grace.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 12 underscores the faithfulness of God despite the unfaithfulness of His people. Samuel reassures the people that even though they have rejected God's direct rule by requesting a king, God will not abandon them completely. He promises to intercede for them, to pray on their behalf, and to continue to guide them in the ways of righteousness.

This chapter highlights the unfailing faithfulness of God, even when His people fail Him. It reminds us that God's love and mercy are enduring, and His desire is always to reconcile and restore His people. It calls us to trust in God's faithfulness, even in times of our own unfaithfulness, and to seek His guidance and forgiveness in every aspect of our lives.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 12 brings forth reflections on accountability, repentance, and the faithfulness of God. It reminds us of the importance of holding leaders accountable for their actions, the need for genuine repentance and wholehearted devotion to God, and the unwavering faithfulness of God even in the face of human unfaithfulness. May we embrace accountability, seek true repentance, and trust in the faithfulness of our loving God.

## CHAPTER 13

1Sa. 13:1 Saul was thirty [A few late manuscripts of the Septuagint; Hebrew does not have thirty.] years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel for forty-[See the round number in Acts 13:21; Hebrew does not have forty-.]two years.

1Sa. 13:2 Saul [Or and when he had reigned over Israel for two years, 2 he] chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Michmash and in the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. The rest of the men he sent back to their homes.

1Sa. 13:3 Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown

throughout the land and said, “Let the Hebrews hear!”

1Sa. 13:4 So all Israel heard the news: “Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become an offence to the Philistines.” And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.

1Sa. 13:5 The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand [Some Septuagint manuscripts and Syriac; Hebrew thirty thousand] chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Michmash, east of Beth Aven.

1Sa. 13:6 When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns.

1Sa. 13:7 Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.

1Sa. 13:8 He waited for seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul’s men began to scatter.

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1Sa. 13:9 So he said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” [Traditionally peace offerings] And Saul offered up the burnt offering.

1Sa. 13:10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

1Sa. 13:11 “What have you done?” asked Samuel. Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash,

1Sa. 13:12 I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD’s favour.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.”

1Sa. 13:13 “You acted foolishly,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.

1Sa. 13:14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’s command.”

1Sa. 13:15 Then Samuel left Gilgal [Hebrew; Septuagint Gilgal and went his way; the rest of the people went after Saul to meet the army, and they went out of Gilgal] and went up to Gibeah in Benjamin, and Saul counted the men who were with him. They numbered about six hundred.

1Sa. 13:16 Saul and his son Jonathan and the men with them were staying in Gibeah [Two Hebrew manuscripts; most Hebrew manuscripts Geba, a variant of Gibeah] of Benjamin, while

the Philistines camped at Michmash.

1Sa. 13:17 Raiding parties went out from the Philistine camp in three detachments. One turned towards Ophrah in the vicinity of Shual,

1Sa. 13:18 another towards Beth Horon, and the third towards the borderland overlooking the Valley of Zeboim facing the desert.

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1Sa. 13:19 Not a blacksmith could be found in the whole land of Israel, because the Philistines had said, "Otherwise the Hebrews will make swords or spears!"

1Sa. 13:20 So all Israel went down to the Philistines to have their ploughshares, mattocks, axes and sickles [Septuagint; Hebrew ploughshares] sharpened.

1Sa. 13:21 The price was two thirds of a shekel [Hebrew pim; that is, about 1/4 ounce (about 8 grams)] for sharpening ploughshares and mattocks, and a third of a shekel [That is, about 1/8 ounce (about 4 grams)] for sharpening forks and axes and for repointing goads.

1Sa. 13:22 So on the day of the battle not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them.

1Sa. 13:23 Now a detachment of Philistines had gone out to the pass at Michmash.

Chapter 13 begins with Saul, the first king of Israel, ruling for two years. He chooses 3,000 men from Israel and 2,000 from Judah to be part of his army, and they set out to fight against the Philistines. Saul's son, Jonathan, also leads a separate attack against the Philistines and defeats them.

The Philistines then gather their forces to fight against Israel, and Saul gathers his army at Gilgal. Samuel had told Saul to wait seven days for Samuel to arrive and offer a burnt offering to God before going into battle, but Samuel does not arrive on time. As the days pass, the Israelites become afraid and begin to scatter.

Saul, desperate to seek God's favor, takes matters into his own hands and offers the burnt offering himself, even though he is not a priest. Samuel arrives soon after, and when he sees what Saul has done, he rebukes him for not waiting for him to arrive and for disobeying God's command. Samuel tells Saul that because of his disobedience, his kingdom will not endure and God has chosen another man to be king.

Despite Saul's mistake, the battle against the Philistines continues, and the Israelites are able to defeat them. However, the Philistines still have a large army, and they continue to threaten Israel.

Chapter 13 highlights the importance of obedience to God's commands and the consequences of disobedience. Saul's impatience and disobedience ultimately cost him his kingdom, as God had chosen another man to be king. The chapter also shows the

ongoing conflict between the Israelites and the Philistines, which will continue throughout much of the book of 1 Samuel.

Here are some important verses from chapter 13 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 13:5 - "The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikmash, east of Beth Aven."

1 Samuel 13:11-12 - "'What have you done?' asked Samuel. Saul replied, 'When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, I thought, "Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor." So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.'"

1 Samuel 13:14 - "But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

These verses highlight the beginning of Saul's downfall as king of Israel. The Philistines, a long-time enemy of Israel, assemble a large army, and Saul becomes fearful and impatient, making a hasty decision to offer a burnt offering to God without waiting for Samuel. When Samuel arrives, he rebukes Saul for his disobedience and announces that God has sought out a man after His own heart to replace Saul as king. These verses show the importance of obedience to God's commands and the consequences of disobedience.

1 Samuel chapter 13 continues the narrative of Saul's reign as king of Israel and explores themes of faith, impatience, and the consequences of disobedience.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of faith in God's timing. Saul, facing a threatening Philistine army, becomes anxious as the Israelite troops begin to scatter. Samuel had instructed Saul to wait for seven days for him to arrive and offer sacrifices before going into battle. However, when Samuel does not arrive as expected, Saul grows impatient and takes matters into his own hands. He offers the burnt offering himself, which is a violation of God's commandments.

This chapter highlights the importance of trusting in God's timing and relying on Him in moments of uncertainty. Saul's impatience reveals a lack of faith in God's provision and guidance. It serves as a reminder that we are called to trust in God's timing, even when circumstances are challenging or unclear. It challenges us to wait patiently on God, seeking His wisdom and direction rather than taking matters into our own hands.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 13 emphasizes the consequences of disobedience. Samuel arrives just as Saul finishes offering the sacrifice, and he rebukes Saul for his impatience and disobedience. Samuel informs Saul that because of his actions, his kingdom will not endure, and God will raise up a king after His own heart. Saul's disobedience brings about severe consequences for himself and his reign.

This chapter highlights the importance of obedience to God's commands. It reminds us that obedience is a vital aspect of our relationship with God and has real-life

consequences. It calls us to carefully follow God's instructions and to align our actions with His will, understanding that disobedience can lead to negative outcomes and hinder God's purposes in our lives.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 13 showcases the contrast between Saul's impatience and Samuel's steadfastness in his role as God's prophet. Samuel's timely arrival and rebuke serve as a reminder of God's faithfulness and the importance of remaining faithful to our own callings and responsibilities.

This chapter encourages us to remain steadfast in our own roles and callings, even in the face of challenging circumstances or delays. It reminds us that God's timing is perfect, and His faithfulness is unwavering. It calls us to trust in His guidance and to remain faithful to the tasks and responsibilities He has entrusted to us.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 13 brings forth reflections on faith in God's timing, the consequences of disobedience, and the importance of steadfastness in our callings. It reminds us of the significance of trusting in God's timing, the importance of obedience to His commands, and the need for faithfulness in our roles and responsibilities. May we grow in faith, obedience, and steadfastness as we seek to align our lives with God's will.

#### CHAPTER 14

1Sa. 14:1 One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armour, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father.

1Sa. 14:2 Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron. With him were about six hundred men,

1Sa. 14:3 among whom was Ahijah, who was wearing an ephod. He was a son of Ichabod's brother Ahitub son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD's priest in Shiloh. No-one was aware that Jonathan had left.

1Sa. 14:4 On each side of the pass that Jonathan intended to cross to reach the Philistine outpost was a cliff; one was called Bozez, and the other Seneh.

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1Sa. 14:5 One cliff stood to the north towards Michmash, the other to the south towards Geba.

1Sa. 14:6 Jonathan said to his young armour-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act on our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

1Sa. 14:7 "Do all that you have in mind," his armour-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

1Sa. 14:8 Jonathan said, "Come, then; we will cross over towards the men and let them see us."

1Sa. 14:9 If they say to us, ‘Wait there until we come to you,’ we will stay where we are and not go up to them.

1Sa. 14:10 But if they say, ‘Come up to us,’ we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the LORD has given them into our hands.”

1Sa. 14:11 So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost. “Look!” said the Philistines. “The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in.”

1Sa. 14:12 The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armour bearer, “Come up to us and we’ll teach you a lesson.” So

Jonathan said to his armour-bearer, “Climb up after me; the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel.”

1Sa. 14:13 Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armour-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armour-bearer followed and killed behind him.

1Sa. 14:14 In that first attack Jonathan and his armour-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre. [Hebrew half a yoke; a “yoke” was the land ploughed by a yoke of oxen in one day.]

1Sa. 14:15 Then panic struck the whole army — those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties — and the

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ground shook. It was a panic sent by God. [Or a terrible panic]

1Sa. 14:16 Saul’s lookouts at Gibeah in Benjamin saw the army melting away in all directions.

1Sa. 14:17 Then Saul said to the men who were with him, “Muster the forces and see who has left us.” When they did, it was Jonathan and his armour-bearer who were not there.

1Sa. 14:18 Saul said to Ahijah, “Bring the ark of God.” (At that time it was with the Israelites.) [Hebrew; Septuagint “Bring the ephod.” (At that time he wore the ephod before the Israelites.)]

1Sa. 14:19 While Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the Philistine camp increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, “Withdraw your hand.”

1Sa. 14:20 Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords.

1Sa. 14:21 Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

1Sa. 14:22 When all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were on the run, they joined the battle in hot pursuit.

1Sa. 14:23 So the LORD rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven.

1Sa. 14:24 Now the men of Israel were in distress that day, because Saul had bound the people under an oath, saying, “Cursed be any man who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged myself on my enemies!” So none of the troops tasted food.

1Sa. 14:25 The entire army [Or Now all the people of the land] entered the woods, and there was honey on the ground.

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1Sa. 14:26 When they went into the woods, they saw the honey oozing out, yet no-one put his hand to his mouth, because they feared the oath.

1Sa. 14:27 But Jonathan had not heard that his father had bound the people with the oath, so he reached out the end of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it into the honeycomb. He raised his hand to his mouth, and his eyes brightened. [Or his strength was renewed]

1Sa. 14:28 Then one of the soldiers told him, “Your father bound the army under a strict oath, saying, ‘Cursed be any man who eats food today!’ That is why the men are faint.”

1Sa. 14:29 Jonathan said, “My father has made trouble for the country. See how my eyes brightened [Or my strength was renewed] when I tasted a little of this honey.

1Sa. 14:30 How much better it would have been if the men had eaten today some of the plunder they took from their enemies. Would not the slaughter of the Philistines have been even greater?”

1Sa. 14:31 That day, after the Israelites had struck down the Philistines from Michmash to Aijalon, they were exhausted.

1Sa. 14:32 They pounced on the plunder and, taking sheep, cattle and calves, they butchered them on the ground and ate them, together with the blood.

1Sa. 14:33 Then someone said to Saul, “Look, the men are sinning against the LORD by eating meat that has blood in it.” “You have broken faith,” he said. “Roll a large stone over here at once.”

1Sa. 14:34 Then he said, “Go out among the men and tell them, ‘Each of you bring me your cattle and sheep, and slaughter them here and eat them. Do not sin against the LORD by eating meat with blood still in it.’” So everyone brought his ox that night and slaughtered it there.

1Sa. 14:35 Then Saul built an altar to the LORD; it was the first time he had done this.

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1Sa. 14:36 Saul said, “Let us go down after the Philistines by night and



plunder them till dawn, and let us not leave one of them alive.” “Do whatever seems best to you,” they replied. But the priest said, “Let us enquire of God here.”

1Sa. 14:37 So Saul asked God, “Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you give them into Israel’s hand?” But God did not answer him that day.

1Sa. 14:38 Saul therefore said, “Come here, all you who are leaders of the army, and let us find out what sin has been committed today.

1Sa. 14:39 As surely as the LORD who rescues Israel lives, even if it lies with my son Jonathan, he must die.” But not one of the men said a word.

1Sa. 14:40 Saul then said to all the Israelites, “You stand over there; I and Jonathan my son will stand over here.” “Do what seems best to you,” the men replied.

1Sa. 14:41 Then Saul prayed to the LORD, the God of Israel, “Give me the right answer.” [Hebrew; Septuagint “Why have you not answered your servant today? If the fault is in me or my son Jonathan, respond with Urim, but if the men of Israel are at fault, respond with Thummim.”] And Jonathan and Saul were taken by lot, and the men were cleared.

1Sa. 14:42 Saul said, “Cast the lot between me and Jonathan my son.” And Jonathan was taken.

1Sa. 14:43 Then Saul said to Jonathan, “Tell me what you have done.” So Jonathan told him, “I merely tasted a little honey with the end of my staff. And now must I die?”

1Sa. 14:44 Saul said, “May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if you do not die, Jonathan.”

1Sa. 14:45 But the men said to Saul, “Should Jonathan die — he who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Never! As surely as the LORD lives, not a hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he did this today with God’s help.” So the men rescued Jonathan, and he was not put to death.

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1Sa. 14:46 Then Saul stopped pursuing the Philistines, and they withdrew to their own land.

1Sa. 14:47 After Saul had assumed rule over Israel, he fought against their enemies on every side: Moab, the Ammonites, Edom, the kings [Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint king] of Zobah, and the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he inflicted punishment on them. [Hebrew; Septuagint he was victorious]

1Sa. 14:48 He fought valiantly and defeated the Amalekites, delivering Israel from the hands of those who had plundered them.

1Sa. 14:49 Saul’s sons were Jonathan, Ishvi and Malki-Shua. The name of his older daughter was Merab, and that of the younger was

Michal.

1Sa. 14:50 His wife's name was Ahinoam daughter of Ahimaaz. The name of the commander of Saul's army was Abner son of Ner, and Ner was Saul's uncle.

1Sa. 14:51 Saul's father Kish and Abner's father Ner were sons of Abiel.

1Sa. 14:52 All the days of Saul there was bitter war with the Philistines, and whenever Saul saw a mighty or brave man, he took him into his service.

Chapter 14 begins with Saul's son, Jonathan, suggesting to his armor-bearer that they sneak out of the Israelite camp and attack the Philistines. Jonathan has faith that God will help them defeat the enemy, and his armor-bearer agrees to go with him. They climb up a rocky cliff, and when they reach the top, they kill about twenty Philistines. This causes a panic among the Philistine army, and the Israelites who had been hiding in fear join the fight and defeat the Philistines.

Meanwhile, Saul is resting under a pomegranate tree when he hears the noise of the battle. He asks his troops to count the soldiers and finds out that Jonathan and his armor-bearer are missing. Saul orders the priest to consult God to see if they should continue the battle, but God does not answer.

Jonathan realizes that he has broken one of Saul's commands, which was to fast until the evening, and he eats some honey. When Saul finds out about this, he orders that Jonathan be put to death, but the people speak up for Jonathan, reminding Saul of his bravery in defeating the Philistines.

The Israelites continue to fight against the Philistines, and God gives them a great victory. However, Saul makes a foolish vow not to eat until evening, and when the people start to eat, he is unwilling to break his vow. This angers the people, who realize that Saul's vow has caused them unnecessary hardship.

Chapter 14 shows how faith in God can lead to unexpected victories, as Jonathan's boldness and trust in God leads to the defeat of the Philistines. It also highlights the consequences of foolish vows and the importance of trusting in God's provision instead of relying on our own strength. Saul's impulsive vow causes unnecessary suffering for the Israelites and shows his lack of trust in God.

Here are some important verses from chapter 14 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 14:6 - "Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, 'Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.'"

1 Samuel 14:23 - "So the Lord rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven."

1 Samuel 14:52 - "All the days of Saul there was bitter war with the Philistines, and whenever Saul saw a mighty or brave man, he took him into his service."

These verses showcase Jonathan's bravery and faith in God, as he and his armor-bearer defeat the Philistines despite being vastly outnumbered. This victory is attributed to the Lord's intervention and is a reminder that God is sovereign over all things. The verse also highlights the ongoing battle between the Israelites and the Philistines during Saul's reign,

and Saul's efforts to strengthen his army by recruiting mighty and brave men into his service.

1 Samuel chapter 14 showcases the courage and faith of Jonathan, Saul's son, as he leads a bold attack against the Philistine army. This chapter explores themes of bravery, divine intervention, and the power of a committed heart.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of bravery and faith in the face of overwhelming odds. Jonathan, along with his armor-bearer, initiates a daring assault on the Philistines, despite being vastly outnumbered. They demonstrate unwavering trust in God's deliverance and display incredible courage to step out in faith.

This chapter serves as an inspiring example of taking bold action in alignment with God's purposes. It reminds us that when we trust in God's strength and guidance, we can overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges. It encourages us to have faith in God's power and to step out courageously, even when circumstances appear daunting.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 14 highlights the significance of divine intervention. As Jonathan and his armor-bearer engage the Philistines, God responds by causing confusion and panic among the enemy troops. The Philistines turn on each other, resulting in a great victory for Jonathan and the Israelites.

This chapter reminds us that God is active in our lives and intervenes on our behalf. It emphasizes the importance of relying on God's supernatural intervention rather than solely depending on our own strength or strategies. It encourages us to trust in God's faithfulness and to seek His guidance and intervention in all our endeavors.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 14 underscores the power of a committed heart. Jonathan's resolve to confront the Philistines and his unwavering trust in God's deliverance reflect his deep devotion and commitment to God's purposes. His courage and faith inspire those around him and contribute to the Israelites' victory.

This chapter challenges us to examine our own hearts and level of commitment to God's purposes. It encourages us to cultivate a steadfast devotion to God, seeking His will above our own desires. It reminds us that a committed heart can inspire others and make a significant impact for God's kingdom.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 14 brings forth reflections on bravery, divine intervention, and the power of a committed heart. It encourages us to step out in faith and trust God in the face of challenges, to seek His divine intervention, and to cultivate a heart fully committed to His purposes. May we be inspired by Jonathan's example, trusting in God's strength, and dedicating ourselves wholeheartedly to His plans.

## CHAPTER 15

1Sa. 15:1 Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the LORD sent to anoint

you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the LORD.

1Sa. 15:2 This is what the LORD Almighty says: `I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt.

1Sa. 15:3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy [The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving of things or persons to the LORD, often by totally destroying them; also in verses 8, 9, 15, 18, 20 and 21.] everything that belongs to  
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them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.”

1Sa. 15:4 So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim — two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men from Judah.

1Sa. 15:5 Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine.

1Sa. 15:6 Then he said to the Kenites, “Go away, leave the Amalekites so that I do not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.

1Sa. 15:7 Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt.

1Sa. 15:8 He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword.

1Sa. 15:9 But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves [Or the grown bulls; the meaning of the Hebrew for this phrase is uncertain.] and lambs — everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

1Sa. 15:10 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel:

1Sa. 15:11 “I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

1Sa. 15:12 Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honour and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”

1Sa. 15:13 When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”

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1Sa. 15:14 But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

1Sa. 15:15 Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the

Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

1Sa. 15:16 “Stop!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” “Tell me,” Saul replied.

1Sa. 15:17 Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel.

1Sa. 15:18 And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.’

1Sa. 15:19 Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?”

1Sa. 15:20 “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king.

1Sa. 15:21 The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.”

1Sa. 15:22 But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

1Sa. 15:23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.”

1Sa. 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the LORD’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them.

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1Sa. 15:25 Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD.”

1Sa. 15:26 But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!”

1Sa. 15:27 As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore.

1Sa. 15:28 Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbours — to one better than you.

1Sa. 15:29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind.”

1Sa. 15:30 Saul replied, “I have sinned. But please honour me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God.”

1Sa. 15:31 So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshipped the

LORD.

1Sa. 15:32 Then Samuel said, "Bring me Agag king of the Amalekites." Agag came to him confidently, [Or him trembling, yet] thinking, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

1Sa. 15:33 But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so will your mother be childless among women." And Samuel put Agag to death before the LORD at Gilgal.

1Sa. 15:34 Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul.

1Sa. 15:35 Until the day Samuel died, he did not go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him. And the LORD was grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel.

Chapter 15 of the Book of 1 Samuel begins with God commanding Saul, the king of Israel, to completely destroy the Amalekites and all their possessions, as they had attacked the Israelites when they were coming out of Egypt. Saul gathers an army of 200,000 men and defeats the Amalekites, but he spares their king, Agag, and takes some of their livestock and possessions as spoils of war.

God speaks to Samuel, the prophet, and tells him that he regrets making Saul king because he did not obey his command to destroy everything belonging to the Amalekites. Samuel is devastated by the news and cries out to God all night. The next morning, he goes to meet Saul and confronts him about his disobedience.

Saul initially defends his actions, claiming that he spared the animals to offer them as sacrifices to God. However, Samuel rebukes him, stating that obedience is better than sacrifice and that disobedience is as sinful as witchcraft. Samuel then tells Saul that God has rejected him as king and will appoint a new king to replace him.

Samuel proceeds to kill King Agag himself and then goes home to Ramah. Despite his grief over Saul's disobedience, Samuel continues to mourn for him as the king he once anointed.

Here are some important verses from chapter 15 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 15:3 - "Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys."

1 Samuel 15:9 - "But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed."

1 Samuel 15:22-23 - "But Samuel replied: 'Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.'"

These verses showcase Saul's disobedience to God's commands. Saul is instructed to destroy everything belonging to the Amalekites, but he and his army spare some of the best possessions, including King Agag. When confronted by Samuel, Saul tries to justify his actions by saying he saved the best animals for sacrifice, but Samuel rebukes him,



emphasizing that obedience to God's commands is more important than any sacrifice or ritual. The verse also highlights the seriousness of disobedience to God and the consequences of rejecting His word.

1 Samuel chapter 15 recounts the account of Saul's disobedience and God's subsequent rejection of him as king of Israel. This chapter explores themes of obedience, the consequences of sin, and the importance of a genuine heart.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of obedience to God's commands. God instructs Saul through Samuel to completely destroy the Amalekites, including their people, animals, and possessions, as an act of judgment. However, Saul disobeys God's command by sparing the Amalekite king, Agag, and keeping the best of the livestock.

This chapter highlights the importance of wholehearted obedience to God's instructions. It reveals the seriousness of disregarding God's clear commands and choosing to follow one's own desires. It reminds us that partial obedience is still disobedience in the eyes of God, and it can have significant consequences.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 15 underscores the consequences of sin and disobedience. As a result of Saul's disobedience, God regrets making him king over Israel. Samuel confronts Saul, and the consequences of his actions are pronounced: God rejects Saul as king and declares that His favor will be given to another who is more obedient.

This chapter serves as a reminder that sin has consequences and that God expects His people to live in obedience to His commands. It reveals the gravity of disobedience and the impact it can have on one's relationship with God and the fulfillment of His purposes. It challenges us to examine our own lives and consider whether there are areas of disobedience or compromise that need to be addressed.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 15 emphasizes the importance of a genuine heart in our relationship with God. When Samuel confronts Saul about his disobedience, Saul tries to justify his actions and shifts blame onto the people. However, Samuel reminds Saul that God desires obedience and a heart that is fully devoted to Him.

This chapter calls us to examine the condition of our hearts before God. It challenges us to cultivate a genuine and humble heart, one that is willing to acknowledge our failures and repent when we fall short. It reminds us that God values obedience that flows from a heart that truly loves and honors Him.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 15 brings forth reflections on obedience, the consequences of sin, and the importance of a genuine heart. It serves as a warning against partial obedience and the dangers of disobedience, reminding us of the need for wholehearted devotion to God and submission to His commands. May we strive to obey God fully, recognizing the consequences of sin, and cultivating a genuine heart that seeks to honor and please Him.



## CHAPTER 16

1Sa. 16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

1Sa. 16:2 But Samuel said, “How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me.” The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”

1Sa. 16:3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

1Sa. 16:4 Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

1Sa. 16:5 Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

1Sa. 16:6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”

1Sa. 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”

1Sa. 16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”

1Sa. 16:9 Jesse then made Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.”

1Sa. 16:10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.”

1Sa. 16:11 So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the  
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sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down [Some Septuagint manuscripts; Hebrew not gather round] until he arrives.”

1Sa. 16:12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.”

1Sa. 16:13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

1Sa. 16:14 Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an

evil [Or injurious; also in verses 15, 16 and 23] spirit from the LORD tormented him.

1Sa. 16:15 Saul's attendants said to him, "See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you.

1Sa. 16:16 Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the harp. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes upon you, and you will feel better."

1Sa. 16:17 So Saul said to his attendants, "Find someone who plays well and bring him to me."

1Sa. 16:18 One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him."

1Sa. 16:19 Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

1Sa. 16:20 So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

1Sa. 16:21 David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armour-bearers.

1Sa. 16:22 Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

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1Sa. 16:23 Whenever the spirit from God came upon Saul, David would take his harp and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

Chapter 16 of the Book of 1 Samuel begins with God sending Samuel to anoint a new king to replace Saul, whom God had rejected as king. Samuel is hesitant to go, fearing that Saul will kill him if he finds out. However, God instructs him to go to Bethlehem and anoint one of Jesse's sons as the new king.

Samuel arrives in Bethlehem and asks Jesse to bring his sons before him. Jesse presents his seven oldest sons to Samuel, but none of them are chosen by God to be the new king. Samuel asks Jesse if he has any other sons, and Jesse reveals that he has one more son, David, who is out tending the sheep.

David is brought before Samuel, and God tells Samuel that David is the one he has chosen to be the new king. Samuel anoints David with oil, and the Spirit of the Lord comes upon him from that day forward.

After David's anointing, the Spirit of the Lord departs from Saul, and he is tormented by an evil spirit. Saul's attendants recommend that he find someone who can play the lyre to soothe his spirit, and one of them suggests David, whom he had seen playing the instrument while tending his father's sheep.

Saul sends for David, who comes and plays the lyre for him. Saul is comforted by David's music and asks Jesse to allow David to stay with him as his attendant. From that day forward, David becomes a trusted member of Saul's court.

Here are some important verses from chapter 16 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 16:1 - "The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.'"

1 Samuel 16:7 - "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"

1 Samuel 16:13 - "So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah."

These verses showcase God's selection of David as the future king of Israel. Samuel is instructed by God to anoint one of Jesse's sons, and even though he initially believes that Eliab, Jesse's eldest son, would be chosen, God reminds Samuel that He looks at the heart, not outward appearances. David, who is described as "ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features," is ultimately chosen and anointed by Samuel. This event marks the beginning of David's rise to power and highlights the importance of having a heart that is devoted to God.

1 Samuel chapter 16 introduces us to the anointing of David as the future king of Israel. This chapter explores themes of God's sovereignty, the importance of inner character, and the value of obedience to His calling.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of God's sovereignty in choosing His leaders. Samuel is sent by God to Bethlehem to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the next king. As Samuel assesses each of Jesse's older sons, he learns that God's criteria for choosing a king are different from human standards. God looks at the heart, not outward appearances.

This chapter reminds us that God's ways are higher than our ways and that He sees beyond the external qualities we often value. It teaches us to trust in God's wisdom and discernment when it comes to choosing leaders. It challenges us to look beyond superficial attributes and to value inner character and devotion to God in ourselves and others.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 16 highlights the importance of inner character and the condition of the heart. When none of Jesse's older sons are chosen, Samuel asks if there are any other sons, and David, the youngest and least expected, is brought before Samuel. God confirms that David is the chosen one, emphasizing that David has a heart after God's own heart.

This chapter emphasizes that God values integrity, humility, and a heart that seeks after Him. It reminds us that true leadership is grounded in a deep relationship with God and a heart that desires to honor and follow Him. It challenges us to examine our own hearts and seek to cultivate qualities that align with God's heart.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 16 emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's calling. David is anointed as the future king, but his full ascent to the throne does not happen immediately. He returns to his shepherding duties, waiting for God's timing and remaining faithful in the tasks at hand.

This chapter teaches us the value of patience and obedience while waiting for God's plans to unfold. It reminds us that God's timing is perfect and that our faithfulness in small tasks prepares us for greater responsibilities in the future. It encourages us to trust in God's guidance and to faithfully serve Him wherever we are, knowing that He is working out His purposes in His perfect timing.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 16 brings forth reflections on God's sovereignty, inner character, and obedience to His calling. It teaches us to value what God values, to cultivate a heart after God's own heart, and to trust in His timing and guidance. May we seek to align our hearts with God's, to value inner character over external appearances, and to faithfully obey His calling in our lives.

## CHAPTER 17

1Sa. 17:1 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah.

1Sa. 17:2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines.

1Sa. 17:3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

1Sa. 17:4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet [Hebrew was six cubits and a span (about 3 metres)] tall.

1Sa. 17:5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armour of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; [That is, about 125 pounds (about 57 kilograms)]

1Sa. 17:6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back.

1Sa. 17:7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. [That is, about 15 pounds (about 7 kilograms)] His shield-bearer went ahead of him.

1Sa. 17:8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me.

1Sa. 17:9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us."

1Sa. 17:10 Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other."

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1Sa. 17:11 On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

1Sa. 17:12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was old and well advanced in years.

1Sa. 17:13 Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah.

1Sa. 17:14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul,

1Sa. 17:15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

1Sa. 17:16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

1Sa. 17:17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah [That is, probably about 3/5 bushel (about 22 litres)] of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp.

1Sa. 17:18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. [Hebrew thousand] See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance [Or some token; or some pledge of spoils] from them.

1Sa. 17:19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."

1Sa. 17:20 Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry.

1Sa. 17:21 Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other.

1Sa. 17:22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and greeted his brothers.

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1Sa. 17:23 As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it.

1Sa. 17:24 When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear.

1Sa. 17:25 Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father's family from taxes in Israel."

1Sa. 17:26 David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he

should defy the armies of the living God?"

1Sa. 17:27 They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him."

1Sa. 17:28 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

1Sa. 17:29 "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?"

1Sa. 17:30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before.

1Sa. 17:31 What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

1Sa. 17:32 David said to Saul, "Let no-one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

1Sa. 17:33 Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."

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1Sa. 17:34 But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock,

1Sa. 17:35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it.

1Sa. 17:36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.

1Sa. 17:37 The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

1Sa. 17:38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armour on him and a bronze helmet on his head.

1Sa. 17:39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. "I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

1Sa. 17:40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

1Sa. 17:41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield-bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David.

1Sa. 17:42 He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him.

1Sa. 17:43 He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

1Sa. 17:44 “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!”

1Sa. 17:45 David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the

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name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

1Sa. 17:46 This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

1Sa. 17:47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.”

1Sa. 17:48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet him.

1Sa. 17:49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

1Sa. 17:50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

1Sa. 17:51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

1Sa. 17:52 Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath [Some Septuagint manuscripts; Hebrew a valley] and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

1Sa. 17:53 When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.

1Sa. 17:54 David took the Philistine’s head and brought it to Jerusalem, and he put the Philistine’s weapons in his own tent.

1Sa. 17:55 As Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is

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that young man?” Abner replied, “As surely as you live, O king, I don’t know.”

1Sa. 17:56 The king said, “Find out whose son this young man is.”

1Sa. 17:57 As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still



holding the Philistine's head.

1Sa. 17:58 "Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him. David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem."

Chapter 17 of the Book of 1 Samuel tells the story of David and Goliath, one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. The chapter begins with the Philistines and Israelites gathering for battle in the Valley of Elah. The Philistines had a champion warrior named Goliath, who was over nine feet tall and wore heavy armor. He challenged the Israelites to send out a champion to fight him, with the outcome determining the winner of the battle.

Saul and the Israelites were terrified of Goliath, but David, who had been sent by his father to bring food to his older brothers who were fighting in the army, heard Goliath's challenge and was outraged. He offered to fight Goliath, and after some persuasion, Saul agreed to let him.

David refused to wear Saul's armor and instead went to face Goliath with only his sling and five smooth stones. Goliath taunted David, but David replied that he came in the name of the Lord, and that the battle was not his, but the Lord's.

David quickly struck Goliath with a stone from his sling, which hit him in the forehead and knocked him down. David then took Goliath's sword and cut off his head. The Philistines were terrified and fled, and the Israelites won a great victory.

After the battle, David became a hero and was praised by the people. Saul asked his commander, Abner, who David was, and Abner brought David before Saul. David became a servant in Saul's court, and he and Saul's son, Jonathan, became close friends.

Here are some important verses from chapter 17 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 17:4-7 - "A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back."

1 Samuel 17:45-47 - "David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands.'"

1 Samuel 17:50 - "So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him."

These verses describe the famous story of David and Goliath, where David, a young shepherd, defeats the giant Philistine warrior Goliath with a sling and a stone. Despite Goliath's intimidating size and armor, David puts his faith in the Lord and declares that God will give him the victory. This event highlights the power of faith in God and the importance of trusting in His strength rather than our own. It also emphasizes the idea

that the battle ultimately belongs to the Lord and that He can use even the smallest and seemingly weakest among us to achieve great things.

1 Samuel chapter 17 is a well-known and powerful account of David's victory over the Philistine giant, Goliath. This chapter explores themes of courage, faith, and God's faithfulness in the face of overwhelming challenges.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of courage in the face of adversity. Goliath, a formidable warrior, taunts the Israelite army, and fear grips the hearts of Saul and his soldiers. However, David, a young shepherd boy, steps forward with unwavering confidence and offers to fight Goliath.

This chapter showcases the extraordinary courage of David, who places his trust in God's strength rather than relying on his own abilities. It reminds us that true courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the willingness to confront and overcome fear through faith in God. David's example encourages us to face our own giants, whether they be literal or metaphorical, with unwavering trust in God's power.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 17 emphasizes the importance of faith in God's faithfulness. David's faith in God's deliverance is evident as he boldly declares that the battle is the Lord's. He recognizes that victory does not depend on human strength or weaponry but on God's sovereign power.

This chapter reminds us that when we place our faith in God, He can accomplish great things through us. It challenges us to trust in His faithfulness and to believe that He can overcome any obstacle or challenge we face. It encourages us to rely on God's strength rather than our own, knowing that He is able to bring victory in the most daunting circumstances.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 17 highlights God's faithfulness and His ability to work through unlikely individuals. David, a young shepherd boy, is chosen by God to defeat the giant Goliath. God uses David's humility, courage, and faith to bring about a significant victory for the Israelites.

This chapter reminds us that God often chooses the weak and the unlikely to accomplish His purposes. It teaches us that our worth and potential are not determined by our outward appearance or societal expectations, but rather by our willingness to trust and obey God. It encourages us to embrace our unique identities and gifts, knowing that God can use us mightily when we submit ourselves to Him.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 17 brings forth reflections on courage, faith, and God's faithfulness. It challenges us to face our giants with unwavering trust in God's power, to believe in His faithfulness to deliver us, and to embrace our identities and gifts for His purposes. May we draw strength from David's example, placing our faith in God and allowing Him to work mightily through us.

## CHAPTER 18

1Sa. 18:1 After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.

1Sa. 18:2 From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return to his father's house.

1Sa. 18:3 And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.

1Sa. 18:4 Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

1Sa. 18:5 Whatever Saul sent him to do, David did it so successfully [Or wisely] that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well.

1Sa. 18:6 When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes.

1Sa. 18:7 As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

1Sa. 18:8 Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me  
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with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?"

1Sa. 18:9 And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

1Sa. 18:10 The next day an evil [Or injurious] spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand

1Sa. 18:11 and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

1Sa. 18:12 Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had left Saul.

1Sa. 18:13 So he sent David away from him and gave him command over a thousand men, and David led the troops in their campaigns.

1Sa. 18:14 In everything he did he had great success, [Or he was very wise] because the LORD was with him.

1Sa. 18:15 When Saul saw how successful [Or wise] he was, he was afraid of him.

1Sa. 18:16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he led them in their campaigns.

1Sa. 18:17 Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the LORD." For Saul said to himself, "I will not

raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!”

1Sa. 18:18 But David said to Saul, “Who am I, and what is my family or my father’s clan in Israel, that I should become the king’s son-in-law?”

1Sa. 18:19 So [Or However,] when the time came for Merab, Saul’s daughter, to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah.

1Sa. 18:20 Now Saul’s daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he was pleased.

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1Sa. 18:21 “I will give her to him,” he thought, “so that she may be a snare to him and so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” So Saul said to David, “Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law.”

1Sa. 18:22 Then Saul ordered his attendants: “Speak to David privately and say, ‘Look, the king is pleased with you, and his attendants all like you; now become his son-in-law.’”

1Sa. 18:23 They repeated these words to David. But David said, “Do you think it is a small matter to become the king’s son-in-law? I’m only a poor man and little known.”

1Sa. 18:24 When Saul’s servants told him what David had said,

1Sa. 18:25 Saul replied, “Say to David, ‘The king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.’” Saul’s plan was to have David fall by the hands of the Philistines.

1Sa. 18:26 When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king’s son-in-law. So before the allotted time elapsed,

1Sa. 18:27 David and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines. He brought their foreskins and presented the full number to the king so that he might become the king’s son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.

1Sa. 18:28 When Saul realised that the LORD was with David and that his daughter Michal loved David,

1Sa. 18:29 Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy for the rest of his days.

1Sa. 18:30 The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with more success [Or David acted more wisely] than the rest of Saul’s officers, and his name became well known.

Chapter 18 of the book of 1 Samuel begins with Jonathan, the son of Saul, making a covenant with David, son of Jesse, because he admired him and recognized that God was with him. After this, David becomes a commander in Saul's army and leads them to

victory over the Philistines, which further endears him to the people and makes Saul jealous.

Saul's jealousy intensifies as he hears the people sing David's praises, and he becomes fearful of David's growing popularity. One day, while David was playing the harp for Saul, he threw a spear at David, hoping to kill him. But David avoided it and fled, realizing that Saul was intent on killing him.

Despite Saul's attempts to kill him, David continued to prosper and win battles for Israel. In fact, he was so successful that the women of Israel even composed a song in his honor, which only fueled Saul's jealousy even more.

Saul eventually offers David his oldest daughter, Merab, in marriage, but David declines the offer. Instead, Saul gives his younger daughter, Michal, to David, hoping that she will become a snare to him. But Michal falls in love with David and helps him escape when Saul sends men to kill him.

As the chapter comes to a close, we see David continuing to prosper and Saul continuing to be consumed by jealousy and rage towards him.

Here are some important verses from chapter 18 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 18:1 - "After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself."

1 Samuel 18:7-9 - "As they danced, they sang: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.' Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. 'They have credited David with tens of thousands,' he thought, 'but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?'"

1 Samuel 18:14-15 - "In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him. When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him."

These verses describe the relationship between David and Saul, as well as David's growing popularity and success. Saul becomes jealous of David's military victories and the praise he receives from the people, leading to a strained relationship between the two. On the other hand, Jonathan, Saul's son, becomes close friends with David and even makes a covenant with him. This chapter highlights themes of jealousy, friendship, and the importance of having the Lord's favor and presence in our lives.

1 Samuel chapter 18 focuses on the relationship between David and Saul, exploring themes of jealousy, friendship, and the sovereignty of God.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of jealousy. After David's victory over Goliath and his rise in popularity among the Israelites, Saul becomes increasingly jealous of David. Saul's jealousy is fueled by the people's admiration for David and his military successes.

This chapter highlights the destructive nature of jealousy and its potential to harm relationships. Saul's jealousy leads him to harbor ill will towards David and even attempt to kill him. It serves as a cautionary reminder of the dangers of envy and the need to guard our hearts against such destructive emotions.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 18 highlights the value of genuine friendship. Despite Saul's jealousy, Jonathan, Saul's son, develops a deep friendship with David. Jonathan recognizes David's character, God's anointing upon him, and the faithfulness of their friendship is evident throughout the chapter.

This chapter emphasizes the importance of true friendship based on mutual trust, support, and loyalty. It reminds us of the power of genuine relationships in our lives, as they can provide encouragement, companionship, and a source of strength during challenging times. It calls us to cultivate authentic friendships that honor and reflect the love of God.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 18 emphasizes the sovereignty of God over human affairs. Despite Saul's attempts to harm David, God continues to protect and bless David. God's favor remains upon David, and his success continues to grow, while Saul's envy and anger only lead to his own downfall.

This chapter reminds us that God is ultimately in control of our lives and circumstances. It teaches us to trust in God's providence and to rest in His sovereignty, even in the face of adversity. It encourages us to rely on God's protection and guidance, knowing that He will ultimately bring about His purposes in our lives.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 18 brings forth reflections on jealousy, friendship, and the sovereignty of God. It warns us of the dangers of jealousy and calls us to cultivate genuine friendships based on trust and support. It reminds us to trust in God's sovereignty and to find comfort in His provision and protection. May we guard our hearts against jealousy, foster meaningful friendships, and trust in God's plan for our lives.

## CHAPTER 19

1Sa. 19:1 Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David

1Sa. 19:2 and warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there.

1Sa. 19:3 I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I'll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out."

1Sa. 19:4 Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly.

1Sa. 19:5 He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The LORD won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?"

1Sa. 19:6 Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death."

1Sa. 19:7 So Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.

1Sa. 19:8 Once more war broke out, and David went out and fought the Philistines. He struck them with such force that they fled before him.

1Sa. 19:9 But an evil [Or injurious] spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand.

While David was playing the harp,

1Sa. 19:10 Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape.

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1Sa. 19:11 Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed."

1Sa. 19:12 So Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped.

1Sa. 19:13 Then Michal took an idol [Hebrew teraphim; also in verse 16] and laid it on the bed, covering it with a garment and putting some goats' hair at the head.

1Sa. 19:14 When Saul sent the men to capture David, Michal said, "He is ill."

1Sa. 19:15 Then Saul sent the men back to see David and told them, "Bring him up to me in his bed so that I may kill him."

1Sa. 19:16 But when the men entered, there was the idol in the bed, and at the head was some goats' hair.

1Sa. 19:17 Saul said to Michal, "Why did you deceive me like this and send my enemy away so that he escaped?" Michal told him, "He said to me, 'Let me get away. Why should I kill you?'"

1Sa. 19:18 When David had fled and made his escape, he went to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went to Naioth and stayed there.

1Sa. 19:19 Word came to Saul: "David is in Naioth at Ramah";

1Sa. 19:20 so he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, the Spirit of God came upon Saul's men and they also prophesied.

1Sa. 19:21 Saul was told about it, and he sent more men, and they prophesied too. Saul sent men a third time, and they also prophesied.

1Sa. 19:22 Finally, he himself left for Ramah and went to the great cistern at Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" "Over in Naioth at Ramah," they said.

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1Sa. 19:23 So Saul went to Naioth at Ramah. But the Spirit of God



came even upon him, and he walked along prophesying until he came to Naioth.

1Sa. 19:24 He stripped off his robes and also prophesied in Samuel's presence. He lay that way all that day and night. This is why people say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

Here's a detailed summary of chapter 19 of the Book of 1 Samuel:

After Jonathan warned David of Saul's plan to kill him, David fled from Saul's presence and went to Naioth in Ramah, where Samuel was. Saul found out about David's location and sent messengers to capture him, but when they arrived at Naioth, they were overcome by the Spirit of God and began prophesying. Saul then sent more messengers, but the same thing happened to them. Finally, Saul himself went to Naioth and also began prophesying.

David then fled to Jonathan and asked him why Saul wanted to kill him. Jonathan tried to convince Saul to spare David's life, but Saul was still determined to kill him. Jonathan then warned David to stay hidden and promised to find out Saul's intentions towards him. Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him and kill him in the morning, but David's wife, Michal, helped him escape through a window and sent a dummy in his place to fool the messengers. When Saul found out, he was furious with Michal and David and continued to pursue David.

David fled to Samuel in Ramah and stayed there. When Saul found out, he sent messengers to capture David, but they too were overcome by the Spirit of God and began prophesying. Saul then went to Ramah himself, and the same thing happened to him. Finally, Saul stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel and the people, and it was said that he was "among the prophets." David then went to Jonathan and they reaffirmed their covenant of friendship, with Jonathan promising to let David know of any further developments with Saul.

Here are some important verses from chapter 19 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 19:1 - "Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to David."

1 Samuel 19:4-5 - "Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, 'Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?'"

1 Samuel 19:9-10 - "But an evil spirit from the Lord came on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the lyre, Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape."

These verses continue to depict the tension between Saul and David. Saul becomes increasingly jealous of David's success and popularity and attempts to have him killed, but Jonathan speaks up in David's defense. Saul then tries to kill David himself but fails, and David escapes. This chapter also highlights the idea that God can use even difficult circumstances to protect and guide us, as He helps David escape from Saul's grasp.

1 Samuel chapter 19 continues the story of David's life, focusing on his relationship with Saul and the persecution he faces. This chapter explores themes of God's protection, loyalty, and the consequences of disobedience.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of God's protection. Saul's jealousy and fear of David lead him to seek David's life, but God intervenes to protect David. Through the loyalty and courage of Jonathan and the wisdom of David's wife, Michal, David is able to escape from Saul's plot.

This chapter reminds us of God's faithfulness and His ability to protect His chosen ones. It demonstrates that no matter the opposition or threats we face, God is with us and can deliver us from harm. It encourages us to trust in God's providence and to seek His guidance and protection in the midst of trials and persecutions.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 19 highlights the loyalty and support of Jonathan. Despite being Saul's son, Jonathan remains a true friend to David. He intercedes on David's behalf, warns him of Saul's plans, and encourages him to stay strong in his faith.

This chapter underscores the importance of genuine friendships that provide support and encouragement during difficult times. It shows the value of having loyal companions who stand by us when we face adversity. It prompts us to cherish and cultivate relationships that reflect the love and loyalty of Christ.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 19 reveals the consequences of disobedience. Saul's jealousy and desire to kill David lead him to act against God's will and to persecute an innocent man. As a result, he experiences frustration and the loss of God's Spirit, leading to erratic behavior and even attempts to harm David.

This chapter serves as a warning about the destructive consequences of disobedience and the importance of aligning our lives with God's purposes. It reminds us that disobedience not only harms others but also hinders our relationship with God. It urges us to walk in obedience and to seek His guidance, knowing that His ways lead to blessing and peace.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 19 brings forth reflections on God's protection, loyalty, and the consequences of disobedience. It assures us of God's faithfulness in safeguarding His people and calls us to trust in His providence. It emphasizes the importance of loyal friendships and prompts us to examine our own obedience to God's commands. May we find comfort in God's protection, cultivate loyal relationships, and walk in obedience to His will.

## CHAPTER 20

1Sa. 20:1 Then David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have

I wronged your father, that he is trying to take my life?"

1Sa. 20:2 "Never!" Jonathan replied. "You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without confiding in me. Why should he hide this from me? It's not so!"

1Sa. 20:3 But David took an oath and said, "Your father knows very well that I have found favour in your eyes, and he has said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.' Yet as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."

1Sa. 20:4 Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you."

1Sa. 20:5 So David said, "Look, tomorrow is the New Moon festival, and I am supposed to dine with the king; but let me go and hide in the field until the evening of the day after tomorrow.

1Sa. 20:6 If your father misses me at all, tell him, 'David earnestly asked my permission to hurry to Bethlehem, his home town, because an annual sacrifice is being made there for his whole clan.'

1Sa. 20:7 If he says, 'Very well,' then your servant is safe. But if he loses his temper, you can be sure that he is determined to harm me.

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1Sa. 20:8 As for you, show kindness to your servant, for you have brought him into a covenant with you before the LORD. If I am guilty, then kill me yourself! Why hand me over to your father?"

1Sa. 20:9 "Never!" Jonathan said. "If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn't I tell you?"

1Sa. 20:10 David asked, "Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?"

1Sa. 20:11 "Come," Jonathan said, "let's go out into the field." So they went there together.

1Sa. 20:12 Then Jonathan said to David: "By the LORD, the God of Israel, I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favourably disposed towards you, will I not send you word and let you know?"

1Sa. 20:13 But if my father is inclined to harm you, may the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away safely. May the LORD be with you as he has been with my father.

1Sa. 20:14 But show me unfailing kindness like that of the LORD as long as I live, so that I may not be killed,

1Sa. 20:15 and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family — not even when the LORD has cut off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth."

1Sa. 20:16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the LORD call David’s enemies to account.”

1Sa. 20:17 And Jonathan made David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

1Sa. 20:18 Then Jonathan said to David: “Tomorrow is the New Moon festival. You will be missed, because your seat will be empty.

1Sa. 20:19 The day after tomorrow, towards evening, go to the place where you hid when this trouble began, and wait by the stone Ezel.

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1Sa. 20:20 I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I were shooting at a target.

1Sa. 20:21 Then I will send a boy and say, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I say to him, ‘Look, the arrows are on this side of you; bring them here,’ then come, because, as surely as the LORD lives, you are safe; there is no danger.

1Sa. 20:22 But if I say to the boy, ‘Look, the arrows are beyond you,’ then you must go, because the LORD has sent you away.

1Sa. 20:23 And about the matter you and I discussed — remember, the LORD is witness between you and me for ever.”

1Sa. 20:24 So David hid in the field, and when the New Moon festival came, the king sat down to eat.

1Sa. 20:25 He sat in his customary place by the wall, opposite Jonathan, [Septuagint; Hebrew wall. Jonathan arose] and Abner sat next to Saul, but David’s place was empty.

1Sa. 20:26 Saul said nothing that day, for he thought, “Something must have happened to David to make him ceremonially unclean — surely he is unclean.”

1Sa. 20:27 But the next day, the second day of the month, David’s place was empty again. Then Saul said to his son Jonathan, “Why hasn’t the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?”

1Sa. 20:28 Jonathan answered, “David earnestly asked me for permission to go to Bethlehem.

1Sa. 20:29 He said, ‘Let me go, because our family is observing a sacrifice in the town and my brother has ordered me to be there. If I have found favour in your eyes, let me go to see my brothers.’ That is why he has not come to the king’s table.”

1Sa. 20:30 Saul’s anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, “You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don’t I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you?

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1Sa. 20:31 As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send and bring him to

me, for he must die!”

1Sa. 20:32 “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?”

Jonathan asked his father.

1Sa. 20:33 But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David.

1Sa. 20:34 Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the month he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father’s shameful treatment of David.

1Sa. 20:35 In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for his meeting with David. He had a small boy with him,

1Sa. 20:36 and he said to the boy, “Run and find the arrows I shoot.” As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

1Sa. 20:37 When the boy came to the place where Jonathan’s arrow had fallen, Jonathan called out after him, “Isn’t the arrow beyond you?”

1Sa. 20:38 Then he shouted, “Hurry! Go quickly! Don’t stop!” The boy picked up the arrow and returned to his master.

1Sa. 20:39 (The boy knew nothing of all this; only Jonathan and David knew.)

1Sa. 20:40 Then Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy and said, “Go, carry them back to town.”

1Sa. 20:41 After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together — but David wept the most.

1Sa. 20:42 Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants for ever.’” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.

Chapter 20 begins with David fleeing from Saul's presence and seeking refuge with Jonathan. David asks Jonathan why Saul wants to kill him, and Jonathan assures David that Saul does not want to harm him. However, David remains skeptical and devises a plan with Jonathan to test Saul's intentions. They agree to meet in a field the next day, and if Saul is angry and hostile towards David, then it is a sign that he truly wants to kill him.

The next day, David is absent from a feast hosted by Saul, and Saul becomes angry and suspicious. Jonathan covers for David, saying that David had asked permission to attend a family sacrifice in Bethlehem. Saul seems to accept this explanation, but he becomes enraged when Jonathan defends David's character and loyalty.

Jonathan returns to the field and tells David the news, shooting arrows to signal whether it is safe for David to return. When the arrows fall beyond the designated spot, David knows that he must flee and the two friends bid each other farewell.

In this chapter, we see the deep friendship and loyalty between Jonathan and David. They are willing to risk their own safety and well-being to protect each other, even in the face of Saul's wrath. The chapter also shows the dangerous and unpredictable nature of Saul, who becomes increasingly unstable and jealous of David.

Here are some important verses from chapter 20 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 20:4 - "Jonathan said to David, 'Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you.'"

1 Samuel 20:17 - "And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself."

1 Samuel 20:30-31 - "Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, 'You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you?'"

These verses continue to portray the close friendship between Jonathan and David, as Jonathan helps David escape from Saul's wrath. They make a plan for David to go into hiding, and Jonathan reaffirms his loyalty to David. However, when Saul becomes aware of their plan, he becomes angry with Jonathan and accuses him of siding with David against him. This chapter highlights themes of loyalty, friendship, and the lengths people will go to protect those they care about.

1 Samuel chapter 20 continues the narrative of David's life, focusing on his friendship with Jonathan and the growing animosity between David and Saul. This chapter explores themes of loyalty, trust, and the faithfulness of God's providence.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of loyalty and friendship. David and Jonathan share a deep bond of friendship, and in this chapter, Jonathan seeks to protect David from Saul's anger and plots. They make a covenant of friendship, and Jonathan pledges to inform David of any danger.

This chapter highlights the power of genuine friendship and the loyalty that exists between David and Jonathan. Their relationship is built on trust, selflessness, and a shared commitment to God. It reminds us of the importance of loyal friendships in our lives, where we can find support, encouragement, and a safe haven. It encourages us to cultivate and cherish relationships that are grounded in mutual trust and loyalty.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 20 emphasizes the importance of trust in God's providence. David and Jonathan devise a plan to test Saul's intentions, relying on God's guidance and direction. They have faith that God will reveal the truth and protect David from harm.

This chapter serves as a reminder that we can trust in God's providence and guidance even in challenging situations. It encourages us to seek His wisdom, to listen to His voice, and to trust that He is working behind the scenes for our good. It prompts us to have faith in God's faithfulness and to rely on Him in all circumstances.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 20 reveals the consequences of Saul's disobedience and anger. Saul's jealousy and rage cause him to act irrationally and even attempt to kill his

own son, Jonathan. It highlights the destructive power of unchecked emotions and the consequences that arise from disobedience to God's commands.

This chapter reminds us of the importance of self-control, humility, and obedience in our lives. It warns us against allowing jealousy, anger, or pride to drive our actions and decisions. It prompts us to submit to God's authority and seek His guidance, knowing that His ways lead to peace and righteousness.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 20 brings forth reflections on loyalty, trust, and the faithfulness of God's providence. It highlights the power of genuine friendships, the importance of trust in God's guidance, and the consequences of disobedience. May we cultivate loyal friendships, trust in God's providence, and seek to live in obedience to His commands.

## CHAPTER 21

1Sa. 21:1 David went to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he met him, and asked, “Why are you alone? Why is no-one with you?”

1Sa. 21:2 David answered Ahimelech the priest, “The king charged me with a certain matter and said to me, ‘No-one is to know anything about your mission and your instructions.’ As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place.

1Sa. 21:3 Now then, what have you to hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find.”

1Sa. 21:4 But the priest answered David, “I don’t have any ordinary bread to hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here — provided the men have kept themselves from women.”

1Sa. 21:5 David replied, “Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever [Or from us in the past few days since] I set out. The men’s things [Or bodies] are holy even on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!”

1Sa. 21:6 So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

1Sa. 21:7 Now one of Saul’s servants was there that day, detained before the LORD; he was Doeg the Edomite, Saul’s head shepherd.

1Sa. 21:8 David asked Ahimelech, “Don’t you have a spear or sword here? I haven’t brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king’s business was urgent.”

1Sa. 21:9 The priest replied, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one.” David said, “There is none like it;



give it to me.”

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1Sa. 21:10 That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath.

1Sa. 21:11 But the servants of Achish said to him, “Isn’t this David, the king of the land? Isn’t he the one they sing about in their dances: “‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands?’”

1Sa. 21:12 David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath.

1Sa. 21:13 So he feigned insanity in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

1Sa. 21:14 Achish said to his servants, “Look at the man! He is insane! Why bring him to me?”

1Sa. 21:15 Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here to carry on like this in front of me? Must this man come into my house?”

here's a detailed summary of chapter 21 of the Book of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible: David, now on the run from Saul, goes to the town of Nob to visit the priest Ahimelech. He tells Ahimelech that he is on a secret mission for the king and that he and his men are hungry, so the priest gives him some consecrated bread to eat. This bread was reserved only for the priests, but Ahimelech decides to give it to David and his men since they are in need.

David also asks Ahimelech if he has any weapons, and Ahimelech gives him the sword of Goliath, which was stored in the temple. David takes the sword and flees to the land of the Philistines, specifically to the city of Gath, where he is recognized by the servants of King Achish. David is afraid, but he pretends to be insane and drools on his beard to convince Achish that he is harmless.

Despite his act, David is still in danger, and he decides to leave Gath and go to the cave of Adullam, where his family and some other men join him. From there, they launch raids against the Philistines and other enemies of Israel.

Here are some important verses from chapter 21 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 21:1 - "David went to Nob, to Ahimelek the priest. Ahimelek trembled when he met him, and asked, 'Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?'"

1 Samuel 21:7 - "Now one of Saul’s servants was there that day, detained before the Lord; he was Doeg the Edomite, Saul’s chief shepherd."

1 Samuel 21:13 - "So he pretended to be insane in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard."

These verses describe David's flight from Saul, as he seeks refuge from Ahimelek the priest in Nob. David lies to Ahimelek and says he is on a secret mission from Saul, and Ahimelek provides David with bread and the sword of Goliath. However, one of Saul's

servants, Doeg the Edomite, is there and reports David's presence to Saul. In order to escape, David pretends to be insane and is able to flee. This chapter highlights the danger and difficulty of David's situation, as well as his resourcefulness in trying to stay safe.

1 Samuel chapter 21 tells the story of David's encounter with Ahimelech the priest and his journey to escape from Saul's pursuit. This chapter explores themes of desperation, provision, and the trustworthiness of God's guidance.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of desperation and the lengths David goes to seek safety. Fleeing from Saul, David arrives at Nob and seeks provisions and guidance from Ahimelech the priest. In his desperation, David even resorts to deception to secure bread for himself and his companions.

This chapter reminds us of the human frailty and vulnerability that we can experience in times of distress. It reflects the reality that in difficult circumstances, we may feel compelled to make choices that we wouldn't normally make. It serves as a reminder of the need for God's grace and understanding when we find ourselves in desperate situations.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 21 highlights God's provision and care for His people. Despite David's deceptive actions, Ahimelech provides him with consecrated bread and the sword of Goliath. It shows that God's compassion and provision extend even in times when we may not fully understand or deserve it.

This chapter emphasizes the trustworthiness of God's guidance and His ability to provide for our needs. It challenges us to rely on God's faithfulness rather than resorting to deceptive or unethical means. It encourages us to trust in God's provision, even in the midst of uncertainty and desperation.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 21 portrays the faithfulness and loyalty of God's servants. Ahimelech, despite the potential risks involved, extends kindness and assistance to David. He demonstrates the importance of showing compassion and support to those in need, even when it may put us at risk.

This chapter serves as a reminder of the value of extending grace and generosity to others, especially in their times of need. It prompts us to be mindful of the ways we can be instruments of God's love and provision to those around us, even when it requires sacrifice or personal risk.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 21 brings forth reflections on desperation, provision, and the trustworthiness of God's guidance. It reminds us of our human frailty and the need for God's grace in challenging circumstances. It encourages us to trust in God's provision and guidance, even when we may not fully understand the path before us. It also calls us to extend compassion and support to others in their times of need. May we find solace in God's provision, trust in His guidance, and seek to extend His love and grace to those around us.

## CHAPTER 22

1Sa. 22:1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there.

1Sa. 22:2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered round him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

1Sa. 22:3 From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?"

1Sa. 22:4 So he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was in the stronghold.

1Sa. 22:5 But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

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1Sa. 22:6 Now Saul heard that David and his men had been discovered. And Saul, spear in hand, was seated under the tamarisk tree on the hill at Gibeah, with all his officials standing round him.

1Sa. 22:7 Saul said to them, "Listen, men of Benjamin! Will the son of Jesse give all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make all of you commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds?"

1Sa. 22:8 Is that why you have all conspired against me? No-one tells me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse.

None of you is concerned about me or tells me that my son has incited my servant to lie in wait for me, as he does today."

1Sa. 22:9 But Doeg the Edomite, who was standing with Saul's officials, said, "I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob.

1Sa. 22:10 Ahimelech enquired of the LORD for him; he also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

1Sa. 22:11 Then the king sent for the priest Ahimelech son of Ahitub and his father's whole family, who were the priests at Nob, and they all came to the king.

1Sa. 22:12 Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." "Yes, my lord," he answered.

1Sa. 22:13 Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, giving him bread and a sword and enquiring of God for him, so that he has rebelled against me and lies in wait for me, as he does today?"

1Sa. 22:14 Ahimelech answered the king, "Who of all your servants is as loyal as David, the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard and highly respected in your household?"

1Sa. 22:15 Was that day the first time I enquired of God for him? Of course not! Let not the king accuse your servant or any of his father's family, for your servant knows nothing at all about this whole affair."

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1Sa. 22:16 But the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and your father's whole family."

1Sa. 22:17 Then the king ordered the guards at his side: "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because they too have sided with David. They knew he was fleeing, yet they did not tell me."

But the king's officials were not willing to raise a hand to strike the priests of the LORD.

1Sa. 22:18 The king then ordered Doeg, "You turn and strike down the priests." So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down.

That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod.

1Sa. 22:19 He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with its men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys and sheep.

1Sa. 22:20 But Abiathar, son of Ahimelech son of Ahitub, escaped and fled to join David.

1Sa. 22:21 He told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.

1Sa. 22:22 Then David said to Abiathar: "That day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, I knew he would be sure to tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of your father's whole family.

1Sa. 22:23 Stay with me; don't be afraid; the man who is seeking your life is seeking mine also. You will be safe with me."

Chapter 22 starts with David fleeing from Saul and going to the cave of Adullam. He is soon joined by his family and other people who were in distress, in debt or discontented. They become a band of about four hundred men under David's leadership.

When Saul hears that David is in the region of Judah, he becomes even more paranoid and accuses his own officials of conspiring with David against him. He orders Doeg the Edomite to kill the priests of Nob, who had given David and his men some bread and a sword. Doeg kills all the priests except for Abiathar, who escapes to join David.

David feels responsible for the deaths of the priests and welcomes Abiathar into his protection. He tells him that he will protect him from Saul and his men. Meanwhile, David asks the king of Moab to protect his parents until he knows what God has in store for him.

One of Saul's servants, named Edomite, informs him that David is staying in the stronghold at Horesh. Saul immediately sets out with his soldiers to find him. David learns of this and asks God what he should do. God tells him to go to Keilah and that He will deliver the Philistines into his hands.

David and his men go to Keilah and defeat the Philistines, saving the people of Keilah.

Saul hears that David is there and decides not to pursue him, probably because he is busy

fighting the Philistines. David and his men continue to roam the wilderness, avoiding Saul and his men.

This chapter shows the contrast between David and Saul. David is merciful to the priests of Nob, while Saul is ruthless in ordering their execution. David also shows his leadership skills by gathering a band of followers and successfully defeating the Philistines at Keilah. Saul, on the other hand, is increasingly paranoid and paranoid, accusing his own officials of conspiring against him.

Here are some important verses from chapter 22 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 22:1-2 - "David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him."

1 Samuel 22:9-10 - "But Doeg the Edomite, who was standing with Saul's officials, said, 'I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelek son of Ahitub at Nob. Ahimelek inquired of the Lord for him; he also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine.'"

1 Samuel 22:23 - "Stay with me; don't be afraid. The man who wants to kill you is trying to kill me too. You will be safe with me."

These verses describe David's refuge in the cave of Adullam, where he is joined by others who are also in distress or facing difficult circumstances. Saul learns of David's whereabouts from Doeg, and he accuses Ahimelek and the priests of helping David and orders their execution. However, one priest, Abiathar, manages to escape and joins David. This chapter highlights the danger that David and his supporters face, as well as their reliance on each other for protection and support.

1 Samuel chapter 22 portrays a tumultuous time in David's life as he seeks refuge from Saul's relentless pursuit. This chapter explores themes of fear, faithfulness, and God's sovereignty in the midst of difficult circumstances.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of fear. David, knowing that Saul is determined to kill him, seeks refuge in the cave of Adullam. In this place of vulnerability, David is joined by others who are also in distress and facing challenges.

This chapter reflects the reality that fear can grip our hearts when we face uncertainty and threats to our well-being. It reminds us that even the strongest and most faithful individuals can experience fear in the face of overwhelming circumstances. It encourages us to acknowledge our fears and bring them before God, seeking His strength and guidance.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 22 highlights the faithfulness of God in the midst of adversity. Despite David's difficult circumstances, he remains committed to seeking and following God's will. He acknowledges God's sovereignty and trusts that God has a plan for his life, even in the midst of danger.

This chapter underscores the importance of maintaining faithfulness to God, even when faced with challenges and persecution. It reminds us that God remains faithful to His people, providing strength, comfort, and direction in times of distress. It encourages us to rely on God's guidance and to remain steadfast in our faith, knowing that He is with us in every situation.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 22 highlights the importance of community and support in difficult times. David, in the cave of Adullam, is joined by those who are distressed, indebted, and discontented. Together, they form a community that supports and encourages one another.

This chapter emphasizes the power of unity and fellowship among believers. It reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles and that God often provides support and encouragement through the presence of others. It prompts us to seek and offer support to one another, especially during challenging seasons of life.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 22 brings forth reflections on fear, faithfulness, and the importance of community. It acknowledges the reality of fear in difficult circumstances but encourages us to turn to God for strength and guidance. It reminds us of God's faithfulness and calls us to remain steadfast in our trust in Him. It also prompts us to seek and offer support within the community of believers. May we find courage in God's presence, remain faithful in adversity, and extend support and love to those around us.

## CHAPTER 23

1Sa. 23:1 When David was told, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are looting the threshing-floors,"

1Sa. 23:2 he enquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" The LORD answered him, "Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah."

1Sa. 23:3 But David's men said to him, "Here in Judah we are afraid. How much more, then, if we go to Keilah against the Philistine forces!"

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1Sa. 23:4 Once again David enquired of the LORD, and the LORD answered him, "Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand."

1Sa. 23:5 So David and his men went to Keilah, fought the Philistines and carried off their livestock. He inflicted heavy losses on the Philistines and saved the people of Keilah.

1Sa. 23:6 (Now Abiathar son of Ahimelech had brought the ephod down with him when he fled to David at Keilah.)

1Sa. 23:7 Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah, and he said, "God has handed him over to me, for David has imprisoned himself by entering a town with gates and bars."

1Sa. 23:8 And Saul called up all his forces for battle, to go down to

Keilah to besiege David and his men.

1Sa. 23:9 When David learned that Saul was plotting against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod."

1Sa. 23:10 David said, "O LORD, God of Israel, your servant has heard definitely that Saul plans to come to Keilah and destroy the town on account of me.

1Sa. 23:11 Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me to him? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, God of Israel, tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will."

1Sa. 23:12 Again David asked, "Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my men to Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will."

1Sa. 23:13 So David and his men, about six hundred in number, left Keilah and kept moving from place to place. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he did not go there.

1Sa. 23:14 David stayed in the desert strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands.

1Sa. 23:15 While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life.

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1Sa. 23:16 And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him to find strength in God.

1Sa. 23:17 "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You shall be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this."

1Sa. 23:18 The two of them made a covenant before the LORD. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

1Sa. 23:19 The Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah and said, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hakilah, south of Jeshimon?"

1Sa. 23:20 Now, O king, come down whenever it pleases you to do so, and we will be responsible for handing him over to the king."

1Sa. 23:21 Saul replied, "The LORD bless you for your concern for me.

1Sa. 23:22 Go and make further preparation. Find out where David usually goes and who has seen him there. They tell me he is very crafty.

1Sa. 23:23 Find out about all the hiding-places he uses and come back to me with definite information. [Or me at Nacon] Then I will go with you; if he is in the area, I will track him down among all the clans of Judah."

1Sa. 23:24 So they set out and went to Ziph ahead of Saul. Now David and his men were in the Desert of Maon, in the Arabah south of Jeshimon.

1Sa. 23:25 Saul and his men began the search, and when David was told about it, he went down to the rock and stayed in the Desert of Maon. When Saul heard this, he went into the Desert of



Maon in pursuit of David.

1Sa. 23:26 Saul was going along one side of the mountain, and David and his men were on the other side, hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his forces were closing in on David and his men to capture them,

1Sa. 23:27 a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Come quickly! The Philistines are raiding the land."

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1Sa. 23:28 Then Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to meet the Philistines. That is why they call this place Sela Hammahlekoth. [Sela Hammahlekoth means rock of parting.]

1Sa. 23:29 And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of En Gedi.

Chapter 23 of the Book of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

David continues to be pursued by King Saul and finds himself in the town of Keilah. When he learns that the Philistines are attacking Keilah, he asks God if he should go and fight them. God tells him to go and David and his men successfully drive the Philistines away. However, Saul learns that David is in Keilah and plans to attack him. David asks God if the people of Keilah will betray him, and God tells him they will. David and his men then leave Keilah and hide in the wilderness.

Saul continues to search for David and gathers his army to pursue him. David and his men are hiding in the wilderness of Ziph, and Jonathan (Saul's son) comes to visit him. Jonathan encourages David and reminds him of God's promises. However, the Ziphites betray David's location to Saul.

Saul pursues David, but is called away to fight against the Philistines. David takes this opportunity to escape and hides in the stronghold of En Gedi.

Here are some important verses from chapter 23 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 23:2 - "David inquired of the Lord, 'Shall I go and attack these Philistines?' The Lord answered him, 'Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah.'"

1 Samuel 23:4 - "Once again David inquired of the Lord, and the Lord answered him, 'Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand.'"

1 Samuel 23:14 - "David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands."

These verses describe David's efforts to protect the city of Keilah from the Philistines, after seeking guidance from the Lord. David and his men successfully defend Keilah, but Saul learns of their presence and plans to attack. David is warned by Jonathan and is able to escape to the wilderness, where he continues to evade Saul's pursuit. This chapter highlights David's reliance on the Lord for guidance and protection, as well as the ongoing threat of danger that he faces from Saul's relentless pursuit.

1 Samuel chapter 23 continues the account of David's life as he faces challenges and seeks God's guidance. This chapter explores themes of courage, seeking God's will, and the importance of trusting in God's protection.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of courage. David, upon hearing that the city of Keilah is under attack by the Philistines, seeks the Lord's guidance on whether to go and rescue the city. Despite the risks involved, David demonstrates great courage by pursuing the enemy and protecting the people of Keilah.

This chapter reminds us of the importance of courage in the face of adversity. It encourages us to trust in God's strength and provision, knowing that He is with us as we step out in faith to confront the challenges that come our way. It prompts us to rely on God's power rather than our own, recognizing that He equips us with the courage we need to face difficult circumstances.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 23 highlights the significance of seeking God's will. David, before making any decision, seeks the Lord's guidance through the priest Abiathar and the ephod. He inquires of the Lord, asking for His direction and assurance of victory.

This chapter emphasizes the importance of seeking God's guidance in every aspect of our lives. It reminds us that God is the ultimate source of wisdom and direction, and He desires to lead us in His perfect will. It encourages us to approach Him in prayer, seeking His guidance and waiting on His response before making important decisions.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 23 showcases God's protection over His chosen servant. Despite Saul's relentless pursuit of David, God intervenes and provides a way for David to escape from harm. He uses Jonathan, David's friend, to encourage him and assure him of God's faithfulness.

This chapter demonstrates God's faithfulness to His promises and His commitment to protecting His people. It reminds us that God is our refuge and strength, and He watches over us even in the face of danger. It encourages us to place our trust in Him, knowing that He is our ultimate protector and provider.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 23 brings forth reflections on courage, seeking God's will, and trusting in God's protection. It calls us to step out in faith with courage, trusting in God's strength to face challenges. It reminds us to seek God's guidance in all our decisions, relying on His wisdom and direction. It assures us of God's faithful protection and prompts us to place our trust in Him. May we find courage in God's presence, seek His will in all things, and trust in His unfailing protection.

## CHAPTER 24

1Sa. 24:1 After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi."

1Sa. 24:2 So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and

set out to look for David and his men near the Craggs of the Wild Goats.

1Sa. 24:3 He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave.

1Sa. 24:4 The men said, “This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said [Or “Today the LORD is saying] to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.

1Sa. 24:5 Afterwards, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.

1Sa. 24:6 He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD.”

1Sa. 24:7 With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

1Sa. 24:8 Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.

1Sa. 24:9 He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you’?”

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1Sa. 24:10 This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD gave you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, ‘I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD’s anointed.’

1Sa. 24:11 See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognise that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life.

1Sa. 24:12 May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.

1Sa. 24:13 As the old saying goes, ‘From evildoers come evil deeds,’ so my hand will not touch you.

1Sa. 24:14 “Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?”

1Sa. 24:15 May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.”

1Sa. 24:16 When David finished saying this, Saul asked, “Is that your voice, David my son?” And he wept aloud.

1Sa. 24:17 “You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly.”

1Sa. 24:18 You have just now told me of the good you did to me; the LORD gave me into your hands, but you did not kill me.

1Sa. 24:19 When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today.

1Sa. 24:20 I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands.

1Sa. 24:21 Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."

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1Sa. 24:22 So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Chapter 24 of the Book of 1 Samuel tells the story of David sparing King Saul's life. After David flees from Saul and his army, he hides in the Desert of En Gedi. Meanwhile, Saul hears of David's whereabouts and gathers 3,000 men to search for him. While Saul and his men are searching for David, Saul decides to take a break and enters a cave. Coincidentally, David and his men are also hiding in the same cave. David's men encourage him to take advantage of the opportunity and kill Saul, believing that God has delivered Saul into his hands.

David, however, refuses to harm the king, saying that he will not "lay [his] hand on [the] Lord's anointed." Instead, he secretly cuts off a corner of Saul's robe as proof that he had the opportunity to kill him but chose not to. After Saul leaves the cave, David comes out and calls to Saul, showing him the piece of robe and saying that he means him no harm. Saul is moved by David's actions and declares that David will surely be king. He even weeps and asks David to swear that he will not cut off his descendants or destroy his name. David swears to Saul and then leaves.

This chapter highlights David's respect for the anointed king, despite his own destiny to become king. It also shows that Saul recognizes David's goodness and potential, even though he continues to be threatened by him.

Here are some important verses from chapter 24 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 24:4-7 - "The men said, 'This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, 'The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.'"

1 Samuel 24:10-11 - "'Today you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed.'"

1 Samuel 24:16-17 - "When David finished saying this, Saul asked, 'Is that your voice, David my son?' And he wept aloud. 'You are more righteous than I,' he said. 'You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly.'"

These verses describe an encounter between David and Saul in a cave, where Saul has come to relieve himself. David has the opportunity to kill Saul, but instead, he cuts off a corner of Saul's robe as proof that he could have taken Saul's life, but did not. When Saul leaves the cave, David reveals himself and shows him the corner of his robe, and he explains that he has spared Saul's life because he is the Lord's anointed. Saul acknowledges David's righteousness and his own wrongdoing. This chapter highlights David's respect for Saul as the Lord's chosen king, even in the face of Saul's persecution of him, as well as the complexities of leadership and loyalty.

1 Samuel chapter 24 presents a powerful story of David's encounter with Saul in the cave of En-gedi. This chapter explores themes of forgiveness, humility, and trusting in God's justice.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of forgiveness. David, having the opportunity to take vengeance on Saul, chooses instead to spare his life. He recognizes Saul as God's anointed king and refuses to harm him, even when his own men encourage him to do so.

This chapter highlights the importance of forgiveness in the face of personal offense and the temptation for revenge. It reveals David's deep respect for God's anointed authority and his willingness to extend grace and mercy, even to his enemy. It prompts us to examine our own hearts and attitudes, challenging us to choose forgiveness over bitterness and to extend grace to those who have wronged us.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 24 emphasizes the virtue of humility. Despite being anointed as the future king of Israel, David shows great humility before Saul. He acknowledges Saul's authority and refuses to exalt himself or take matters into his own hands.

This chapter teaches us the value of humility in our interactions with others, especially those in positions of authority. It reminds us that true greatness is found in humility, recognizing that all authority ultimately comes from God. It encourages us to submit to God's timing and trust in His plans, even when it may seem difficult or unfair.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 24 points to the importance of trusting in God's justice. David, rather than seeking revenge, places his trust in God's righteous judgment. He believes that God will deal with Saul according to His perfect wisdom and timing.

This chapter reminds us that we can trust in God's justice, even when we face injustice or mistreatment. It encourages us to surrender our desire for retaliation and to place our confidence in God's ability to bring about justice in His perfect way and time. It prompts us to remember that vengeance belongs to God, and our role is to seek reconciliation and extend forgiveness.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 24 brings forth reflections on forgiveness, humility, and trusting in God's justice. It challenges us to choose forgiveness over revenge, to embrace

humility in our interactions with others, and to trust in God's ultimate justice. May we learn from David's example, extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us, cultivate humility in our relationships, and place our trust in God's righteous judgment.

## CHAPTER 25

1Sa. 25:1 Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David moved down into the Desert of Maon. [Some Septuagint manuscripts; Hebrew Paran]

1Sa. 25:2 A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel.

1Sa. 25:3 His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings.

1Sa. 25:4 While David was in the desert, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep.

1Sa. 25:5 So he sent ten young men and said to them, "Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name.

1Sa. 25:6 Say to him: `Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!

1Sa. 25:7 "Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not ill-treat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing.

1Sa. 25:8 Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favourable towards my young men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them."

1Sa. 25:9 When David's men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David's name. Then they waited.

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1Sa. 25:10 Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days.

1Sa. 25:11 Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?"

1Sa. 25:12 David's men turned round and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word.

1Sa. 25:13 David said to his men, "Put on your swords!" So they put on their swords, and David put on his. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.

1Sa. 25:14 One of the servants told Nabal's wife Abigail: "David sent

messengers from the desert to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them.

1Sa. 25:15 Yet these men were very good to us. They did not ill-treat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing.

1Sa. 25:16 Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them.

1Sa. 25:17 Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no-one can talk to him.”

1Sa. 25:18 Abigail lost no time. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs [That is, probably about a bushel (about 37 litres)] of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys.

1Sa. 25:19 Then she told her servants, “Go on ahead; I’ll follow you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

1Sa. 25:20 As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending towards her, and she met them.

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1Sa. 25:21 David had just said, “It’s been useless — all my watching over this fellow’s property in the desert so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good.

1Sa. 25:22 May God deal with David, [Some Septuagint manuscripts; Hebrew with David’s enemies] be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!”

1Sa. 25:23 When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground.

1Sa. 25:24 She fell at his feet and said: “My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say.

1Sa. 25:25 May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name — his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent.

1Sa. 25:26 “Now since the LORD has kept you, my master, from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm my master be like Nabal.

1Sa. 25:27 And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my master, be given to the men who follow you.

1Sa. 25:28 Please forgive your servant’s offence, for the LORD will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the LORD’s battles. Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live.



1Sa. 25:29 Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God. But the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling.

1Sa. 25:30 When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel,

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1Sa. 25:31 my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself.

And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant.”

1Sa. 25:32 David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me.

1Sa. 25:33 May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands.

1Sa. 25:34 Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak.”

1Sa. 25:35 Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought to him and said, “Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request.”

1Sa. 25:36 When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak.

1Sa. 25:37 Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone.

1Sa. 25:38 About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.

1Sa. 25:39 When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Praise be to the LORD, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal’s wrongdoing down on his own head.” Then David sent word to Abigail, asking her to become his wife.

1Sa. 25:40 His servants went to Carmel and said to Abigail, “David has sent us to you to take you to become his wife.”

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1Sa. 25:41 She bowed down with her face to the ground and said, “Here is your maidservant, ready to serve you and wash the feet of my master’s servants.”

1Sa. 25:42 Abigail quickly got on a donkey and, attended by her five maids, went with David’s messengers and became his wife.

1Sa. 25:43 David had also married Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both

were his wives.

1Sa. 25:44 But Saul had given his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Paltiel [Hebrew Palti, a variant of Paltiel] son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

Chapter 25 tells the story of Nabal, a wealthy man who lived in Maon, and David, who was then a fugitive on the run from King Saul. David and his men were camping in the wilderness of Paran, and they protected Nabal's shepherds and flocks from harm. In return, David sent messengers to Nabal asking for provisions for himself and his men, but Nabal refused, insulting David and his men.

David was angry and decided to retaliate by gathering his men to attack Nabal's household. However, a young woman named Abigail, Nabal's wife, heard of the situation and quickly gathered a large number of provisions to offer to David as a peace offering. She went to meet David and pleaded with him not to take revenge, reminding him that God would bless him if he avoided violence.

David listened to Abigail and was grateful for her wise words. He praised her for her courage and discernment and acknowledged that she had saved his men from committing a great sin. He accepted the provisions she brought and returned to his camp, leaving Nabal unharmed.

The next morning, Abigail told Nabal what had happened, but he was so drunk that he did not understand the gravity of the situation until he woke up the next day and found that his wife had saved their household from destruction. Nabal was overcome with shock and died ten days later, leaving Abigail free to marry David, who had been impressed by her wisdom and beauty.

The chapter ends with David marrying Abigail and Ahinoam, another woman who had become his wife, as he continued to flee from Saul.

Here are some important verses from chapter 25 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 25:3 - "His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband was surly and mean in his dealings—he was a Calebite."

1 Samuel 25:32-33 - "David said to Abigail, 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands.'"

1 Samuel 25:38-39 - "About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died. When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, 'Praise be to the Lord, who has upheld my cause against Nabal for treating me with contempt. He has kept his servant from doing wrong and has brought Nabal's wrongdoing down on his own head.'"

These verses describe the story of Nabal, a wealthy and mean-spirited man, and his wife Abigail, who is described as intelligent and beautiful. When David and his men are in need of provisions, they ask Nabal for help, but he refuses. Abigail intervenes and provides David and his men with food and supplies, preventing a potential conflict. After Nabal's death, David acknowledges God's role in the situation and praises Abigail for her wisdom and intervention. This chapter highlights the themes of hospitality, generosity, and wisdom, as well as the dangers of pride and foolishness.

1 Samuel chapter 25 tells the story of David's encounter with Nabal and his wife Abigail. This chapter explores themes of wisdom, humility, and the importance of peacemaking.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of wisdom. David, upon hearing of Nabal's disrespectful response to his men's request for provisions, initially becomes angry and plans to take revenge. However, upon Abigail's intervention, he displays wisdom by reconsidering his actions and choosing not to respond in a rash and vengeful manner.

This chapter highlights the importance of wisdom in our interactions with others. It reminds us to pause, reflect, and seek God's guidance before allowing our emotions to dictate our actions. It prompts us to approach conflicts with a mindset of wisdom, considering the bigger picture and seeking peaceful resolutions.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 25 emphasizes the virtue of humility. Abigail, recognizing the potential consequences of Nabal's actions, humbly intervenes to prevent bloodshed and extends hospitality and generosity towards David and his men. She acknowledges her husband's foolishness and seeks to make amends, demonstrating humility and a desire for peace.

This chapter teaches us the value of humility in diffusing conflicts and fostering reconciliation. It encourages us to approach challenging situations with a humble and gracious attitude, seeking understanding and common ground rather than escalating tensions. It prompts us to consider the impact of our words and actions on others, promoting unity and peace whenever possible.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 25 highlights the importance of peacemaking. Abigail's actions serve as a model of peacemaking, as she seeks to reconcile David and Nabal, averting potential violence. Her courage, wisdom, and humility contribute to the restoration of peace between the parties involved.

This chapter reminds us of our role as peacemakers in a world marked by conflict and division. It encourages us to actively pursue peace, even in challenging circumstances, by seeking reconciliation, extending forgiveness, and practicing empathy. It prompts us to be agents of peace, following the example of Christ who calls us to be peacemakers in a broken world.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 25 brings forth reflections on wisdom, humility, and peacemaking. It challenges us to seek wisdom in our interactions, respond with humility and grace, and actively pursue peace in our relationships. May we cultivate wisdom in our words and actions, embrace humility as we seek resolution, and actively promote peace in a world that longs for reconciliation.

## CHAPTER 26

1Sa. 26:1 The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?”

1Sa. 26:2 So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search there for David.

1Sa. 26:3 Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the desert. When he saw that Saul had followed him there,

1Sa. 26:4 he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived. [Or had come to Nacon]

1Sa. 26:5 Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him.

1Sa. 26:6 David then asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruiah, Joab’s brother, “Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?” “I’ll go with you,” said Abishai.

1Sa. 26:7 So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying round him.

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1Sa. 26:8 Abishai said to David, “Today God has given your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won’t strike him twice.”

1Sa. 26:9 But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless?

1Sa. 26:10 As surely as the LORD lives,” he said, “the LORD himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.

1Sa. 26:11 But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let’s go.”

1Sa. 26:12 So David took the spear and water jug near Saul’s head, and they left. No-one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the LORD had put them into a deep sleep.

1Sa. 26:13 Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them.

1Sa. 26:14 He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, “Aren’t you going to answer me, Abner?” Abner replied, “Who are you who calls to the king?”

1Sa. 26:15 David said, “You’re a man, aren’t you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn’t you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king.

1Sa. 26:16 What you have done is not good. As surely as the LORD

lives, you and your men deserve to die, because you did not guard your master, the LORD's anointed. Look around you. Where are the king's spear and water jug that were near his head?"

1Sa. 26:17 Saul recognised David's voice and said, "Is that your voice, David my son?" David replied, "Yes it is, my lord the king."

1Sa. 26:18 And he added, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of?"

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1Sa. 26:19 Now let my lord the king listen to his servant's words. If the LORD has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, men have done it, may they be cursed before the LORD! They have now driven me from my share in the LORD's inheritance and have said, 'Go, serve other gods.'

1Sa. 26:20 Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the LORD. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea — as one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

1Sa. 26:21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have erred greatly."

1Sa. 26:22 "Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it."

1Sa. 26:23 The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness. The LORD gave you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the LORD's anointed.

1Sa. 26:24 As surely as I valued your life today, so may the LORD value my life and deliver me from all trouble."

1Sa. 26:25 Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David; you will do great things and surely triumph." So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

Chapter 26 continues the story of David and Saul, with David once again sparing Saul's life. In this chapter, Saul is once again pursuing David, who is hiding in the wilderness of Ziph with his men. Saul's army surrounds David and his men, and Saul himself camps nearby.

One night, David and Abishai, one of his men, sneak into Saul's camp while he is sleeping. Abishai suggests that they kill Saul while he is vulnerable, but David refuses, stating that he will not lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Instead, David takes Saul's spear and water jug as proof that he could have killed Saul if he had wanted to.

David calls out to Saul from a safe distance, waking him up and alerting him to the fact that he was in the camp. David chastises Abner, Saul's commander, for not protecting his king, and then urges Saul to stop pursuing him and seek peace. Saul realizes that David has spared his life once again and acknowledges that David is more righteous than he is.

The chapter ends with Saul asking David to promise that he will not cut off his descendants or wipe out his name, and David agrees. The two part ways, with David heading back to the wilderness and Saul returning home.

Here are some important verses from chapter 26 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 26:8-9 - "Abishai said to David, 'Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice.' But David said to Abishai, 'Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?'"

1 Samuel 26:23-24 - "The Lord rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness. The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord value my life and deliver me from all trouble."

These verses describe a second incident where David has an opportunity to kill Saul, who is seeking to kill him. David's loyal follower, Abishai, urges him to take advantage of the opportunity and kill Saul. However, David again chooses to spare Saul's life, recognizing him as the Lord's anointed and trusting in God's justice. This chapter highlights the themes of faithfulness, obedience, and trust in God's sovereignty. It also emphasizes the importance of showing mercy and restraint, even towards one's enemies.

1 Samuel chapter 26 presents a parallel account to the previous chapter, where David once again has an opportunity to take vengeance on Saul. This chapter explores themes of mercy, trust in God's timing, and the power of forgiveness.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of mercy. Similar to the previous encounter, David finds Saul sleeping vulnerable in the camp, and his men urge him to kill Saul and end the threat to his life. However, David once again chooses not to harm Saul, recognizing the value of mercy and respecting God's anointed leader.

This chapter highlights the importance of extending mercy even to those who have wronged us. It challenges us to rise above the desire for revenge and instead choose forgiveness and compassion. It reminds us that mercy is a reflection of God's character and prompts us to seek opportunities to extend grace to others, even when they may not deserve it.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 26 emphasizes the significance of trusting in God's timing. David acknowledges that it is not his place to take matters into his own hands and exact vengeance on Saul. He trusts in God's sovereignty and timing, believing that if God desires to remove Saul from power, He will do so in His own way and time.

This chapter reminds us to trust in God's perfect timing and plans for our lives. It encourages us to resist the temptation to force outcomes or take matters into our own hands. It prompts us to surrender our desires and agendas to God, placing our trust in Him to work all things together for good according to His divine purposes.



Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 26 showcases the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. Even though Saul repeatedly seeks to kill David, David still holds no ill will towards him. He maintains a heart of forgiveness and extends an invitation for reconciliation, expressing his desire for unity and peace.

This chapter underscores the transformative power of forgiveness in relationships. It challenges us to let go of grudges, bitterness, and resentment, and to actively pursue reconciliation and healing. It prompts us to follow David's example and be agents of reconciliation, seeking to restore broken relationships and foster unity among God's people.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 26 brings forth reflections on mercy, trust in God's timing, and the power of forgiveness. It encourages us to extend mercy and forgiveness to those who have wronged us, trusting in God's timing and plans for justice. It prompts us to cultivate a heart of reconciliation, seeking unity and peace in our relationships. May we walk in the path of mercy and forgiveness, trusting in God's timing and working towards reconciliation and healing.

## CHAPTER 27

1Sa. 27:1 But David thought to himself, "One of these days I shall be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand."

1Sa. 27:2 So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maach king of Gath.

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1Sa. 27:3 David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal.

1Sa. 27:4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.

1Sa. 27:5 Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favour in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?"

1Sa. 27:6 So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since.

1Sa. 27:7 David lived in Philistine territory for a year and four months.

1Sa. 27:8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.)

1Sa. 27:9 Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish.



1Sa. 27:10 When Achish asked, “Where did you go raiding today?” David would say, “Against the Negev of Judah” or “Against the Negev of Jerahmeel” or “Against the Negev of the Kenites.”

1Sa. 27:11 He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, “They might inform on us and say, ‘This is what David did.’” And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory.

1Sa. 27:12 Achish trusted David and said to himself, “He has become so odious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant for ever.”

Chapter 27 starts with David fleeing from Saul and taking refuge with the Philistines in the town of Gath. David requests permission from the Philistine king, Achish, to settle in a nearby town called Ziklag, and Achish grants his request. David, along with his 600 men, their families, and their possessions, settle in Ziklag, which is located in the territory of the tribe of Simeon.

David lives in Ziklag for over a year and four months, during which time he conducts raids on the enemies of the Philistines, including the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. David and his men kill all the inhabitants of these towns and take their livestock and possessions as spoils of war. David tells Achish that he has been attacking the Israelites, but he actually attacks other groups in order to prevent the Philistines from turning on him and his men.

Meanwhile, Saul has stopped pursuing David and is now fighting against the Philistines. However, the battle is not going well for Saul, and he is afraid when he hears that David is living with the Philistines. David decides to take advantage of Saul's distraction and launches a surprise attack on the Amalekites, killing all the men and taking the women, children, and livestock as plunder.

David returns to Ziklag and sends some of the spoils to the elders of Judah as a gift. However, he lies to Achish and tells him that he attacked the Negev of Judah. Achish is pleased with David's loyalty and trustworthiness and allows him to continue living in Ziklag.

In this chapter, we see David making a strategic move by seeking refuge with the Philistines and living in a town outside of Israel. He also continues to act as a military leader, conducting raids on Israel's enemies and bringing back spoils of war. However, he must keep his true actions hidden from his Philistine hosts in order to maintain their trust.

Here are some important verses from chapter 27 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 27:1 - "But David thought to himself, 'One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand.'"

1 Samuel 27:9 - "When David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish."

These verses describe how David, feeling insecure and fearing for his life, decides to flee to the land of the Philistines and seek refuge with their king, Achish. David lives there for

over a year and pretends to be an enemy of Israel, raiding and attacking various towns and settlements. However, David ensures that no witnesses are left alive to tell King Achish about his actions, to maintain his cover. This chapter highlights the theme of desperation and the difficult choices people may make in order to survive. It also serves as a warning against compromising one's values and identity in the face of adversity.

1 Samuel chapter 27 presents a chapter in David's life where he makes a decision to seek refuge among the Philistines. This chapter explores themes of fear, compromise, and the consequences of relying on our own understanding.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of fear. David, fearing for his life due to Saul's relentless pursuit, decides to go and dwell with the Philistines, seeking their protection. In doing so, he allows fear to influence his decisions and compromises his allegiance to God and the Israelites.

This chapter reminds us of the power of fear and its potential to lead us astray. It cautions us against making decisions based solely on fear, as it can cloud our judgment and cause us to compromise our values and trust in God. It prompts us to bring our fears before God, seeking His guidance and finding courage in Him rather than relying on our own understanding.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 27 highlights the danger of compromising our faith and allegiance to God. By seeking refuge among the Philistines, David aligns himself with Israel's enemies and deceives them into thinking he is fighting against his own people. In doing so, he compromises his identity as a chosen servant of God.

This chapter serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us of the consequences of compromising our faith for temporary security or personal gain. It calls us to remain steadfast in our devotion to God, even in the face of difficulty or danger. It encourages us to trust in God's protection and provision rather than compromising our principles.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 27 underscores the need to seek God's guidance and rely on His wisdom. David, in his fear and uncertainty, fails to inquire of the Lord or seek His counsel before making the decision to seek refuge among the Philistines. As a result, he finds himself entangled in a web of deception and compromise.

This chapter reminds us of the importance of seeking God's wisdom and guidance in all our decisions. It encourages us to pause and seek His counsel, to align our steps with His will, and to trust in His leading rather than relying on our own limited understanding. It prompts us to trust that God's ways are higher than ours and that He will provide the guidance we need when we seek Him with a humble heart.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 27 brings forth reflections on fear, compromise, and the importance of seeking God's guidance. It serves as a reminder of the dangers of allowing fear to dictate our decisions and the consequences of compromising our faith. It prompts us to seek God's wisdom, trust in His protection, and remain faithful to Him even in

challenging circumstances. May we find courage in God's presence, resist the temptation to compromise our faith, and seek His guidance in all aspects of our lives.

## CHAPTER 28

1Sa. 28:1 In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, "You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army."

1Sa. 28:2 David said, "Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do." Achish replied, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."

1Sa. 28:3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land.

1Sa. 28:4 The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all the Israelites and set up camp at Gilboa.

1Sa. 28:5 When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart.

1Sa. 28:6 He enquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets.

1Sa. 28:7 Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so that I may go and enquire of her." "There is one in Endor," they said.

1Sa. 28:8 So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. "Consult a spirit for me," he said, "and bring up for me the one I name."

1Sa. 28:9 But the woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land.

Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?"

1Sa. 28:10 Saul swore to her by the LORD, "As surely as the LORD lives, you will not be punished for this."

1Sa. 28:11 Then the woman asked, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" "Bring up Samuel," he said.

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1Sa. 28:12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!"

1Sa. 28:13 The king said to her, "Don't be afraid. What do you see?" The woman said, "I see a spirit [Or see spirits; or see gods] coming up out of the ground."

1Sa. 28:14 "What does he look like?" he asked. "An old man wearing a robe is coming up," she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.

1Sa. 28:15 Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” “I am in great distress,” Saul said. “The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has turned away from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do.”

1Sa. 28:16 Samuel said, “Why do you consult me, now that the LORD has turned away from you and become your enemy?”

1Sa. 28:17 The LORD has done what he predicted through me. The LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbours — to David.

1Sa. 28:18 Because you did not obey the LORD or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the LORD has done this to you today.

1Sa. 28:19 The LORD will hand over both Israel and you to the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also hand over the army of Israel to the Philistines.”

1Sa. 28:20 Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of Samuel’s words. His strength was gone, for he had eaten nothing all that day and night.

1Sa. 28:21 When the woman came to Saul and saw that he was greatly shaken, she said, “Look, your maidservant has obeyed you. I took my life in my hands and did what you told me to do.

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1Sa. 28:22 Now please listen to your servant and let me give you some food so that you may eat and have the strength to go on your way.”

1Sa. 28:23 He refused and said, “I will not eat.” But his men joined the woman in urging him, and he listened to them. He got up from the ground and sat on the couch.

1Sa. 28:24 The woman had a fattened calf at the house, which she slaughtered at once. She took some flour, kneaded it and baked bread without yeast.

1Sa. 28:25 Then she set it before Saul and his men, and they ate. That same night they got up and left.

Chapter 28 of 1 Samuel begins with the news that the Philistines had gathered their armies together to make war against Israel. When Saul saw the size of the Philistine army, he was afraid and sought the Lord for guidance, but the Lord did not answer him. Desperate, Saul turns to a medium in Endor and asks her to summon Samuel from the dead. The woman is hesitant to comply, as Saul had previously banned all necromancers and mediums from Israel, but Saul insists and promises to spare her life. When Samuel's spirit appears before Saul, he is shocked and afraid. Samuel rebukes Saul for his disobedience to the Lord and foretells the downfall of Saul and his kingdom. Samuel tells Saul that the Lord has already torn the kingdom from his hand and given it

to David, and that both Saul and his sons will die the next day in battle against the Philistines.

Saul is overcome with fear and falls to the ground. The medium and his servants try to comfort him, and the next day, Saul and his sons do indeed die in battle as Samuel had prophesied. This marks the end of Saul's reign as king of Israel.

Here are some important verses from chapter 28 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 28:6 - "He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets."

1 Samuel 28:13-14 - "The king said to her, 'Don't be afraid. What do you see?' The woman said, 'I see a ghostly figure coming up out of the earth.' 'What does he look like?' he asked. 'An old man wearing a robe is coming up,' she said. Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground."

These verses describe how, in his desperation, Saul turns to a medium to seek guidance from the dead prophet Samuel, who had previously anointed him as king. Although Saul had earlier driven out all mediums from Israel, he disguises himself and seeks out the medium, who initially refuses to help him. However, at Saul's insistence, she summons Samuel's spirit, which appears and delivers a message of doom and judgment upon Saul. This chapter highlights the consequences of disobedience and the dangers of seeking guidance outside of God's will. It also emphasizes the reality of spiritual warfare and the need for discernment and obedience to God's word

1 Samuel chapter 28 tells the account of Saul's desperate visit to the medium at En-dor, seeking guidance from the deceased prophet Samuel. This chapter explores themes of desperation, spiritual deception, and the consequences of disobedience.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of desperation. Saul, facing a critical situation with the Philistine army and feeling abandoned by God, resorts to seeking guidance from a medium, an act strictly forbidden by God's law. His desperation leads him to take matters into his own hands and seek supernatural counsel from forbidden sources.

This chapter serves as a cautionary tale, reminding us of the dangers of allowing desperation to lead us astray. It prompts us to place our trust in God even in the midst of difficult circumstances, rather than seeking solutions through ungodly means. It reminds us that God is our ultimate source of help and guidance, and we should turn to Him in times of desperation.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 28 highlights the spiritual deception that can occur when we seek answers outside of God's revealed will. The medium conjures an apparition that appears to be Samuel, which further compounds Saul's desperation and confusion. However, it is important to note that this is a deceptive spirit, not the actual prophet Samuel.

This chapter warns us about the dangers of spiritual deception and the cunning tactics of the enemy. It reminds us to test all spirits and discern the source of the guidance we seek.

It prompts us to anchor ourselves in the truth of God's Word and seek His guidance through prayer and His revealed will.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 28 underscores the consequences of disobedience. Saul's disobedience and rejection of God's commands lead to his downfall and the loss of God's favor. The chapter serves as a tragic reminder of the consequences that can follow when we turn away from God's ways and pursue our own desires.

This chapter encourages us to be obedient to God's commands and seek His will above all else. It prompts us to prioritize our relationship with God, living in alignment with His Word and seeking His guidance in all aspects of our lives. It reminds us that disobedience can have severe consequences and calls us to submit ourselves to God's authority and follow His leading.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 28 brings forth reflections on desperation, spiritual deception, and the consequences of disobedience. It warns us against allowing desperation to lead us to seek solutions outside of God's will. It reminds us to be vigilant against spiritual deception and to seek God's guidance through His Word and prayer. It prompts us to prioritize obedience to God's commands and to humbly submit ourselves to His authority. May we trust in God's faithfulness, seek His guidance in all things, and remain steadfast in our obedience to Him.

## CHAPTER 29

1Sa. 29:1 The Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, and Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel.

1Sa. 29:2 As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish.

1Sa. 29:3 The commanders of the Philistines asked, "What about these Hebrews?" Achish replied, "Is this not David, who was an officer of Saul king of Israel? He has already been with me for over a year, and from the day he left Saul until now, I have found no fault in him."

1Sa. 29:4 But the Philistine commanders were angry with him and said, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master's favour than by taking the heads of our own men?"

1Sa. 29:5 Isn't this the David they sang about in their dances: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands'?"

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1Sa. 29:6 So Achish called David and said to him, "As surely as the LORD lives, you have been reliable, and I would be pleased to have you serve with me in the army. From the day you



came to me until now, I have found no fault in you, but the rulers don't approve of you.

1Sa. 29:7 Turn back and go in peace; do nothing to displease the Philistine rulers."

1Sa. 29:8 "But what have I done?" asked David. "What have you found against your servant from the day I came to you until now? Why can't I go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"

1Sa. 29:9 Achish answered, "I know that you have been as pleasing in my eyes as an angel of God; nevertheless, the Philistine commanders have said, 'He must not go up with us into battle.'

1Sa. 29:10 Now get up early, along with your master's servants who have come with you, and leave in the morning as soon as it is light."

1Sa. 29:11 So David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

Chapter 29 begins with the Philistine lords gathering together to prepare for war against Israel. They have brought their armies to Aphek, and Achish, the Philistine king of Gath, has brought his own army as well. However, the other Philistine lords are suspicious of Achish's loyalty, as they remember that he had previously been an ally of David, who is now in Israel's camp. They ask Achish to send David and his men away, fearing that he will turn on them in battle.

Achish reluctantly agrees and tells David that he and his men must leave the Philistine army and return to their own land. David protests, insisting that he and his men have been faithful to Achish and have never caused any trouble. He points out that the Philistines have been planning to attack Israel for some time, and now that the battle is about to begin, it is not the right time for him and his men to leave.

Achish eventually agrees to let David stay, but only if he agrees to fight on the Philistine side in the upcoming battle. David reluctantly agrees, but he and his men are still viewed with suspicion by the other Philistine lords.

Meanwhile, Saul is preparing for battle against the Philistines. He is at Gilboa with his army, and he is terrified of what the outcome of the battle will be. He seeks guidance from the Lord, but the Lord does not answer him, either through dreams or by the Urim and Thummim (sacred stones used for divination). Saul's men are also afraid, and some of them even begin to desert him.

The chapter ends with the Philistines gathering their armies for battle against Israel. David and his men are among them, but their loyalty is still in question. The stage is set for a major conflict between the two nations.

In summary, chapter 29 of 1 Samuel is a tale of political maneuvering and military strategy. The Philistine lords are suspicious of Achish's loyalty, and they want David and his men out of their army. David insists on staying, but he must agree to fight against his own people. Meanwhile, Saul is afraid and seeks guidance from the Lord, but receives no



answer. The chapter sets the stage for a major battle between the Philistines and the Israelites, with David caught in the middle.

Here are some important verses from chapter 29 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 29:4 - "But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and said, 'Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master's favor than by taking the heads of our own men?'"

1 Samuel 29:11 - "So David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel."

These verses describe how David and his men were preparing to join the Philistine army in battle against Israel, but were rejected by the other Philistine commanders who feared that David might turn against them during the fight. This chapter highlights the difficult position that David found himself in as a refugee among the Philistines, forced to make alliances with those who were once his enemies. It also emphasizes the sovereignty of God, who prevented David from having to fight against his own people.

1 Samuel chapter 29 recounts an incident where David, who had been living among the Philistines, was about to join the Philistine army in battle against Israel. However, due to the intervention of the Philistine commanders, David and his men were ultimately prevented from participating in the battle. This chapter explores themes of divine providence, unexpected outcomes, and God's protection.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of divine providence. Despite David's compromised situation, God's providential hand is at work, preventing him from fighting against his own people. The Philistine commanders express their distrust in David, and they insist that he and his men return to their dwelling place rather than engaging in battle.

This chapter reminds us of God's sovereignty and His ability to orchestrate events according to His will. It highlights the way God can use unexpected circumstances and the decisions of others to fulfill His purposes and protect His people. It prompts us to trust in God's providence, even when situations seem uncertain or when our plans take an unexpected turn.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 29 emphasizes the importance of maintaining integrity and fidelity to God's commands. Although David had aligned himself with the Philistines, a situation that compromised his allegiance to Israel, he had remained faithful to God throughout his time among them. As a result, when the moment of decision arises, the Philistine commanders recognize the potential danger of having David and his men fight against their own people.

This chapter underscores the significance of living with integrity and upholding our devotion to God. It encourages us to maintain our faithfulness to God even in challenging circumstances or when faced with conflicting loyalties. It reminds us that our actions and

character matter, and they can have a profound impact on how others perceive us and the decisions they make concerning us.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 29 highlights God's protection and preservation of His people. While David's situation appeared precarious, God's providence ensures his safety. By preventing David and his men from joining the battle, God shields them from potentially harmful consequences and preserves them for His future plans.

This chapter reminds us of God's faithfulness in protecting and preserving His people. It prompts us to take comfort in the knowledge that God is our ultimate defender, even in the midst of challenging circumstances. It encourages us to trust in His protection and rely on His guidance as we navigate the complexities of life.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 29 brings forth reflections on divine providence, integrity, and God's protection. It reminds us to trust in God's sovereignty and His ability to guide our lives even when situations seem uncertain. It encourages us to live with integrity and remain faithful to God's commands, knowing that our actions can have a profound impact on how others perceive us. It reassures us of God's protection and preservation as we place our trust in Him. May we trust in God's providence, live with integrity, and find comfort in His loving protection as we navigate life's challenges.

#### CHAPTER 30

1Sa. 30:1 David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it,

1Sa. 30:2 and had taken captive the women and all who were in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.

1Sa. 30:3 When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.

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1Sa. 30:4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.

1Sa. 30:5 David's two wives had been captured — Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

1Sa. 30:6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

1Sa. 30:7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him,

1Sa. 30:8 and David enquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?" "Pursue them," he answered.

"You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue."

1Sa. 30:9 David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Ravine, where some stayed behind,  
1Sa. 30:10 for two hundred men were too exhausted to cross the ravine. But David and four hundred men continued the pursuit.  
1Sa. 30:11 They found an Egyptian in a field and brought him to David. They gave him water to drink and food to eat —  
1Sa. 30:12 part of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. He ate and was revived, for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights.  
1Sa. 30:13 David asked him, “To whom do you belong, and where do you come from?” He said, “I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I became ill three days ago.  
1Sa. 30:14 We raided the Negev of the Kerethites and the territory belonging to Judah and the Negev of Caleb. And we burned Ziklag.”  
1Sa. 30:15 David asked him, “Can you lead me down to this raiding party?” He answered, “Swear to me before God that you will not kill me or hand me over to my master, and I will take you down to them.”  
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1Sa. 30:16 He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and revelling because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah.  
1Sa. 30:17 David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled.  
1Sa. 30:18 David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives.  
1Sa. 30:19 Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back.  
1Sa. 30:20 He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, “This is David’s plunder.”  
1Sa. 30:21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. As David and his men approached, he greeted them.  
1Sa. 30:22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David’s followers said, “Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go.”  
1Sa. 30:23 David replied, “No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and

handed over to us the forces that came against us.

1Sa. 30:24 Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All shall share alike.”

1Sa. 30:25 David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this.

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1Sa. 30:26 When David arrived in Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends, saying, “Here is a present for you from the plunder of the LORD’s enemies.”

1Sa. 30:27 He sent it to those who were in Bethel, Ramoth Negev and Jattir;

1Sa. 30:28 to those in Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa

1Sa. 30:29 and Racal; to those in the towns of the Jerahmeelites and the Kenites;

1Sa. 30:30 to those in Hormah, Bor Ashan, Athach

1Sa. 30:31 and Hebron; and to those in all the other places where David and his men had roamed.

Chapter 30 opens with David and his men returning to their home in Ziklag after having been dismissed by Achish, the Philistine king. When they arrive, they find that the Amalekites have raided the city, burned it down, and taken their wives and children captive. David and his men are devastated and weep until they have no more strength. David's men turn against him, blaming him for their misfortune, and even consider stoning him to death. But David strengthens himself in the Lord and seeks guidance from the priest Abiathar, who helps him to inquire of the Lord. The Lord tells David to pursue the Amalekites and promises him that he will recover everything that was taken from him.

David and his men set out and come upon an Egyptian slave who had been left behind by the Amalekites. They give him food and water, and he leads them to the Amalekite camp. David and his men attack the camp and are able to rescue all of their wives and children, as well as take spoil from the Amalekites.

David and his men return to Ziklag with their families and spoil, and David sends a portion of the spoil to the elders of Judah as a gift. However, some of David's men are unhappy with this arrangement and want to keep all of the spoil for themselves. David rebukes them, saying that they all had an equal share in the victory and that it was the Lord who had given them the spoil.

The chapter ends with a note about David's leadership and how he divided the spoil among his men and sent portions to the elders of Judah. The author notes that David acted with wisdom and justice in his leadership, and that his fame spread throughout the land.

Here are some important verses from chapter 30 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 30:6 - "David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God."

1 Samuel 30:18-19 - "David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back."

These verses describe how David and his men returned to their camp in Ziklag to find that it had been attacked and burned down by the Amalekites, who had taken their wives and children captive. David's men were so distraught and angry that they turned on him and threatened to stone him. However, David found strength in the Lord and encouraged his men to pursue the Amalekites and rescue their families. With God's help, they were successful and recovered everything that had been taken. This chapter highlights the importance of seeking strength and guidance from God in times of crisis and how God can use even difficult circumstances to accomplish His purposes. It also shows the loyalty and bravery of David's men and their determination to stand by their leader.

1 Samuel chapter 30 tells the account of David's encounter with the Amalekites, who raided his camp, took captive the women and children, and plundered all their possessions. This chapter explores themes of loss, restoration, and seeking God's guidance in times of distress.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of loss. David and his men experience profound loss as they return to their camp and find it devastated and their loved ones taken captive. They are overwhelmed with grief and anguish, and David himself is greatly distressed.

This chapter reminds us that life is not immune to loss and hardship. It acknowledges the pain and sorrow that can come from unexpected circumstances and the impact it can have on our lives. It prompts us to acknowledge our emotions and bring our brokenness before God, seeking His comfort and strength in times of loss.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 30 highlights the importance of seeking God's guidance and direction, even in the midst of distress and devastation. David, in his distress, turns to God for guidance, asking the priest to bring him the ephod to inquire of the Lord. Through seeking God's counsel, David receives guidance and assurance that he should pursue the Amalekites and recover all that was taken from them.

This chapter underscores the significance of seeking God's wisdom and direction in times of crisis. It reminds us that God is our source of guidance, comfort, and restoration. It prompts us to turn to Him in prayer and seek His guidance, trusting that He will provide the wisdom and strength we need to navigate through difficult circumstances.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 30 highlights the theme of restoration. Through David's pursuit of the Amalekites, he is able to recover all that was taken from them. God grants him victory, and they regain not only their material possessions but also their loved ones who were held captive.

This chapter serves as a reminder of God's ability to restore what has been lost. It offers hope and encouragement, showing that God can turn our circumstances around and bring restoration to our lives. It prompts us to trust in His power to redeem and restore, even in the face of seemingly impossible situations.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 30 brings forth reflections on loss, seeking God's guidance, and the theme of restoration. It acknowledges the pain and sorrow that can come from unexpected circumstances, prompting us to seek God's comfort and strength in times of loss. It encourages us to seek God's guidance and wisdom in times of distress, trusting in His provision and restoration. May we turn to God in times of hardship, seek His guidance, and trust in His power to bring restoration to our lives.

## CHAPTER 31

1Sa. 31:1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

1Sa. 31:2 The Philistines pressed hard after Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua.

1Sa. 31:3 The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically.

1Sa. 31:4 Saul said to his armour-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me." But the armour-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it.

1Sa. 31:5 When the armour-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him.

1Sa. 31:6 So Saul and his three sons and his armour-bearer and all his men died together that same day.

1Sa. 31:7 When the Israelites along the valley and those across the Jordan saw that the Israelite army had fled and that Saul and  
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his sons had died, they abandoned their towns and fled. And the Philistines came and occupied them.

1Sa. 31:8 The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

1Sa. 31:9 They cut off his head and stripped off his armour, and they sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among their people.

1Sa. 31:10 They put his armour in the temple of the Ashtoreths and fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.

1Sa. 31:11 When the people of Jabesh Gilead heard of what the Philistines had done to Saul,

1Sa. 31:12 all their valiant men journeyed through the night to Beth

Shan. They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan and went to Jabesh, where they burned them.

1Sa. 31:13 Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days

Chapter 31 of 1 Samuel tells the story of the death of Saul, the first king of Israel. The Philistines and Israelites were at war, and the Philistines were gaining the upper hand. When the Philistines pursued Saul and his sons, Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul was badly wounded by arrows.

Saul ordered his armor-bearer to kill him, but when the armor-bearer refused, Saul took his own life by falling on his own sword. Saul's sons were also killed in battle, and the Philistines beheaded Saul's body and hung it on the wall of Beth-shan.

When the Israelites in the nearby towns heard what had happened, they fled in all directions. The Philistines came and occupied the towns, and found the bodies of Saul and his sons. The Philistines stripped Saul's armor and sent messengers throughout the land to proclaim the news of their victory.

The people of Jabesh-gilead, who had previously been saved by Saul, heard about his death and bravely went to Beth-shan to recover his body. They took it back to Jabesh-gilead and burned it, mourning for him for seven days.

In conclusion, chapter 31 marks the end of Saul's reign as the first king of Israel.

Here are some important verses from chapter 31 of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible:

1 Samuel 31:3 - "The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically."

1 Samuel 31:4 - "Saul said to his armor-bearer, 'Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me.' But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it."

1 Samuel 31:13 - "Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days."

These verses describe the tragic end of Saul's life, as he and his sons were defeated in battle against the Philistines. Saul was critically wounded by archers and, rather than be captured and abused by the enemy, he chose to take his own life. This event marked the end of Saul's reign as king and the beginning of David's ascent to the throne. The final verse in the chapter shows the respect that the people of Jabesh had for Saul, as they recovered his body and gave him a proper burial. This chapter highlights the consequences of disobedience to God's commands, as well as the importance of honoring and respecting those who have held positions of authority. It also foreshadows the eventual rise of David as Israel's greatest king.

Notes:

Here are some of the most difficult questions from the book of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible that have no clear answer:

1. Why did God reject Saul as king and choose David instead?



2. Why did Samuel anoint David as king while Saul was still alive and reigning?
3. Did Samuel really appear to Saul from the dead, or was it a deception?
4. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart and allow him to pursue the Israelites, leading to the events of the Exodus?
5. What was the nature of the "evil spirit" that tormented Saul, and why did God allow it?
6. Was David's relationship with Jonathan purely platonic, or did it have romantic or sexual overtones?
7. What exactly did Saul do to anger God so greatly that He rejected him as king?
8. Did the witch of Endor truly summon Samuel's spirit, or was it a deception?

These are just a few of the many difficult questions that arise from the book of 1 Samuel in the Christian Bible, and they continue to be the subject of much debate and interpretation among scholars and believers.

1 Samuel chapter 31 marks a significant turning point in the narrative as it recounts the tragic end of Saul's life and the defeat of Israel at the hands of the Philistines. This chapter explores themes of tragedy, the consequences of disobedience, and the sovereignty of God.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the theme of tragedy. Saul, despite his initial anointing and the potential he had as king, tragically falls in battle against the Philistines. The chapter portrays a scene of defeat, with Saul and his sons losing their lives and the Israelite army in disarray.

This chapter serves as a somber reminder of the devastating consequences that can result from disobedience and turning away from God's commands. Saul's disobedience and failure to fully obey God's instructions throughout his reign ultimately led to his downfall. It prompts us to reflect on the destructive power of sin and the importance of living in alignment with God's will.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 31 highlights the sovereignty of God in the midst of tragic events. Despite Saul's failures and the dire circumstances, God's plan continues to unfold. It sets the stage for the rise of David, who would become the next anointed king of Israel.

This chapter reminds us that God is ultimately in control, even in the face of tragic situations. It reassures us that God's purposes will prevail, and He can work through even the darkest moments to bring about His plans. It prompts us to trust in God's sovereignty, even when we cannot fully understand or comprehend the events unfolding around us.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 31 emphasizes the importance of learning from the mistakes of others. Saul's tragic end serves as a cautionary tale, warning us of the consequences of disobedience and the danger of allowing pride and self-will to govern our lives.

This chapter encourages us to reflect on our own lives and examine areas where we may be prone to disobedience or self-will. It prompts us to humble ourselves before God, seek

His guidance, and learn from the lessons of those who came before us. It reminds us of the importance of cultivating a heart of obedience and surrender to God's will.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 31 brings forth reflections on tragedy, the consequences of disobedience, and the sovereignty of God. It serves as a sobering reminder of the destructive power of sin and the importance of living in obedience to God's commands. It reassures us of God's sovereignty, even in the midst of tragic circumstances, and prompts us to learn from the mistakes of others. May we humbly submit to God's will, learn from the lessons of Scripture, and trust in His sovereignty in all aspects of our lives.