

**CRYSTALLIZATION-STUDY OUTLINES FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL, Week 12**

**Spiritual Principles, Life Lessons, and Holy Warnings  
concerning the Enjoyment of the Good Land  
Seen with Five Major Figures in 1 and 2 Samuel**

Scripture Reading: 1 Sam. 2:27-30, 35; 3:21; 12:3-5, 23;  
18:1-4; 23:16-18; 9:1-2, 17; 13:13-14; 15:19, 23; 16:1, 12-13;  
30:6b-10; 26:19b; 2 Sam. 11:1-27

- 1 Samuel 2:27 And a man of God came to Eli and said to him, Thus says Jehovah, I revealed Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt as slaves to Pharaoh's house.
- 1 Samuel 2:28 And I chose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to go up to My altar, to burn incense, and to wear the ephod before Me. And I gave the house of your father all the offerings by fire of the children of Israel.
- 1 Samuel 2:29 Why then do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering, which I have commanded in My habitation, and honor your sons more than Me by making yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?
- 1 Samuel 2:30 Therefore Jehovah the God of Israel declares, I surely said that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever; but now Jehovah declares, Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who spurn Me will be lightly esteemed.
- 1 Samuel 2:35 And I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in My heart and in My mind; and I will build him a sure house; and he will go before My anointed continually.
- 1 Samuel 3:21 And Jehovah continued to appear in Shiloh, for Jehovah revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of Jehovah.
- 1 Samuel 12:3 Here I am; testify against me before Jehovah and before His anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe in order to blind my eyes with it? Then I will restore it to you.
- 1 Samuel 12:4 And they said, You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from anyone's hand.
- 1 Samuel 12:5 And he said to them, Jehovah is Witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand. And they said, He is witness.
- 1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I would sin against Jehovah by ceasing to pray for you, but I will instruct you in the good and right way.
- 1 Samuel 18:1 Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan became knit with the soul of David; and Jonathan loved him like his own soul.
- 1 Samuel 18:2 And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house.
- 1 Samuel 18:3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him like his own soul.
- 1 Samuel 18:4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and he gave it to David, as well as his armor and even his sword and his bow and his belt.
- 1 Samuel 23:16 Then Jonathan the son of Saul rose up and went to David at Horesh, and he strengthened his hand in God.
- 1 Samuel 23:17 And he said to him, Do not be afraid, for the hand of Saul my father will not find you; and you will become king over Israel, and I will be second to you; and even Saul my father knows that.
- 1 Samuel 23:18 And the two of them made a covenant before Jehovah. And David remained in Horesh, and Jonathan went to his house.
- 1 Samuel 9:1 Now there was a man from Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth.
- 1 Samuel 9:2 And he had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome man; and there was not a man among the children of Israel more handsome than he; from his shoulders and up he was taller than all the people.
- 1 Samuel 9:17 And when Samuel saw Saul, Jehovah declared to him, Here is the man of whom I spoke to you. This man shall rule over My people.
- 1 Samuel 13:13 Then Samuel said to Saul, You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of Jehovah your God, which He commanded you. For now Jehovah would have established your kingdom over Israel forever;
- 1 Samuel 13:14 But now your kingdom will not continue. Jehovah has sought a man according to His heart for Himself, and Jehovah has appointed him ruler over His people; for you have not kept that which Jehovah commanded you.

- 1 Samuel 15:19 Why then did you not obey the voice of Jehovah, but flew upon the spoil and did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah?
- 1 Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, / And insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim. / Because you have rejected the word of Jehovah, / He has also rejected you from being king.
- 1 Samuel 16:1 And Jehovah said to Samuel, How long will you mourn for Saul, though I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite; for I have selected for Myself a king among his sons.
- 1 Samuel 16:12 So he sent for him and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And Jehovah said, Arise; anoint him, for this is he.
- 1 Samuel 16:13 ASo he sent for him and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And Jehovah said, Arise; anoint him, for this is he.
- 1 Samuel 30:6 And David was very distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for the soul of all the people was bitter, every man because of his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in Jehovah his God.
- 1 Samuel 30:7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, Bring the ephod to me. So Abiathar brought the ephod to David.
- 1 Samuel 30:8 And David inquired of Jehovah, saying, Shall I pursue after this band? Will I overtake them? And He said to him, Pursue, for you will certainly overtake them, and you will certainly deliver them.
- 1 Samuel 30:9 So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him; and they came to the brook Besor, where those who were left stayed behind.
- 1 Samuel 30:10 And David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were too exhausted to cross over the brook Besor.
- 1 Samuel 26:19 Now therefore let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it is Jehovah who has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering; but if it is the sons of men, let them be cursed before Jehovah; for they have driven me out today, so that I cannot share in Jehovah's inheritance, saying, Go, serve other gods.
- 2 Samuel 11:1 And at the turn of the year, at the time when kings go forth to battle, David sent out Joab and his servants with him and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.
- 2 Samuel 11:2 And late one afternoon David rose from his bed and went for a walk on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to look at.
- 2 Samuel 11:3 And David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, This is none other than Bath-sheba the daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite.
- 2 Samuel 11:4 And David sent messengers and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had just purified herself from her uncleanness.) And she returned to her house.
- 2 Samuel 11:5 And the woman conceived; and she sent word and told David and said, I am pregnant.
- 2 Samuel 11:6 Then David sent word to Joab: Send me Uriah the Hittite. So Joab sent Uriah to David.
- 2 Samuel 11:7 And Uriah came to him, and David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the battle was going.
- 2 Samuel 11:8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to your house, and wash your feet. And Uriah went forth from the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.
- 2 Samuel 11:9 But Uriah lay down at the entrance to the king's house with all the servants of his lord and did not go down to his house.
- 2 Samuel 11:10 And they told David, saying, Uriah did not go down to his house. Then David said to Uriah, Have you not just come from a journey? Why have you not gone down to your house?
- 2 Samuel 11:11 And Uriah said to David, The Ark and Israel and Judah dwell in huts, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open field. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live and your soul lives, I shall by no means do this thing!
- 2 Samuel 11:12 And David said to Uriah, Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back. So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the following.
- 2 Samuel 11:13 Then David invited him to eat and drink in his presence, and he made him drunk. Then in the evening he went forth to lie down on his bed with the servants of his lord, and he did not go down to his house.
- 2 Samuel 11:14 Then in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.
- 2 Samuel 11:15 And he wrote in the letter, saying, Put Uriah in the forefront of the hardest battle, and withdraw from him that he may be struck down and die.
- 2 Samuel 11:16 So when Joab besieged the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew the valiant men were.
- 2 Samuel 11:17 And the men of the city went forth and fought with Joab; and some of the people, some of the servants of David, fell. And Uriah the Hittite died also.
- 2 Samuel 11:18 And Joab sent a messenger to tell David all the things concerning the battle;
- 2 Samuel 11:19 And he commanded the messenger, saying, When you have finished telling the king all the things concerning the battle,

- 2 Samuel 11:20 If the king's anger rises up and he says to you, Why did you go so close to the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?
- 2 Samuel 11:21 Who struck down Abimelech the son of Jerubesheth? Did not a woman throw an upper millstone upon him from the wall so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so close to the wall? Then you shall say, Your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.
- 2 Samuel 11:22 So the messenger went, and he came and told David all that Joab had sent him for.
- 2 Samuel 11:23 And the messenger said to David, The men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate.
- 2 Samuel 11:24 Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall, and some of the king's servants died. And your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead.
- 2 Samuel 11:25 Then David said to the messenger, Thus shall you say to Joab, Do not let this matter displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your fighting against the city and overthrow it. And encourage him.
- 2 Samuel 11:26 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she made lamentation for her husband.
- 2 Samuel 11:27 And when the mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to his house; and she became his wife and bore a son to him. But the thing that David did displeased Jehovah.

### Day 1

**Philippians 3:13-14** Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

**Galatians 4:19** My children, with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you.

#### I. Under **Eli the old Aaronic priesthood had become stale and waning** (1 Sam. 2:12-30), and God desired to have a new beginning for the accomplishing of His economy:

- A. We all need to **reject** anything of **staleness**, **oldness**, **lukewarmness**, and **pride** and keep ourselves **empty**, **open**, **fresh**, **new**, **living**, and **young** with the Lord; we need to be one with His desire for us to be one with Christ, filled with Christ, and occupied by Christ to live Christ for the organic building up of the Body of Christ— Rev. 3:15-22; Luke 18:17; Phil. 3:7-14; Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19; Eph. 4:16.
- B. In the days of Eli the word of God was **rare**; God's speaking was **almost lost** (1 Sam. 3:1); in the priesthood the first thing that a priest should do is to **speak for God** (Exo. 28:30); a priest must be a person who is intimate with God, who is one with God, who knows the heart of God, and who speaks forth the unique and healthy teaching of God's eternal economy (1 Tim. 1:3-4; 6:3).
- C. Eli taught Samuel to say to the Lord, "Speak, O Jehovah; for Your servant is listening"; in order to speak for the Lord and be one with Him to carry out His eternal economy, we must first **treasure and listen attentively to His speaking** so that we may know His desire and preference—1 Sam. 3:9-10, 21; Isa. 50:4-5.
- D. Eli disregarded the priesthood in his **loose disciplining** of his two evil sons (1 Sam. 2:28-29); this caused the tragedy of the ending of his history, the termination of his enjoyment of the good land, and the fading of the priesthood in the divine revelation, that is, in the speaking for God; today we need to learn of Eli to have a high regard for what God has given us in His recovery.

There is always something new to be worked out by God. The Holy Spirit is now working and moving in the hearts of the children of God for the carrying out of His move. He is ready, but He is **waiting for some people to cooperate with Him**. The situation in today's religion cannot satisfy God. God wants to do something new. He wants to do something **new in life, in knowing Christ, in experiencing Christ, in preaching Christ, in dispensing Christ, and in expressing Christ**. The doctrines, the forms, the organization, the rituals, the regulations of organized religion, and the miraculous gifts **cannot satisfy God nor can they fulfill His purpose**. These are not what God's heart's desire is. **God wants to do something new**. He desires that Christ Himself would be known, realized, experienced, and expressed in a full and living way. If you are occupied with the miraculous gifts or with Bible knowledge, God cannot come in to use you for His up-to-date move. If you are settled into a certain form, organization, or ritual, you cannot be used by the Lord to fulfill His purpose. You have to be **new, empty, and open**, telling the Lord that you are here for nothing on this earth but for Himself. We need to tell the Lord that we are not here for religion, nor are we focused on teachings, doctrines, or gifts. But **we are here one hundred percent for Christ Himself as the living One**. (*A Young Man in God's Plan, Chapter 1*)

## Day 2

<b>1 Samuel 3:10</b>	Then Jehovah came and stood by and called as at the other times, Samuel! Samuel! And Samuel said, Speak, for Your servant is listening.
<b>1 Samuel 3:20-21</b>	And all Israel, from Dan to Beer-sheba, knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of Jehovah. And Jehovah continued to appear in Shiloh, for Jehovah revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of Jehovah.
<b>Luke 10:39</b>	And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to His word.

## II. Samuel was faithful to God in all his God-given statuses and offices:

- A. As a **Levite**, he **served God** his whole life; as a **Nazarite**, he **kept his consecration** without failure (v. 35); as a **priest-prophet**, he **spoke for God** honestly and initiated the prophethood to replace the fading priesthood in the divine revelation; as a **judge**, he was **faithful to God and just to the people**, terminating the judgeship and bringing in the kingship in order to change the age for the fulfillment of God's economy.
- B. As one who worked together with God for the carrying out of His economy (John 5:17; 2 Cor. 6:1a), Samuel was established as a **prophet of Jehovah to speak for Him by listening to His word** (1 Sam. 3:9-10, 20-21); we need to continually exercise ourselves to have an ear to "hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Rev. 2:7); furthermore, we need to follow the pattern of Mary, who "sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to His word" (Luke 10:38-42):
  1. Mary sat at the feet of the Lord Jesus and not at the feet of anyone else; no method is better than **coming to Him** moment by moment, **loving Him**, **worshipping Him**, and **unceasingly fellowshiping with Him** and **remaining in His presence**.
  2. Mary sat at the feet of the Lord; she put herself in a humble position in order to hear the Lord's speaking and receive His blessing; humility is not belittling ourselves; humility is **ignoring ourselves**, **negating ourselves**, and considering **ourselves as nothing**.
  3. She was sitting down; those who are busy to the point of being **distracted** from the Lord's presence have a **wandering mind** and **vacillating thoughts**; they must stop themselves in order to spend personal time with the Lord on a daily basis.
  4. She was **listening to the Lord's word**; the words that the Lord speaks to us are **spirit and life** (John 6:63); her listening to the Lord's word afforded the Lord the opportunity to communicate Himself to her and to dispense Himself into her so that she could gain the Lord Himself.
- C. Samuel enjoyed his portion of the good land to the fullest for his whole life; thus, in a New Testament sense, we can say that there was no defect in his enjoyment of Christ; the only defect in Samuel's history was that he appointed his two sons as judges among the children of Israel—1 Sam. 8:1-3:
  1. The **unjust ways** of Samuel's sons were contrary to their father's pure and just way in his whole life (12:3-5, 23) and gave the people of Israel cause to ask Samuel to appoint a king to judge them like all the nations (8:1-7); hence, the sons of Samuel should not be reckoned judges among the people of Israel (Acts 13:20), and their father Samuel should be considered the last judge.
  2. Humanly, Samuel made a mistake in this matter, but this mistake helped God to manage the situation among His people by **bringing in the kingship for the fulfillment of His economy**.

What had Mary done? The Bible says that Mary **sat at the feet of Jesus** and **listened to His word**. Sitting and listening do not constitute a work at all. She was not as busy as her sister; she was quietly sitting at the Lord's feet and **drawing near to Him**. Listening to His word is **receiving His word**. The Lord's word is spirit and life, and He dispenses life to men through His word. Mary was receiving the Lord's word and **affording Him the opportunity to operate on her**. She was **giving the Lord the opportunity to dispense Himself into her through the word**. Mary was just a **receiving vessel**. The One doing the work was the Lord, not Mary. She, the person, was the work of the Lord; she was the object of the Lord's work. Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works." Thank the Lord that we are not the work of man but the work of God. God's work is fully trustworthy. Oh, what a glorious fact that we are the work of God! (*CWWN*, vol. 38, chapter 39)

## Day 3

<b>Colossians 1:18</b>	And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things.
<b>Acts 13:36</b>	Now David, having served his own generation by the counsel of God, did indeed fall asleep and was buried with his fathers and saw corruption;
<b>Ephesians 4:12</b>	For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ.

### III. Jonathan **loved** David, made a **covenant** with him, and **predicted** that David would become the **king** and that the kingdom would be his kingdom—1 Sam. 18:1-4; 19:1-7; 20:8, 14-17, 41-42; 23:16-18:

- A. Saul's intention was to preserve the kingdom for Jonathan; however, Jonathan was **not willing** to take the kingdom but recognized that David should be on the throne.
- B. Jonathan should have told his father about this and then should have left his father to be with David; in typology, for Jonathan to follow David would have signified our **following Christ today and our giving Him the preeminence**—Col. 1:18b; Rev. 2:4.
- C. Jonathan lost the proper and adequate enjoyment of his portion in the good land promised by God because of his **failure in not following David** according to God's will due to his **natural affection** for his father; although Jonathan realized that David would be king, he stayed with his father, and as a tragic result, he suffered the same fate as his father and died with him in battle—1 Sam. 31:2-6.
- D. Jonathan stood between Saul and David; **he was one man standing between two ministries**; he should have followed the second ministry, but because his relationship with the first ministry was too deep, he could not disentangle himself:
  1. In every age the Lord has special things that He wants to accomplish; He has His own recoveries and His own works to do; the particular recovery and work that He does in one age is the **ministry of that age**—cf. Gen. 6:13-14.
  2. David was a minister of his age with the ministry of that age (Acts 13:21-22, 36a); in the Old Testament, **Noah** had the ministry of that age to **build the ark**, Moses had the ministry of that age to build the tabernacle, and **David and Solomon** had the ministry of that age to **build the temple**.
  3. A minister of the age with the ministry of the age is different from the local ministers; Luther was a minister of his age, and Darby was also a minister of his age; in order to catch up with the ministry of this present age, there is the **need for us to see the vision**; Michal was married to David, yet she did not see anything; she only saw David's outward condition, and she could not tolerate it; as a result, she was left behind—2 Sam. 6:16, 20-23.
  4. In the New Testament, the ministry of the Lord Jesus is to build up the church as the Body of Christ (Matt. 16:18); the many gifted persons produced in the Lord's ascension have only one ministry, that is, to **minister Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ**, the church; this building up is not accomplished directly by the gifted ones but by the saints who have been perfected by the gifted ones (Eph. 4:11-12, 16).
  5. In God's building ministry there are those who take the lead in that ministry in every age; may the Lord open our eyes to see that as long as we are human beings, we should be Christians; as long as we are Christians, **we should enter into the Lord's ministry in this age**.
  6. It is God's mercy that a person can see and come into contact with the ministry of the age, yet it is altogether a different thing for a person to **take up the courage** to forsake past ministries and enter into God's present ministry—cf. 1 Sam. 14:1-46; 2 Sam. 6:16, 20-23.
  7. The ministry of the age ministers the present truth to God's people; in 2 Peter 1:12 the present truth can also be rendered "the up-to-date truth"; **every worker of the Lord should inquire before God as to what the present truth is**—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:15-16; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26-29; 3:5, 12, 21; Psa. 48:2; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2.

How should a man speak in order that his spirit can be released? The only way for his spirit to be released is for his **outward shell to be broken**. Whether or not a man's outward shell is broken determines whether his inward spirit is released. If a man wants to have a spirit that can be used, **his outward man must be smitten**. At the time we are regenerated, the Lord comes into our spirit. At that time our spirit is like the Holy of Holies; it is full of light and life. However, whether or not the Lord can be released depends on **whether our outward man is broken**. If the outward man is broken, outward things will no longer be a hindrance to us. On the contrary, **they will all become outlets for the spirit to be released**. If our mind and emotion are broken, they will no longer become a hindrance to the flow of life. On the contrary, **they will become the channels for the inward man to be released**. After a man has been broken, his mind and emotion will become the gateway for his inward man to go out. Every city in the world has only four gates. Only the New Jerusalem has twelve gates. Whether Christ can be released from us depends on whether or not we have been broken. (CWWN, vol. 57, chapter 25)

## Day 4

<b>1 Samuel 15:23</b>	For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim. Because you have rejected the word of Jehovah, He has also rejected you from being king.
<b>Galatians 5:24</b>	But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.
<b>Matthew 16:24</b>	Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

#### IV. Saul was **chosen by God** and anointed by Samuel to be the king of Israel—1 Sam. 9:1-2, 17; 10:1, 24:

- A. Saul **disobeyed** God's word at least twice so that he **lost his kingship and his kingdom** (13:13-14; 15:19, 23; 28:17-19); when Saul disobeyed God in 1 Samuel 15, he actually **rebelled** against Him.
- B. In this chapter Samuel told Saul, "Rebellion is like the sin of divination, / And insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim" (v. 23a); to practice divination is to have **contact with evil spirits**; what Saul did in rebelling against God was like this sin of divination; he was not subordinate to God and in fact became an **enemy to God**; as a result, he lost his kingship.
- C. Saul's tragic end was altogether due to his **not being properly related to God's economy**; God, wanting to build up His kingdom among His chosen people, had brought Saul into His economy, but instead of participating in God's economy and cooperating with it, Saul was **selfish** and **usurped** God's kingdom to build up his own monarchy; he was filled with thoughts of the kingship, including thoughts about how his son would succeed him—20:31.
- D. In this, Saul was **selfish** and **wrong to the uttermost**; eventually, God gave Saul up and cut him off, tearing the kingdom away from him (15:28); because Saul was given up by God, he was left alone, like an orphan, having no provision of help when trouble came.
- E. Because of Saul's selfishness, the people of Israel **suffered defeat** and were slaughtered in the fight against the Philistines, and Saul and his sons were killed; Saul's **ambition** to have the kingdom for himself and for his son, with his **jealousy** of David, confiscated and ended his enjoyment of the good land promised by God—20:30-34.
- F. The collective death of Saul, his three sons, and his armor bearer was **God's fair judgment** on the one who had rebelled against Him, had usurped Him, and had become His enemy (1 Chron. 10:13-14); from Saul's tragic end we should learn the lesson of **crucifying our flesh** and **denying our selfishness**—our **self-interest** and **self-seeking** (Gal. 5:24; Matt. 16:24; Phil. 2:3).
- G. The record of Saul's terrible end is a strong warning to all who serve in the kingdom of God not to do a **separate work** within the kingdom of God or to **abuse** anything in the kingdom; we should not be like Saul, trying to build up a "monarchy" for ourselves; rather, **we should all do one unique work to build up the kingdom of God**, the Body of Christ—1 Sam. 31:1-13.

At this point it would be helpful to compare the situations of David and Saul toward the end of 1 Samuel. By fighting the Amalekites **David gained many rich spoils**. While he was becoming rich, **Saul was being defeated**. **David** was **flourishing**, but **Saul** was **diminishing**, even to death. If Saul had had the **proper view** regarding the kingdom of God, he would have realized that David, a skilled and vigorous fighter, could have been of great help to him in defeating the Philistines for the building up of the kingdom of God. But due to his **selfishness** Saul lost this provision and even persecuted David and forced him to flee. However, under God's sovereignty this persecuted one became flourishing and was established in the good land to enjoy God's portion. **David's situation became brighter and brighter**, whereas **Saul's situation** became **darker and darker** until, with his sons, he died a tragic death.

Saul's tragic ending should warn us not to play with God. **We should not try to build up any kind of monarchy**. We are all here to **build up the kingdom, the Body of Christ**. In the Lord's recovery we do not have many pieces of work. No matter where we may be, we have only one work. We should not be today's Saul, considering only the work in our region and trying to build up a monarchy for ourselves. (*Life-study of First and Second Samuel, chapter 17*)



## Day 5

<b>1 Samuel 13:14</b>	But now your kingdom will not continue. Jehovah has sought a man according to His heart for Himself, and Jehovah has appointed him ruler over His people; for you have not kept that which Jehovah commanded you.
<b>1 Samuel 30:6</b>	And David was very distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for the soul of all the people was bitter, every man because of his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in Jehovah his God.
<b>2 Samuel 5:10</b>	And David became greater and greater; and Jehovah the God of hosts was with him.

V. David was **chosen and anointed by God** through Samuel to be the king of Israel—16:1, 12-13:

- A. After David slew Goliath, he was praised by the women of Israel as higher than Saul (18:7), but with David there is no hint that he was made proud or that he became ambitious for the kingship; when David was under the trial of Saul's persecution, he was **approved to be the right one to carry out God's economy** by establishing the kingdom of God on earth.
- B. When David was under Saul's persecution, he had two chances to destroy Saul, but David would not do this because of his **fear of God** in that Saul was God's anointed; this indicates that **David maintained a good order in God's kingdom**—chs. 24 and 26; cf. Rom. 12:3.
- C. No doubt, David learned a lot regarding not avenging himself but **denying himself** for the fulfilling of God's purpose, on the basis that he was a **man according to God's heart**—1 Sam. 13:14a.
- D. David is a typical model of a genuine child of Israel in the enjoyment of the good land promised and given by God to His chosen people; **he trusted in God and walked with God** according to His sovereignty and according to His leading and instruction in all his trials; David expected to remain in the good land, **sharing in God's inheritance and serving Him**—17:36-37; 23:14-16; 30:6b-10; 26:19b.
- E. David's **sincere trust** in God and his **faithful walk** with God **qualified him fully** to enjoy the good land to a high level, even up to the kingship according to God's heart with a kingdom that became the kingdom of God on the earth; **David was one with God; what was his was God's, and what was God's was his**; he and God had only one kingdom; such a one enjoyed the good land, typifying Christ, to the uttermost.
- F. After the death of Saul, "there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; but David became continually stronger, and the house of Saul became continually weaker" (2 Sam. 3:1); David was established by God as king with his kingdom exalted for the sake of God's people Israel (5:6-25); furthermore, "David became greater and greater; and Jehovah the God of hosts was with him" (v. 10); this indicates that **David had God's presence**.
- G. If in any matter we do not have the inner sense that the Lord is with us, **we must be careful and reconsider our way** (1 Sam. 16:14); in the Lord's recovery, whenever we do anything, we must **take care of the sense of the Lord's presence**; we all need to learn the lesson of caring for two things: the **inward presence of God** and the **outward confirmation in our environment** (cf. 2 Sam. 5:11-12).

## Day 6

<b>2 Timothy 2:22</b>	But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
<b>Judges 5:15-16</b>	And the princes in Issachar were with Deborah; / And Issachar was true to Barak; / Into the valley they were sent behind him. / Among the divisions of Reuben / There were great resolutions in heart. Why did you sit among the sheepfolds / Listening to the pipings for the flocks? / In the divisions of Reuben / There were great searchings of heart.

- H. Furthermore, we all need to learn of David on the negative side as well as on the positive side; the **lust of the flesh** is a devastating element that can destroy us; if such a godly man as David could be seduced, how can we escape?—11:1-27; cf. 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 6:13, 18:
  1. Regardless of our attainment in our spiritual pursuit, **it is possible for any of us to commit such a sin**; we should read this account seriously in the presence of God; this account warns us that the indulgence of the flesh is a serious thing; David was tempted simply by a glance, and then he failed to restrict himself.

2. All the saints, especially the young ones, should search their hearts and make a strong resolution of heart **never to go the way of the indulgence of the flesh** (Judg. 5:15-16); we need to say, “Lord Jesus, I love You, I need You, and I receive You”; if we say this, He will be our Savior and our dynamic salvation; as the pneumatic Christ, He will save us, preserve us, and protect us from the contamination of this age, so that we may keep the glory that we have attained.

The book of 1 Samuel portrays David not only as the **man according to God's heart** but also as one who is **inexperienced and young**. David had to be worked upon and wrought through to become ripened and experienced. The only way that he could be prepared was by **suffering**. Thus, God put David under the headship of Saul. David suffered much, undergoing many kinds of trials, afflictions, and ill treatment. He became a real student in suffering. He learned the lesson of suffering, and he became completely successful in suffering. **All the sufferings experienced by us deal with our nature, our self, and our flesh**. David was thoroughly tested; his flesh, his self, and his natural life were severely dealt with. To use the language of the New Testament, David learned the lessons of the cross. Abraham's life was a life of faith, but David's was a life of suffering under the lessons of the cross. If we mean business for the proper church life, if we are truly interested in the recovery and enlargement of God's building, **we must be willing and ready to be broken so that we may learn the lessons of the cross**. The many chapters of 1 Samuel stress this one point: **that a man according to God's heart will be subjected to severe pressure so that he may learn the lessons of the cross**. The flesh, the self, and the natural life must be broken; the motives must be tested. David was subjected to the ill-treatment of Saul in order to be broken. Many young brothers today need a “Saul” who is able to deal with them. We must be put into trials and broken.

David had learned the lessons of the cross. He had been **exposed** and **humbled** to the uttermost. **He had no more trust, no more boast in himself, but deeply realized God's mercy and grace**. This was the man according to God's own heart, the man who fought the battles, gained the victories, prepared all the materials for God's building, brought forth a son to build the house, and obtained the site for the building. In addition to all this, David also received the pattern for the temple. God had granted the builder, the site, the materials, and the blueprints. All that remained to be accomplished was the actual building. (*The Vision of God's Building, chapter 11*)