

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

1 SAMUEL 18:1-20:42

Last week we saw the anointing of a young shepherd boy. God had rejected Saul because of disobedience, and God had chosen Saul's replacement. We saw last week how God sent Samuel to anoint David as king over Israel.

It would be some time before Saul would be removed from the throne and David would actually become king. God doesn't get in a hurry like we do. God had some preparation to do in David's life.

Remember, God promised Abraham a land, but He said he wouldn't really possess this land until the sin of the Amorites had run its course. God told Joshua that he had already given the Promised Land to the Israelites, but they would have to drive out their enemies little by little because they just couldn't handle taking possession of all of the land at one time...but in God's mind, it was already theirs! God also tells us in His word that we are seated with Him in the heavenlies right now!

See, we need to remember that God doesn't operate in time and space as we do...He operates outside of time and space.

So, David needs some training. You don't bring a boy from the shepherd hills into the king's palace overnight. God **could** have done this, but He chose not to.

Also, something had to be done with Saul. God could have handled that immediately. God could have killed him. He could have caused him to have a stroke or a heart attack, but that's not the way God chose to act.

So, God is going to take some time and He's going to do two things...

- 1) **God's going to deal with Saul and remove him from the throne**
- 2) **God's going to prepare David to take over the throne**

Two very different men. Two very different destinies. And interestingly enough, the way God deals with these two men is by bringing them together.

To see this unfold from its beginning, I want us to go back to **chapter 16** for a moment and see a passage from last week's text that we really didn't have time to cover...

1 Samuel 16:14-23...

This passage reveals to us the way God begins to deal with Saul. First we're told that the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul...

The Holy Spirit comes in and takes up residence in a believer's life today. This side of the Cross, He comes in and He never leaves. Even though we can quench Him and not allow Him to do in us what He would like to do...we don't have to worry about Him departing from us.

Over and over in the Old Testament we're told about folks on whom the Spirit of the LORD came. The Holy Spirit rarely took up permanent residence in a person's life (and I say *rarely* because of what we'll see in just a few minutes). The Holy Spirit would come and indue a certain person...**He would come upon that person in order for that person to accomplish a certain thing.**

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

As we heard in the pastor's sermon this past Sunday night...

The Spirit of the LORD came upon **Othniel**, the first judge, and He empowered **Othniel** to deliver the children of Israel from the enemy.

And as the pastor goes along in the **Book of Judges**, we'll see that the Spirit of the LORD came upon **Gideon** to deliver the children of Israel from the enemy and He came upon **Jephthah** to deliver the children of Israel from the enemy...

In the **Book of Judges**, we'll also see how the Spirit of the LORD came upon Samson at a specific time in a specific place for the specific purpose of killing a lion. Then, later we read that the Spirit of the Lord came upon him again for a specific purpose. What does that tell us? It tells us that the Spirit of the Lord would come upon a person for a specific purpose, and then He would depart!

1 Samuel 10:9...

Just as with **Othniel** and Gideon and **Jephthah** and **Samson**, the Spirit of God came upon **Saul** at a specific time in a specific place to perform a specific purpose!

Now, go back to

1 Samuel 16:14...

We read that that same thing happened to Samson back in **Judges 16:20**. Remember when Samson was "playing games" with Delilah? The Bible says that Samson "stood and shook himself as before and he did not know that the Spirit of God had left him."

But, I want you to see an interesting thing in **16:13...**

"And the Spirit of the LORD came upon David" and notice the next four words... **"from that day forward."**

Now, that's not said about any other person in the Old Testament. In other words, this is a picture of the Holy Spirit coming and staying!

Now, David knew there was always the possibility that he could lose the indowment of the Spirit of God. That's why David said in **Psalms 51** after he had committed the great sin with Bathsheba and caused her husband to be murdered on the front lines of battle, as he cries out to God in repentance:

"Cast me not away from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me..."

So, we see a man who had the power of the Holy Spirit upon his life and because of sin he **lost** that power, and we see a man who had the power of the Holy Spirit upon his life and because of repentance he **didn't** lose that power!!

Do you see the difference repentance makes?

David had a heart that hungered after God and longed to be right before Him and God honored David by allowing the dear Holy Spirit to be upon David from the day he was anointed onward...

And we see an unrepentant man who **didn't** have a heart for God and not only did the Spirit of the Lord leave him, but what does **verse 15** say?

An evil from Satan came upon him? No! It says, "an evil Spirit from the LORD terrorized him"... (NAS)

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

Uh-oh! Now, we wouldn't have much problem with this if it just said an evil spirit troubled or terrorized or depressed or attacked him...but it doesn't say that...

It says ***an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him...***

Some commentators have tried to soften this by saying,

"Well, what this is simply an emotion...not a spirit. It's nothing more than manic depression. There's nothing but depression here."

Well, what was it? It was a demon! It was a demonic spirit! Does God use demons? YES! There's an interesting little verse over in the **Book of Ezra...**

Ezra 8:22b... "The hand of our God is favorable disposed to all those who seek Him, but His power and His anger are against all those who forsake Him."

And when His power and His anger are against folks, God has the right to use any means He desires to come against them, doesn't He?

Even though the demons hate God...and resist God...and rebel against God...demons must still obey God! Why? Well, the main reason is that God created them...God allows them to exist! Remember when the Lord Jesus addressed the legion of demons that possessed the Gadarene man? They knew who He was and they had to obey Him, didn't they?

Bro. Bob put it this way...

"A demon can do no more than God allows and he can do less than God demands."

And the demon was sent by God to depress Saul. Saul fell into a deep depression. And in the amazing and wondrous sovereignty of God a young man was brought to Saul to play music to soothe him and guess who it was? It was David! God sent the evil spirit and God also sent David! And this is the beginning of a relationship between Saul and David that quickly becomes conflict. **The conflict between a man controlled by the evil spirit within him and a man controlled by the Holy Spirit within him!**

What a contrast between these two men! I truly believe Saul was an unsaved man, and we know David was a saved man! Some commentators believe Saul is a picture of a carnal Christian, but I believe Saul was a lost man.

Just because the Spirit of the Lord was upon Saul doesn't mean Saul was saved, Beloved.

The **Book of Numbers** tells us the Spirit of God came upon Balaam and the Old and New Testaments teach us that Balaam was a false prophet who led God's people astray.

Now...why have I spent so much time on this? Well, I did it because I believe it's very, very important that we have a foundation laid. We need to know who empowered and influenced Saul and we need to know Who empowered and influenced David.

Before we leave this passage let me just give you four practical truths from this passage...

1) the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life enables him to do everything God calls him to do...

...not everything he wants to do...not everything everybody **else** wants him to do... but everything **God** has **called** him to do!

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

Let me say this...if God calls you to a task, you will be able to do that task by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2) the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life becomes obvious to those who around him or her...

The servants of Saul recognized when the Spirit of God was on Saul and they also knew when He left, didn't they?

3) the presence of the Holy Spirit is more than enough to defeat the forces of Satan...

Verse 23... Now I want to ask you something... Do you really believe it was David's playing the harp that drove the evil spirit away? Do you believe it was some kind of "music therapy"? Have you heard about "the Mozart effect"? (For any of you who have grandbabies, I highly recommend "Baby Mozart"!!!) But, do you believe Saul was soothed by the "David effect"?

Well, it wasn't the tune or the music or even David's skill on the harp...it was the Holy Spirit of God in David that drove the evil spirit away!!

4) the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life is sufficient to open any doors God wants us to go through...

David had been anointed king by Samuel, but Saul was still king. David didn't have to go demand that Saul leave...he just had to **wait!** David just had to wait until God's Holy Spirit opened the doors to the palace for him.

We may not be all that God wants us to be yet, and that's alright!
We may not have all that God wants to have yet, and that's alright!

God seldom gets in a hurry! Most of the time God works so slowly that we don't even know He's working!

It's like the clock on your wall! You sit there and watch the second hand. If you look real closely, you might see the minute hand move ever so slowly. But, it's not so easy to see the hour hand move, is it? I mean, it moves, but we rarely ever see it moving!

See, God very seldom is a second hand. And He's rarely a minute hand. He's usually the hour hand. Sometimes He moves so slowly you can't tell He's moving at all! God had anointed David king, but David was content to wait! This doesn't mean he doubted God's Word...when God says something is going to happen...

It will happen in His time, in His way, for His glory!!!

We don't know how long it was between the time of David's anointing by Samuel there with his father and brothers and the time David actually became king, but we know it was many years and we do know when David was crowned king over Judah, that it be at least 7½ years before he would become king over Israel.

Well, we've seen a **contrast** between David and Saul. I want us in the time we have left to see a **covenant** between David and Jonathan.

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

After David slew Goliath, Saul took David into his house and Jonathan and David became friends. Jonathan made a covenant with David in **chapter 18**. Jonathan took off his robe and gave it to David and Jonathan took off his armor and his sword and his belt and gave them to David.

Do you see the significance of this? Think about it...it would have been only natural for Jonathan to be jealous of David. I mean...who was the natural heir to the throne? Jonathan was! And here Jonathan is stripping himself of every symbol of his royalty and giving them to the one who was his rival!

19:11-18...

Like the Philistines waited for Samson to go to sleep, but unlike Samson the Spirit of the Lord didn't leave David and he was able to escape being murdered by Saul's henchmen. We can read a better account of this in **Psalm 59**.

In **chapter 20**, Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David...

20:16-17...

If we had the time we'd look at all the times Jonathan **ran interference** for David and **warned** David and did his best to **intercede** for David with his father to **protect** David.

The hearts of David and Jonathan were knit together and I want us to think about what knit these two hearts together.

1) mutual faith

The first time we read about Jonathan was back in **chapter 13** and we saw that Jonathan had waged war against the Philistines. We see he waged war against them again in **chapter 14**. And what did we see last week? We saw David going against Goliath. Goliath was a Philistine!

When David went against Goliath, he said, ***"You come to me with a sword, a spear and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted."*** **1 Samuel 17:45**

and when Jonathan went against the Philistines in **chapter 14**, this was his battle cry...his statement of faith...

"Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the LORD is not restrained to save by many or by few."

Both these men went against the enemy in the power of Jehovah!! "We come against you in the name of our God!"

By the way, let me just say this before going on... It has been said by some homosexuals that David and Jonathan didn't have a friendship, they had a homosexual relationship...let me just say that is simply not true! Don't you believe God would have addressed this if it were true?

Don't you think He would have held David and Jonathan (especially David) accountable for a sin that He considers an abomination? Nowhere in God's Word do we find that God addressed this. He addressed David's sin with Bathsheba, didn't He? This is simply a lie out of the pit of hell...a lie to attempt to justify and rationalize and bring discredit upon the Word of God!

These were two great men! These were two great warriors. These men were married and had children! These men simply loved each other with a pure and precious love!

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

Their friendship was based on their mutual faith in God. When you have a friendship based upon mutual faith in the power of God, that's a real friendship, isn't it? Don't you have so much more in common with folks who love the Lord than you have with those who don't love the Lord? Don't you have so much more to talk about? **God expects us to associate with lost folks, but He doesn't expect our best friends to be lost folks!**

Another thing that David's and Jonathan's hearts together was

2) an unshakeable commitment

18:3...

This covenant we mentioned a few minutes ago was really a one-sided covenant...a uni-lateral covenant. It's really Jonathan who makes the covenant with David. See, David had nothing to bring to the table. David was just a shepherd boy. David was a nobody. Jonathan was the king's son. Jonathan lived in the king's house!

Jonathan initiated this covenant and it is a covenant of friendship "based upon meeting the needs of my friend."

Jonathan took his robe and sword and armor and belt and gave them to David. When David needed protection, Jonathan gave it.

When David needed an intercessor, Jonathan interceded.

Doesn't this remind you of what the Savior does for us? Doesn't this remind you of the covenant He initiated with us? We had nothing to offer Jesus except brokenness and repentance...He did all the rest!

Another basis for their friendship was

3) absolute trust

20:1-3...

Do you see what David is doing? David is admitting his fear. David is admitting his vulnerability. David is saying, "Jonathan, you think your daddy is telling you everything. He's not! He has plans and plots and snares to take my life...things you don't know about. Your daddy is a madman and he wants to kill me. I fear for my life, Jonathan."

See, David was expressing complete trust in Jonathan. David knew Jonathan would get the throne if he got killed. David knew all Jonathan had to do would be say, "Hey, Dad, here he is, come get him." But David had absolute trust in Jonathan.

And think about it...Jonathan's love for David didn't nullify Jonathan's love for his father. Jonathan was loyal to his father. He didn't allow his love for David to divert him from his duty. One day, Jonathan was killed in battle right alongside his father.

Jonathan was a remarkable young man. He was the picture of loyalty. He was loyal first of all to God...for it was his relationship with God that enabled Jonathan to deal with the complicated situations in his life.

Jonathan was also loyal to Saul...because Saul was his father and he was also his king.

Jonathan was also loyal to David, because David was his friend.

The Christian Arsenal

www.christianarsenal.com

Can you think of any more complicated thing than walking that tightrope between loyalty to your father, who is also the king, and might I add...a madman, and loyalty to the friend whom you know will take **your** place as king? Jonathan was able to do this because his first loyalty was to Jehovah! He trusted that what God had foreordained would indeed come to pass and he didn't **fuss or argue or debate or disagree** with God's decisions, did he?

When I think of that story, my heart is stirred by a desire not only that I might have a Jonathan in my life, but also that I might find a David somewhere to whom I could be a Jonathan. I mean, everybody would love to have a Jonathan, someone who unselfishly meets our needs...but we should ask the Holy Spirit to make **us** a Jonathan to someone else!

I believe it's easier for women to show their love for each other. It's harder, I believe, for men. Maybe it's because God has made men **harder** and **tougher** and more **independent**. But, we all need good friends...friends with whom we share a **mutual faith**, an **unshakeable commitment** and an **absolute trust**.

I know two men can have this kind of relationship because I've seen it with my son and his friend who is now a missionary in Africa.

Let's ask the Lord this week to allow us to play a part in helping to shape and mold another life into the image of Christ. So many hearts have been broken because of the betrayal of a false friend. Jesus said the world will know that we are His disciples if we what??? **If we LOVE ONE ANOTHER!**

Today we've tried to lay two foundations... In the **one based on a contrast between two men, and one based on a covenant between two men**. weeks ahead we're going to see the Scriptures build upon these foundations.

I know we've skipped a lot that's in the chapters before us today. For instance, we skipped over David being promised one daughter of Saul and then that daughter was given to another man and we skipped over David's marrying another of Saul's daughters, Michal. Maybe we can cover these topics in another lesson.