

## *Norwood's Notes: Brief Summaries of Bible Stories*

These "notes" are intended to provide a general overview of the basic stories of the Bible in the hope of building greater biblical knowledge and encouraging Bible reading and study. For more information, visit [www.UjimaChurch.org](http://www.UjimaChurch.org)

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### **16 - Highlights from 1 Samuel 16-20, "David the Warrior"**

After the prophet Samuel anointed David as the future the king of Israel, David continued his duties as a shepherd, tending to his father's flock of sheep. Because of King Saul's repeated disobedience, the Spirit of the Lord departed from him and tormenting spirit gave him no peace. To comfort the king, it was determined that someone skillful in playing the lyre would be brought to him to play soothing music. David, who was a gifted musician, was brought into the king's service. Not only did David's music soothe the king when his heart and mind were troubled, but he also found favor in the eyes of king, who made David his armor bearer (1 Sam 16).

One day, as King Saul and his army prepared for battle against the Philistines, a Philistine warrior named "Goliath of Gath" challenged the men of Israel to send one from among them to fight against him, with the loser and his entire army to become servants of the winner and his entire army. Now Goliath was a giant, and his challenge filled the hearts of all of the men of Israel with fear (1 Sam 17).

David arrived at the Israelite encampment delivering supplies from his father for his brothers who were in the army of King Saul. When he heard the challenge of Goliath, and how the giant even cursed the Israelites by the names of Philistine idols, he could not understand why none of the men of Israel had taken up the challenge in the name of the Lord. David went to King Saul and volunteered to fight Goliath himself. David told the king that the Lord had helped him defend his father's flock of sheep from both a lion and a bear, and he believed that the Lord would help him defeat this abominable and defiant Philistine also. Saul put his own armor and sword on David, but he was unaccustomed to them and they felt cumbersome to him. Taking off Saul's armor and returning his sword, David instead chose to confront the Goliath with nothing more than his shepherd's staff, a few smooth stones he carefully selected from a brook, and a sling. The well-armed and well armored Goliath was infuriated when he saw young David coming toward him and he began to curse at David and threaten him. Undaunted, David declared, *"You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with 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 defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies*

*of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel"* (1 Sam 17:45-46). As Goliath moved toward him, David ran quickly to meet Goliath. Taking a stone from his bag, he slung it, striking Goliath on his forehead and sending him facedown to the ground. David then took Goliath's own sword and cut off the giant's head. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. The men of Israel pursued them and plundered their camp.

David became King Saul's most successful warrior, leading the Israelites to victory in battle after battle. Saul's son, the Crown Prince Jonathan, befriended David and loved him like a brother. Jonathan gave David his own robe, armor, sword, and bow. David found favor in the sight of all the people who celebrated him as a hero (1 Sam 18). However, as the Israelites praised David for his many victories, King Saul became jealous of him. One day, Saul's jealousy got the best of him, as David was playing the lyre, Saul hurled his spear at him. But, David was able to evade him twice.

Saul feared David because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul. King Saul sent David on particularly dangerous missions, promising to give him the hand of his daughter for a wife, but hoping that perhaps David would die in battle instead. However, the Lord was with David, making him victorious over the enemies of Israel. David married Saul's daughter, Michal, becoming the king's own son-in-law. All the while, Saul's jealous rage only grew and he plotted to kill David. Michal warned her husband of her father's plans and David fled to the prophet Samuel. When Saul's rage burned against his daughter for helping David escape, she lied and told her father that David forced her to do so and had threatening to kill her (1 Sam 19).

Saul sent men to capture David, but when they came into Samuel's presence, the Spirit of God fell upon them, overwhelming them, and they prophesied. Saul sent more men, both a second and a third time, to seize David, but the same thing happened to them also. Finally, King Saul went himself to seize David, but when he came before Samuel, he too was overcome by the Spirit of God was prevented from doing David any harm, because God was working His plan.

David went to his friend, Jonathan, for help to find out why King Saul was so determined to kill him. The two devised a plan that Jonathan would make excuses for why David had not returned to dine at the king's table during a special feast. King Saul's response would provide insight into his intent. When Saul became so enraged that he even hurled a spear at Jonathan, it was obvious that David had to go into exile. The mighty "brothers in arms," David and Jonathan, wept with one another as they bid each other farewell. Jonathan blessed David, saying, *"The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring forever"* (1 Sam 20:42). Then David, the hero of Israel, went into exile, fleeing the murderous intention the King he had loyally served.