

Through the Bible- 1 Samuel 8-20

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Refresher

- **[Timeline]** Give an overview of the timeline
- Who was Samuel? What's his story?
 - Called by God as a young boy
 - served as the leader and Judge of Israel, all of the tribes
 - He also led them into battle, in his early years, at least
 - **[PPT - Map: Samuel and Saul]** He traveled in a circuit, teaching the people judging cases, etc.
- **[PPT - Tribal Distribution]** Note the location of his circuit. Benjamin is in the middle of Israel, between the northern tribes and the southern tribes. He was a unifying figure for the tribes.

Israel Demands a King

- Why did Israel want a king?
- The people wanted stability. They wanted authority. They wanted to get outside the cycle of falling away, and thought that having a king would help them do that. Why?
- 8:3 – Samuel had appointed his sons as judges, but the text says that they did not follow in his footsteps. In 8:5, this is one of the reasons the leaders of the tribes give to Samuel for wanting a King.
- What had happened to the last judge before Samuel?
 - Eli – his sons also walked away from the righteous path and did not follow in their father's footsteps.
- 8:5 – “appoint us a king to judge us like all the nations” – they saw the value that having a king brought to other nations.
 - Remember the king Yabin who reigned over Hatzor? (Joshua 11 and Judges 4)
 - That was not just one king, it was a dynasty, a family that ruled for generations.
 - The Judges did not rule for longer than their lifetimes, and it appears that each time the judge died there was anarchy and the people turned away from God.
 - Samuel has been around now for a while, and he's getting older. They need stability.
- Remember Gideon's son Abimelech (which ironically means “my father is king”)
 - Judges 8:23 – But Gideon said to them, “I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you.”
 - However, his son Abimelech wanted to have all the power.
 - Judges 9:2 – “Which is better for you: for seventy men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, to rule over you, or for one man to rule over you?”
 - Judges 9:6 – “All the leaders of Shechem and all Beth-millo assembled together, and they went and made Abimelech king,”
 - This is not the picture of a righteous king, nor is it the picture of how a king is supposed to come into power

- Remember Dan - Judges 17-18
 - Judges 18:30–31 – The sons of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. So they set up for themselves Micah’s carved image which he had made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.
- Also, remember the civil war over the concubine killed by the Benjamites (we’ll come back to that in a moment).
- So, the people wanted a king. They had many, many examples of how their leadership was failing, how they were failing as a people because of a lack of solid leadership, and how the cycle would repeat when Samuel died.
- What picture of kingship did they have in mind? Why did they think a king would help?
 - **[Read Deuteronomy 17:14–20]**
 - **whom the LORD your God chooses** – God is the one who chooses, not the people
 - **from among your countrymen** – not a foreigner
 - **he is not to acquire many horses for himself** – Horses are a symbol for power, a symbol of status.
 - **nor shall he make the people return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses**
 - The Israelites were not supposed to go back to Egypt, because God had rescued them from there
 - Also, Egypt was the superpower. The king was not allowed to go to the superpower of the region and rely on him for protection or become indebted to him.
 - This will come up later when we get to Hezekiah and other kings.
 - **he shall not acquire many wives for himself, so that his heart does not turn away**
 - Hillel said (Pirkei Avot 2:7), “The more flesh, the more worms; The more property, the more anxiety; The more wives, the more witchcraft; The more female slaves, the more lewdness; The more slaves, the more robbery; [But] the more Torah, the more life; The more sitting [in the company of scholars], the more wisdom; The more counsel, the more understanding; The more charity, the more peace.”
 - Note that Hillel here is not necessarily saying that it is the wives that cause the witchcraft. Rabbeinu Yonah points out that in the proliferation of wives, **the man** causes them to do witchcraft by causing them to become jealous and try to win his love by inflicting pain on each other. In other words, it’s really his fault.
 - **nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself** – he is not supposed to become the richest person because of his position
 - His focus as king is supposed to be on the Torah and on obedience to God.
 - he shall write for himself a copy of this Law on a scroll
 - in the presence of the Levitical priests
 - it shall be with him
 - he shall read it all the days of his life
 - so that he will learn to fear the LORD his God
 - by carefully following all the words of this Law and these statutes

- so that his heart will not be haughty toward his countrymen
- and that he will not turn away from the commandment
- so that he **and his sons** may live long in his kingdom
- This is the picture of kingship that God paints in the Torah, the perfect picture of what a king is supposed to be.
- But Samuel tells them the hard truth about what a king will really do.
- **[Read 1 Samuel 8:11–18]**
- Finally, God tells Samuel to do what they asked of him.

Saul the Benjaminite

- Who was Saul?
- 1 Samuel 9:1 - Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, son of a Benjaminite, a valiant mighty man.
 - Saul's father Kish was a valiant mighty man, a righteous man.
- Remember the issues with the tribe of Benjamin in Judges 20? That only happened a few hundred years ago. The story is told in the last few chapters of Judges because it sets us up for what's about to take place in the story. In the Hebrew Bible, the book of Ruth is not situated between Judges and Samuel.
- 1 Samuel 9:2 – a young and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome man than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people.
- We know Saul now as someone who did not follow God's instructions, but in the beginning he is positioned as someone who was trying to follow God.
- He was also humble:
 - 9:21 -- Saul replied, "Am I not a Benjaminite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin?"
- Saul, despite his issues, was still the first anointed king of Israel. That's why, 1000 years later, another man from the tribe of Benjamin was named "Saul" by his parents. You know him by his Roman name "Paul."
- Story recap:
 - Saul is searching for his father's donkeys, can't find them anywhere.
 - Decides to go to Ramah to "the seer's" house (Samuel)
 - Walks into the city, encounters Samuel at the gate, and God tells Samuel, this is the one I want you to anoint as king.
 - Samuel tells Saul (before Saul even says what he came to ask for) that his donkeys have been found, then invites him to dinner.
 - At dinner, Saul is given the spot at the head of the table, and is given a choice piece of meat.

Saul Anointed King, Prophecies, then Publicly Chosen

- **[Read 1 Samuel 10:1]** Why is this act important?
 - Think back to Abimelech.
 - Saul was anointed by the Prophet and Judge to whom God had revealed himself as a boy, and through whom the Word of God had come back to Israel.

- Samuel's authority is what legitimizes Saul's kingship.
- However, Saul was not yet the king. He was anointed, but the tribes had to accept him in that position.
- Samuel gives Saul some signs to prove that this is actually happening.
 - Two men will tell you that the donkeys have been found
 - Three men you meet on the road will give you two loaves of bread
 - A group of prophets will pass you on the road. 1 Samuel 10:6 – “Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be changed into a different man.”
- Samuel says, when you see these signs, you'll know that you actually are anointed to be the king.
 - 1 Samuel 10:7 – “do for yourself what the occasion requires.” The Targum says, “prepare for yourself regal garments, and make ready for yourself the court ritual,” as well as you can.
- It all happened the way Samuel predicted.
- 1 Samuel 10:9 says, “God changed his heart.” What do you think that means?
- Samuel calls the people together, and through the drawing of lots God shows the people that he has chosen Saul. But Saul was hiding.
- Maybe he didn't want the responsibility? Remember his humble reaction and the transformation of the Spirit of God. How would you feel?
- 1 Samuel 10:25 – What are the ordinances of the Kingdom? That's what we read in Deuteronomy 17 earlier.
- But some scoundrels = "sons of Belial." That word Belial means "uselessness" or "worthlessness."

Defeating the Ammonites

- **[PPT - Map: Wars of Saul]** Who were the Ammonites? Descendants of Lot. We learned about the Moabites last week. They were the other people group who came out of Lot's incestuous relationship with his daughters.
- 1 Samuel 11:1 - Nachash = “snake”
- Nachash attacked a town in the tribal allotment of Gad, east of the Jordan.
- They sent messengers to find help.
- What was Saul, the king of Israel, doing? Plowing his field!
 - Apparently there were people who were just not convinced that he was the right man for the job. Verse 12 here and 10:27 above.
 - Even though they had a king, he had not been proven yet. They didn't have a capitol, per se, or a palace for him. He just lived in his home town of Gibeah and worked on the family farm. He was taking his cues from Samuel.
- The people were afraid, cowering, but the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul and he became angry.
- **[Read 1 Samuel 11:7]** This is not the first time we will hear about yokes and kings. Pay attention to the imagery here.
- 300,000 from the northern tribes of Israel, and 30,000 from the southern tribes. They were united under their new king, and fighting a common enemy.

- This victory solidified Saul's claim to the throne. Now he was not only the anointed one of God, he was accepted in the role of King by the tribes. He had finally united them.
- What do we see in chapter 12? It has some of the elements of a covenant or treaty renewal
 - Preamble: vv. 1-4
 - List of Witnesses: v. 5 (God and Saul, His anointed), and vv. 16-18 (the heavens via thunder and rain)
 - Historical Prologue: vv. 6-13
 - Stipulations: vv. 14-15
 - Blessings and Curses: vv. 14-15
- Samuel used this victory as an opportunity to remind the people of their past evil deeds, and to warn them about following God.
- When is the wheat harvest? Shavuot / Pentecost (which we just celebrated last week)
 - What major event in history is celebrated on Shavuot? The giving of the Torah!

War with the Philistines, Saul's Mistake

- 1 Samuel 13:1 – “Saul was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for forty-two years over Israel.”
 - This translation follows the Septuagint. The Hebrew text literally says “Saul was one year old when he began to reign”. The Gemara (Yoma 22b) says this “cannot be understood literally, as Saul was appointed king when he was a young man. Rav Huna said: The verse means that when he began to reign he was like a one-year-old, in that he had never tasted the taste of sin but was wholly innocent and upright.”
 - Again, we are given a picture here of what Saul was like in his early years.
- Some time has passed now. Jonathan, Saul's son, is leading an army.
- **[Timeline]** The Iron Age started around 1200BCE. This was a time of transition, when technology shifted, and it became more possible for iron to be smelted and used in weapons and tools
 - **[PPT - Map - Tin mining]** Iron was more readily accessible than bronze, because bronze required tin and the best sources of tin in the ancient world were Afghanistan and Western Europe.
 - In 2012, archaeologists discovered a 13th-century BCE shipwreck just south of Haifa Bay. Contained in the wreck was a collection of tin ingots that had been transported all the way from Cornwall, England. (<https://armstronginstitute.org/393-did-israel-source-tin-from-britain>)
 - By the time of Saul, the smelting of iron had been spreading slowly from its starting point in Turkey to other parts of the known world.
- The Philistines were the leading power in the land at the time.
 - **[Read 1 Samuel 13:5, 19–23]**
 - They were so powerful, they had made it so that the Israelites didn't even have any blacksmiths, for fear that they would start making swords.
 - How did they do this? It was common for guilds and families to control specialized knowledge like ironworking. Also, blacksmiths had to work in specific conditions, so it with just a little effort they could figure out who was breaking the rules. With no king and no standing army, the Israelites were defenseless.

- [PPT - Map] Jonathan attacked the Philistine garrison at Geba.
- The Philistines retaliated and brought an army to Michmash.
- It is at this point that we start to see the downfall of Saul.
- 1 Samuel 13:8 – Saul was in Gilgal waiting on Samuel to come to offer sacrifices in preparation for the battle with the Philistines. The people were scared and were starting to run away, so Saul decided to offer sacrifices to God instead of waiting for Samuel.
- [Read 1 Samuel 13:13–14]

Jonathan's Victory

- Jonathan and his armor bearer decided to scout out the camp
- Climbed up a cliff to the watchmen
- God gave them the signal, so they entered the camp and started killing Philistines.
- The Philistines started to run away in complete disarray. There were some Hebrews who had decided to side with the Philistines, and others who had run into the hills, and even those men came back to the Israelite side.

Saul's Foolish Command

- Another oath. Remember, an oath: שְׁבוּעָה shevu'ah, is a solemn and formal declaration or promise, typically appealing to a higher source of authority.
 - "May the Lord deal with me severely if I don't do such and such."
 - "Cursed be the man who eats food before evening, and before I have avenged myself on my enemies."
- Why was this foolish? Because fighting is hard work! Especially when you are routing your enemies and chasing them many miles away.
- Jonathan had not heard the oath, presumably because he was climbing the hill at that time, so he dipped his staff in honey and
- When they got to Ayalonah, 12 miles west of Geba, they were famished. They just started killing animals, but were not properly slaughtering.
- [Read Deuteronomy 12:20–25]
 - Moses discusses the issue of slaughtering animals for food. He says, you are to slaughter (זָבַח *zavach*) the animal בְּאֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִיךָ (*ka'asher tzivitikha*), according to my instruction/commands. Moses had taught the people how to properly slaughter animals so that the blood, which is forbidden, could be drained from the animal.
 - There are explicit ways in which an animal that is intended for food is allowed to die.
 - Exodus 22:31 – "You shall be holy people to Me, therefore you shall not eat any flesh torn to pieces in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs."
 - Deuteronomy 14:21 – "You shall not eat any carcass." That's an interesting command because most translators translate the text as "anything which dies naturally," but the text does not say anything about whether the death was natural or not. It is making a distinction between an animal that was not killed in a proper manner (a carcass), and an animal that was.

- This is actually an important concept to understand because the issue of eating blood comes up in other places in the scriptures and we might get the impression that the problem is some guy just grabbing a cup, filling it up, and drinking it. That's forbidden, too, of course, but the prohibition on eating blood in the scriptures starts with the requirement that the animal be properly slaughtered.
- And that's what we see here. The people were so hungry that they were not being careful about how they slaughtered the animals, they just started killing and cooking them.
- In 1 Samuel 14:34 Saul is alerted to what is going on, so he set up a specific location where the people could properly slaughter the animals and thus not break the Torah.
- Then Jonathan's breach of the oath Saul had made was found out, but he was saved by the people who refused to let Saul's foolish oath allow the hero of the army to be killed. Saul was wrong, and everyone knew it.

More Battles, Amalekites

- 1 Samuel 14:52 – “Now the war against the Philistines was severe all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any warrior or any valiant man, he attached him to his staff.”
- Saul battled a lot of Canaanites during his reign. Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, the kings of Zobah, the Philistines, and the Amalekites
- Why did God tell Saul to destroy the Amalekites completely?
 - Deuteronomy 25:17-19 (referring to Exodus 17:8–16) – “Remember what Amalek did to you on the way when you came out of Egypt, how he confronted you on the way and attacked among you all the stragglers at your rear when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God. So it shall come about, when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies in the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, that you shall wipe out the mention of the name Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.”
- Unfortunately, even this attempt at wiping out Amalek did not work. Haman, who tried to kill the Jews during the time of Esther, was a descendent of Agag, King of Amalek.
- **[Read 1 Samuel 15:9-11]**
- Saul's attempts to justify his actions:
 - v. 15 – “to sacrifice to the LORD your God”
 - v. 24 – “because I feared the people and listened to their voice.”
 - v. 27 – “grasped the edge of his robe, and it tore off”
- After hearing that God was not going to relent, he still asked Samuel, “Help me save face.” v. 30 – “please honor me now before the elders of my people and before all Israel”
- Samuel was old, but not frail. He “cut Agag to pieces.”

Does God Delight in Sacrifices?

- **[Read 1 Samuel 15:22-23]**
- Is Samuel saying to Saul that God does not want him to offer sacrifices?
- What's the context? Saul explicit disobedience to the command of God.
- This passage, along with others like it are about our priority of worship, not our exclusivity of worship.

- David, when repenting for his sin in Psalm 51
 - [Read Psalm 51:17–19] Note the order of priority: Repentance first, then the offering will be accepted.
- The issue is never the sacrifice itself, but the heart of the person giving it. Proverbs 15:8 says, “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.”
- Jeremiah 7:22 says the same thing. God tells the Jewish people who are headed for exile, “The first thing I commanded your forefathers when I brought them out of Egypt was not the laws of burnt offerings and sacrifices. I told them to ‘Obey My voice, and to walk entirely in the way which I command you.’”
- This is the same teaching we hear from Yeshua, our Messiah. [Read Mark 12:28–34]
 - Again, not the priority. The love of God, which implies obedience to him, is “much more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices,” and this teacher of the Law “answered intelligently.”
- Our first response to God is supposed to be obedience borne out of love. If we don’t have that first, sacrifices are of no use.

David is Anointed King

- 1 Samuel 15:35 says that Samuel did not see Saul again during his lifetime, and that God regretted making Saul king. Saul’s own disobedience, both in 1 Samuel 13:14 and here with the Amalekites has led to his rejection as king.
- So, Chapter 16 tells the story of David’s anointment as king in place of Saul.
- I don’t think we need to tell this story since I’m sure you have all heard it before. However, if someone does not know it, we’ll take a minute and give an overview.
- What does David look like? (1 Samuel 16:12) “Now he was reddish, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance.”
- Note that just like Saul’s anointing, David’s did not mean that he was meant to immediately take on the role. David understood that, and understood his position as a servant of the king, even of a king who was not following God. He waited until God took His own steps to put him on the throne.
- In the second half of the chapter we see the Spirit of God, which had come on Saul on the day of his anointing, leave him. The Spirit came on him as part of his anointing. Isaiah 61:1 says, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD anointed me...”
- With the spirit of God gone there was now room for unclean spirits to take up residence. Yeshua mentions this concept in Matthew 12:43-45.
- Note how David is described in 1 Samuel 16:18: “Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is a skillful musician, **a valiant mighty man, a warrior**, skillful in speech, and a handsome man; and the LORD is with him.”

Goliath

- [PPT Valley of Elah] This is the Valley of Elah. Now, you have to remember that it has been more than 3000 years since this battle took place, so things in this valley look different than they did at that time.

- There is some disagreement about where exactly in the valley the two sides camped.
- 1 Samuel 17:2–3 – Saul and the men of Israel were assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah (בְּעֵמֶק הָאֵלָה, *b'emeq haElah*), and they drew up in battle formation to confront the Philistines. The Philistines were standing on the mountain on one side, while Israel was standing on the mountain on the other side, with the valley (הַגַּי, *ha-gai*) between them.
- An *emeq* is a broad, open valley, while a *gai* is a narrow valley
- This description tells us that the two sides were not in the middle of the valley, they were either in the Northwest or the Southeast ends of the valley.
- [PPT] There's an old walled village or fortress on the Northwest end of the valley called Khirbet Qeiyafa. It dates to the time of David or Saul, and was destroyed sometime during the time of David and never rebuilt. It's possible that this is the location where David visited his brothers, which would make the battle location in the Northwest side of the map. <https://armstronginstitute.org/40-uncovering-the-bibles-buried-cities-khirbet-qeiyafa>
- [PPT] Another option is on the Southeast side of the valley.
- [PPT] When I was in Israel in March I took this picture from one side of that location looking across the valley. If this is the location of the battle, then...
- [PPT] The Israelites formed up on that side of the valley.
- [PPT] The Philistines formed up on the other side.
- [PPT] And this is the stream that was between them.
- Again, everyone has likely heard this story many times, but let's give an overview.
- David's three oldest brothers went out with Saul into battle.
- David would travel back and forth with food for his brothers. One time when he went to deliver McDonalds he heard Goliath giving his ultimatum.
 - 1 Samuel 17:8-9 – “Why do you come out to draw up in battle formation? Am I not the Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man as your representative and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us.”
- Side note:
 - Goliath in Hebrew is pronounced גִּלְיָת (*Galyat*). [PPT] Archaeologists have found two inscribed potsherds in Goliath's home town of Gath from this same time period, the oldest Philistine inscriptions ever found, and they have the names *Alwat* and *Wlt* on them. All three names come from Indo-European roots, not from Semitic languages like Hebrew and Canaanite. This is another point in favor of the possible connection between the Philistines and their Mycenaean Greek heritage (Mycenaean Greek language is Indo European).
- David got mad, asked why everyone was avoiding this “uncircumcised Philistine.”
- He decided to go fight Goliath himself. Declined Saul's armor. Remember, David was described before as a valiant mighty man, a warrior. However, he was not a traditional warrior.
- On his way out to the battlefield, David picked up some sling stones and put them into his pouch.

- [PPT] These are sling stones found in Lachish, which we will talk about next January. Slings were powerful weapons, not just a toy for little boys. Think of it this way: arrows are great for hitting targets, but every arrow you shoot has to be meticulously crafted, with a straight piece of wood and feathers and either a stone or metal tip. Slings just require a stone. Round is nice, but not absolutely required. As our tour guide in Israel said, “Israel has an unending supply of rocks, so please feel free to take them with you as a souvenir.
 - Judges 20:16 – There were 700 left-handed Benjamites who were trained with the sling, “each one could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.”
 - Later in David’s life, we meet his mighty men, the soldiers who stuck with him through thick and thin. Around 60 of these men joined him when he was running from Saul in Ziklag (1 Samuel 27). 1 Chronicles 12:2 tells us, “They were equipped with bows, using both the right hand and the left to sling stones and shoot arrows with the bow; they were Saul’s kinsmen from Benjamin.”
- So, David killed Goliath with a rock to the forehead, and cut off his head. Then the Israelites defeated the Philistines and pursued them back to Goliath’s home town of Gath.

The Aftermath

- Jonathan and David became fast friends. Jonathan must have sensed the anointed Spirit of the LORD on David, because he began to treat him like the king. If you recall, Jonathan was already very aware of his father’s schemes, angry outbursts, and questionable oaths.
- David was made part of Saul's army. Remember 1 Samuel 14:52 – “Now the war against the Philistines was severe all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any warrior or any valiant man, he attached him to his staff.”
- 1 Samuel 18:5 says that David succeeded in every battle he fought in.
- The people loved David. 1 Samuel 18:7
 - Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.
 - הָכָה שָׂאוּל בְּאַלְפֵי וְדָוִד בְּרִבְבוֹתָיו
 - *Hicah Shaul ba'alafav, v'David b'rivvotav*
- David continued to play the harp for King Saul when he was dealing with evil spirit. Two times Saul tried to kill David with a spear.
- Finally, Saul sent David to be the leader of a regiment of 1,000 men, trying to keep him far away, but that just made him more popular.
- Finally, Saul promised his eldest daughter to David, but he reneged on that promise and married her off to another man.
- Then he found out that his other daughter Michal was in love with David, and he tried to conspire to have David die in battle with the Philistines while trying to win her hand.
 - 1 Samuel 18:25 – “This is what you shall say to David: ‘The king does not desire any dowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king’s enemies.’” But Saul plotted to have David fall by the hand of the Philistines.
- But that didn't work, David was just too good...

Saul Chases David

- Saul finally had enough, and put out a death warrant on David. He commanded his son Jonathan and his servants to kill David at the first opportunity.
- But Jonathan warned David, then went to his father and patched things up.
- Then war with the Philistines happened again, and Saul went back to his old ways. He tried to spear David again, but David escaped and went home. His wife warned him that there were men outside waiting to kill him in the morning, so she let him out of the window with a rope and did the old “idol in the bed” switcheroo.
- He wrote a song about this event **[Read Psalm 59]**
- David went to visit Samuel in Ramah and tell him what was going on.
- Saul sent messengers to arrest him, but they ended up being taken over by the Spirit of God. Then a second set of messengers had the same thing happen. And a third set.
- Finally, Saul went to Ramah himself, but he ended up laying down, naked and prophesying. (1 Samuel 19:24)
- David escaped from Ramah while Saul was down for the count and found Jonathan, genuinely unclear as to why Saul had it in for him. Jonathan didn’t believe him at first, apparently thinking that David and Saul were doing fine now since he had patched things up.
- Jonathan decided he needed to find out what was going on and see what Saul was really thinking about David. So he devised a scheme whereby David would miss the banquet on the new moon, Jonathan would talk to Saul about why he’s angry, and then Jonathan would act like he was going to do some target practice outside town and use the opportunity to tell David what he learned.
- **[Read 1 Samuel 20:30–31]**
- Jonathan knew what was going on. He knew that David had the anointing of God, even if he did not know that he had actually been anointed as king.
- They made a lifelong covenant with each other, swearing that they would treat each other and each other’s families well forever. 1 Samuel 20:42 – “The LORD will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever.”