



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 1

### YOU CALL THIS A PLAN?

*With upright heart he shepherded them  
and guided them with his skillful hand.*

– Psalm 78:72 ESV

- **A man after God's own heart**

*"God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, **a man after my own heart.**'" – Acts 3:22 NLT*

*"...the LORD has sought out **a man after his own heart.** The LORD has already appointed him to be the leader of his people..." – 1 Samuel 13:14 NLT*

- The shepherd boy made king
- |          |                 |         |
|----------|-----------------|---------|
| Poet     | General         | Warrior |
| Musician | Faithful friend | King    |
- |           |                |             |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|
| Adulterer | Polygamist     | Liar        |
| Murderer  | Procrastinator | Poor Parent |

- **The Dichotomy of David**

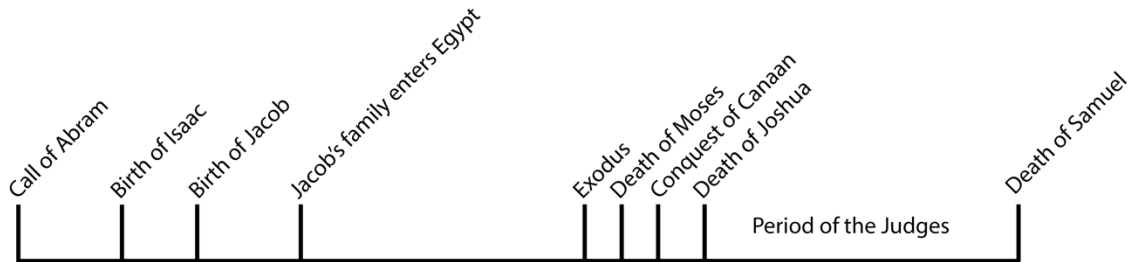
- Should we idolize or demonize him?
- Is he to be condoned or condemned?
- Was David an icon of virtue or vice?

*"The greatest king of Israel, King David, the author of the Psalms, sent a man out to die in battle so that he could sleep with his wife." – Robert Duvall*

*"On the surface, there seemed to be nothing about David that would have impressed God. Nothing caused Him to say, 'Wow! That's my man!'...Yet God said, in effect, 'You have what I'm looking for, young man. You are the future king of Israel.'" – Chuck Swindoll, David: A Man of Passion & Destiny*

- **So why David**
  - How was he a man after God's own heart?
  - And could there be hope for us?
    - The heart of the matter
    - A brief history of how Israel came to have a king

## PATRIARCHAL TIMELINE



***In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.*** – Joshua 21:25 NLT

- Israel was a Theocracy
  - Yahweh was their king
  - They were His royal subjects

*“Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.”* – Exodus 19:5-6 NLT

- But the people wanted a human king

***“Give us a king*** to judge us like all the other nations have.” – 1 Samuel 8:5 NLT ESV

  - They rejected God's form of government

*“Do everything they say to you,” the LORD replied, “for they are rejecting me, not you. They don’t want me to be their king any longer.”* – 1 Samuel 8:7 NLT
  - God would grant their demand
    - ~ But they would regret it
    - ~ Because God is irreplaceable
  - A monarchy versus a theocracy

*“This is how a king will reign over you,” Samuel said. “The king will draft your sons and assign them to his chariots and his charioteers, making them run before his chariots. Some will be generals and captains in his army, some will be forced to plow in his fields and harvest his crops, and some will make his weapons and chariot equipment. The king will take your daughters from you and force them to cook and bake and make perfumes for him. He will take away the best of your*

*fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his own officials. He will take a tenth of your grain and your grape harvest and distribute it among his officers and attendants. He will take your male and female slaves and demand the finest of your cattle and donkeys for his own use. He will demand a tenth of your flocks, and you will be his slaves. When that day comes, you will beg for relief from this king you are demanding, but then the LORD will not help you.” – 1 Samuel 18:11-18 NLT*

- **The rise and fall of Saul – 1 Samuel 9-15**

- Saul was a Benjaminite
  - He came from a wealthy family
  - He was tall and handsome
  - God sent Samuel to anoint him king

*“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.” – 1 Samuel 9:15-16 ESV*

*“No, but there shall be a king over us, so that we also may be like all the nations, and our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” – 1 Samuel 8:19-20 ESV*

- They wanted a **ruler** and a **redeemer**
- But they would get a **restrainer**

*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.**” – 1 Samuel 9:17 ESV*

**restrain** – ‘āsar – retain, withhold, hold back

- Saul becomes king of Israel
  - He is anointed by Samuel the prophet
  - He received the Spirit of the LORD
  - He is presented to the people

*Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see **him whom the LORD has chosen?** There is none like him among all the people.” And all the people shouted, “**Long live the king!**” – 1 Samuel 10:24 ESV*

*“We must have a king over us. **Then we will be like all the other nations.**” – 1 Samuel 8:19-20 BSB*

- They were missing the point
- Their standards were too low

*"For you are a holy people, who belong to the LORD your God. **Of all the people on earth, the LORD your God has chosen you** to be his own special treasure."* – Deuteronomy 7:6 NLT

- But they had rejected Him

*"But **today you have rejected your God**, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.'" – 1 Samuel 10:19 ESV*

- But Saul was the wrong kind of king
  - He looked the part
  - But he lacked the right kind of heart
  - And God eventually rejected him

*Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, "I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands." – 1 Samuel 15:10-11 NLT*

- Saul was **disobedient**  
*"...go down to Gilgal ahead of me. I will join you there to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings. **You must wait for seven days** until I arrive and give you further instructions" – 1 Samuel 10:8 NLT*

- Saul acted impulsively
  - ~ He refused to wait for Samuel
  - ~ He overstepped his authority
  - ~ By offering sacrifices on his own
  - ~ Then he tried to justify his actions

*"I saw my men scattering from me, and you didn't arrive when you said you would, and the Philistines are at Micmash ready for battle. So I said, 'The Philistines are ready to march against us at Gilgal, and I haven't even asked for the LORD's help!' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering myself before you came." – 1 Samuel 13:11-12 NLT*

*"How foolish!" Samuel exclaimed. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you. Had you kept it, the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom must end, for the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart. The LORD has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command." – 1 Samuel 13:13-14 NLT*

- Saul was **obstinate** and **prideful**
  - He had an **insubmissive heart**

- And an **unrepentant spirit**

*Samuel said to Saul, “It was the LORD who told me to anoint you as king of his people, Israel. Now listen to this message from the LORD! This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies has declared: I have decided to settle accounts with the nation of Amalek for opposing Israel when they came from Egypt. Now go and **completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation**—men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys.” – 1 Samuel 15:1-3 NLT*

- Saul was a man **after his own heart**

- He did what he thought was best
- He was **willful** rather than **compliant**
- And only **partially** obeyed

*Saul and his men **spared Agag’s life** and **kept the best of the sheep and goats, the cattle, the fat calves, and the lambs**—everything, in fact, that appealed to **them**. They destroyed only what was worthless or of poor quality. – 1 Samuel 15:19 NLT*

- **The beginning of the end**

- Saul remains on the throne
  - But he no longer has God’s favor
  - Saul is a “lame duck” king
- A king in waiting
  - Yahweh had a succession plan in place
  - He had Saul’s replacement identified
  - But His transition timeline was unknown

*Samuel never went to meet with Saul again, but he mourned constantly for him. And the LORD was sorry he had ever made Saul king of Israel. – 1 Samuel 15:35 NLT*

*Now the LORD said to Samuel, “You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king.” – 1 Samuel 16:1 NLT*

- Jesse had eight sons
  - Seven were brought before the prophet
  - But God rejects each of them

*“The LORD has not chosen any of these.” – 1 Samuel 16:10 NLT*

*“The LORD doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, **but the LORD looks at the heart**.” – 1 Samuel 16:7 NLT*

- The least of these

- David was an afterthought
- He wasn't even invited to the festivities
- He was busy shepherding sheep

*Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, **he is keeping the sheep.**"* – 1 Samuel 16:11 ESV

*And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here."* – 1 Samuel 16:12 ESV

- Samuel had the **right house**
- But he didn't have the **right son**  
*"...go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for **I have selected one of his sons to be my king.**"* – 1 Samuel 16:1 ESV

- **A man of God's own choosing**

- David was good-looking
- But that is not what impressed God
- Because "the LORD looks on the heart" - vs 7

*He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. **With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.*** – Psalm 78:70-72 ESV

*And the LORD said, "This is the one; anoint him." So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. **And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on.*** – 1 Samuel 16:12-13 NLT

- **Discussion questions**

What was your primary takeaway this morning? What did you hear God say to you?

What are some similarities and differences you saw between David and Saul? Why do you think they are important?

What do you think it means to be a man after God's own heart, and do you think anyone would ever describe you that way? If so, why? If not, explain your answer.



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FALL SERIES 2025 – WEEK 2 HOMEWORK

### WEEK 2 – From Success to Suspicion

This lesson will cover David’s rise to fame and his fall from grace. We will watch him go from hero to the hunted. This lesson covers a lot of territory, so much of it will need to be a summary or overview of the circumstances surrounding his life.

PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 16-20

DEVOTIONARY™: Pages 13-60

- Read pages 13-60 of Ken’s Devotional™ and write down any thoughts that jumped out at you.
- Read 1 Samuel 16:14-23. What do you think is the significance of the harmful spirit that possessed Saul and the Spirit of God that “rushed upon David from that day forward”?

How do you see God’s sovereign hand at work behind the scenes?

- As you consider 1 Samuel 17, how would you describe Saul's actions throughout this narrative? What does it say about his mental and spiritual state?

Look closely at verses 32-37. How do David's statements to King Saul reveal that he was a man after God's own heart?

Now look at verses 45-47. How does his response to Goliath support God's view that David was a man after His own heart?

- Read chapter 18. This chapter contains a number of dramatic changes to David's life that came about in a short period of time. First, write down what these changes were.

How do you think these dramatic shifts in David's circumstances impacted him?

What do verses 20-29 reveal about Saul's volatile state of mind?

- Look over chapter 19 and explain any glaring differences you see between David and Saul.

What do verses 18-24 say about the sovereign will of God over David's life?

- What does chapter 20 reveal about the growing tension between David and Saul?

How would you describe David's attitude as all these events unfolded?