

TRUST — DAVID





THE ANOINTING OF DAVID

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

After God had rejected King Saul, Saul still remained king, but the Lord was no longer with him. God gave Samuel the commission to anoint one of the sons of the house of Jesse as king.

When Samuel entered Jesse's house, he first saw his son Eliab. Samuel thought he was the selected one because he was a fine figure of a man. But God told him not to look at his stature, because man sees the outward appearance, whereas the Lord looks at the heart. The other six sons of Jesse whom Samuel met at the house were also not designated by God to be king. Samuel asked if these were all of Jesse's sons. Jesse then had his youngest son, David, brought who was tending the sheep outside.

The Lord said to Samuel, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" David was the one chosen by God. Samuel anointed him king with precious oil.



DAVID AT THE COURT OF SAUL

1 Samuel 16: 14-23

Since Saul was often restless and plagued by evil thoughts, David was brought to the king's court because he was able to play the harp beautifully. His playing refreshed and calmed King Saul.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17



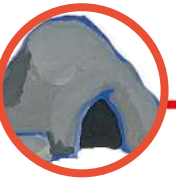
The Philistines were at war with Israel. A giant named Goliath, who was over three metres tall, challenged Israel to a duel. One of the Israelites was to fight against him. For forty days none of the Israelites dared to do it. Eventually David found out about the Philistine's challenge and courageously prepared for the fight. He said to Goliath, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts." Using a simple sling, which the shepherd boy knew how to handle well, he slung a stone at the giant's forehead. Goliath fell to the ground. David took the giant's sword and killed him with it.

Then all of the Philistines fled because their strongest warrior had been killed.

David later became the army commander and befriended Saul's son, Jonathan.

DAVID'S CONDUCT TOWARD SAUL

1 Samuel 18-26



After his victory over Goliath, the Israelites cheered David. This caused King Saul to become jealous. Over and above that, Saul was afraid that David would dispute Saul's right to the throne. As a result, he persecuted David and was after his blood.

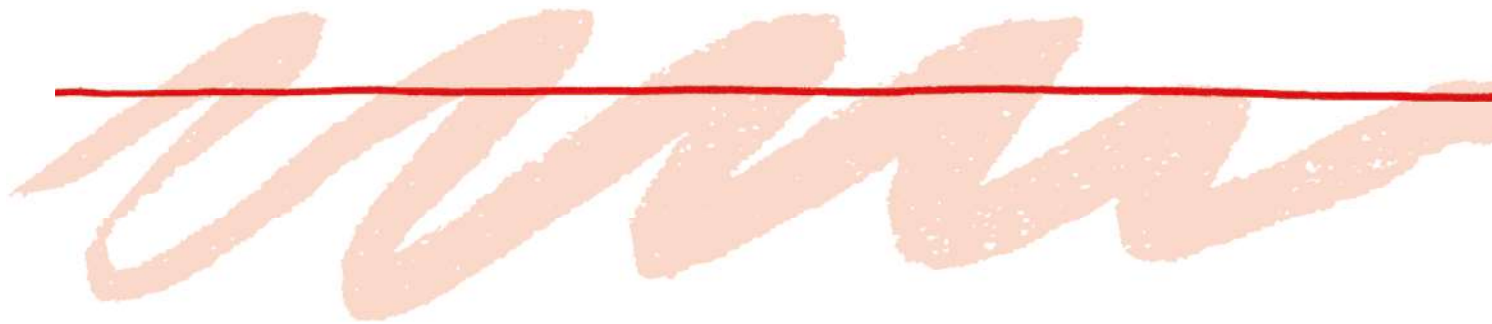
During one of these pursuits Saul once entered a cave. Saul did not notice that David and his men were at the back of the cave. His men advised David to kill his persecutor. But David answered, "The Lord forbid that I lay hands on the anointed of the Lord!" Quietly he cut off the hem of Saul's royal robe. After Saul had left the cave again, David called after him and showed him the hem of the robe he had cut off. With this he proved to Saul that he was not against him as Saul had assumed.

EXERCISE 1

**An eventful life!**

Read about the most important stations in David's life and follow along using the map.

- 1 Bethlehem** – The shepherd boy, David, from the tribe of Judah is anointed king by Samuel. Initially, however, this remains a secret. David is chosen by God because his fundamental attitude pleases God.
- 2 Gibeath** – Saul has attacks of melancholy. David is called to his court. He is to calm Saul by playing the harp. Saul becomes fond of him.
- 3 Socoh** – David is victorious over the giant Goliath. This is not possible because of physical superiority, but because of his trust in God. "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts" (1 Samuel 17: 45).
- 4 Gibeath** – David and Saul's son, Jonathan, become friends.
- 5 Gibeath** – Saul sets David as commander over his warriors. David conducts himself wisely and is very successful. All the people love him and praise his deeds. This makes Saul jealous of David and he wants to kill him. David flees.
- 6 Near Gibeath** – David is expected at the court of Saul. However, by means of a secret sign, Jonathan makes David aware that Saul wants to kill him. David flees.
- 7 Cave of Adullam** – David flees into a cave in the mountains. Persecuted and embittered men come to him. He becomes their leader.
- 8 Cave near En Gedi** – Saul persecutes David. One time Saul enters a cave which David and his men were using as a hiding place. David, who could have killed Saul, only cuts off the hem of Saul's robe and does not kill him. He trusts in God's help and says to Saul the next day, "Therefore let the Lord be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand" (1 Samuel 24: 15).
- 9 Wilderness of Ziph** – Saul again persecuted David. At night, David and a companion sneak unhindered into the camp where Saul and 3,000 soldiers are fast asleep. Also this time David does not kill Saul, but only takes the spear and the jar of water lying beside Saul. After this, Saul stops persecuting David.
Later on, Saul's army is defeated. Three of Saul's sons, including Jonathan, are killed on Mount Gilboa. Saul, who is seriously wounded, kills himself.
- 10 Hebron** – David becomes king, but initially over Judah only. Seven years later, after bloody battles, he becomes king over all of Israel.
- 11 Jerusalem** – David captures the stronghold of Zion and thereby Jerusalem. He converts Jerusalem into the capital city where he reigns for 33 years.



EXERCISE 2



Enter the following words correctly below:

David – fear – prayer – salvation – 150 – lyre –
light – bring – Psalter – way



The Old Testament contains 150 psalms which collectively are also called the Psalter. Many of them were written by David.

Psalms are songs that were mostly accompanied on a lyre (see illustration).

Several times reference is also made to prayer in the psalms.

The Psalms were the prayer-book and song-book of the people of the old covenant.

In addition to a deep reverence for God, the psalms of David testify of his great trust in Him.

Here are a few passages which reflect David's trust in God:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear ?

the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27: 1).

"Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37: 5).

"In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us" (Psalm 62: 7-8).