

# **Insights From 1 Samuel**

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# Insights From 1 Samuel

by Jonathan Cooper

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# Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper  
4/29/2024

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# 1 Samuel

- In the days of the judges, the tabernacle was located at Shiloh (1 Samuel 1:3).
- When people sacrificed to God, they gave their families a portion of the sacrifice (1 Samuel 1:4). This was commanded by the Mosaic Law for certain types of offerings.
- When Elkanah's family partook of the sacrifice they didn't eat whatever they wanted. Instead Elkanah decided the size of the portion they were given (1 Samuel 1:5).
- The reason Hannah had no children was because God shut up her womb (1 Samuel 1:5). There are times when God prevents people from having children.
- When Hannah was full of bitterness, she prayed to God (1 Samuel 1:11).
- Hannah told God that if He gave her a son then no razor would come upon his head (1 Samuel 1:11). It seems that Samuel may have been a Nazarite from birth.
- The reason Hannah was willing to give Samuel to God was because she had been tormented for many years for not having any children, and she was desperate to have a son (1 Samuel 1:11). There are times when God uses family strife to carry out His will.
- It's not wrong to pray silently, in our heart (1 Samuel 1:13). There are times when God answers those prayers.
- When Eli saw Hannah approach God and weep and pray, he didn't try to comfort her. Instead he assumed she was drunk and criticized her (1 Samuel 1:13). Eli assumed the worst of people and condemned them without first

understanding what was going on.

- After Hannah defended herself, Eli told her to go in peace. However, he did nothing to comfort her, or address her problems, or even find out what her problems were (1 Samuel 1:17). Throughout Eli's life he had a consistent pattern of not caring about other people.
- When Hannah brought Samuel to Shiloh to give him to Eli, she brought three sacrifices with her (1 Samuel 1:24).
- Hannah told Eli that Samuel would be loaned to God for as long as he lived (1 Samuel 1:28).
- No one is as holy as God (1 Samuel 2:2).
- God is the only God (1 Samuel 2:2).
- We must not speak arrogantly (1 Samuel 2:3).
- God is a God of knowledge (1 Samuel 2:3).
- God weighs our actions (1 Samuel 2:3).
- There are times when God puts people to death (1 Samuel 2:6).
- There are times when God resurrects people (1 Samuel 2:6).
- There are times when God makes people poor (1 Samuel 2:7).
- There are times when God makes people rich (1 Samuel 2:7).
- There are times when God humbles people (1 Samuel 2:7).
- There are times when God elevates people (1 Samuel



2:7).

- God will protect His saints (1 Samuel 2:9).
- One day the wicked will be silent in darkness (1 Samuel 2:9).
- No one can prevail by their own strength (1 Samuel 2:9).
- One day the adversaries of God will be broken into pieces (1 Samuel 2:10).
- One day God will judge the ends of the earth (1 Samuel 2:10).
- The priests at Shiloh (Hophni and Phinehas) robbed the Israelites who went to the tabernacle to offer sacrifices to God (1 Samuel 2:14). They stole from God's sacrifices, which *greatly* angered God.
- The priests at Shiloh (Hophni and Phinehas) stole God's portion of the sacrifices for themselves (1 Samuel 2:15-16). The Israelites didn't want to give God's portion of their sacrifices to the priests, but Hophni and Phinehas stole it by threats of violence.
- Each year Hannah made Samuel a little coat (1 Samuel 2:19). She brought it to him when she went to the tabernacle once a year to sacrifice to God.
- After Hannah gave Samuel to God, she had three more sons and two daughters (1 Samuel 2:21).
- When Eli was old, he heard about all the evil things his sons were doing (1 Samuel 2:22). However, he refused to stop them or remove them from the priesthood. He knew they were robbing the Israelites (and God) and he allowed it to continue. Eli didn't care enough about God

or His sacrifices to take action (just as he didn't care enough about Hannah to ask why she was upset).

- The reason the sons of Eli (Hophni and Phinehas) didn't repent was because God had decided to kill them (1 Samuel 2:25). God hardened them so they wouldn't repent and be saved. There are times when God prevents people from repenting so that they'll die and face His wrath.
- The sons of Eli (Hophni and Phinehas) were robbing God *in His own house*, by stealing His portion of His sacrifices *while they were in the process of being offered* (1 Samuel 2:29). Eli could have stopped this, but he chose not to.
- When Eli refused to stop the wicked things his sons were doing, he was honoring his sons above God (1 Samuel 2:29). Eli should have stopped his sons – but instead he allowed their evil to continue for *years*.
- God asked Eli why he was making himself fat by eating the chiefest of all the offerings of the Israelites (which were portions he wasn't allowed to have) (1 Samuel 2:29). Apparently Eli's family had stolen so much from God that they had become fat.
- God said that He would honor those who honored Him (1 Samuel 2:30).
- God said that He would lightly esteem those who despised Him (1 Samuel 2:30).
- There are times when people lose the promises of God by despising Him (1 Samuel 2:30).
- God told Eli in advance that He was going to kill both him and his two sons (1 Samuel 2:31). However, Eli didn't repent or show any remorse. Instead he ignored God and

allowed his sons to continue to steal from Him. God gave Eli a chance to repent and seek forgiveness and mercy, but Eli was uninterested. He didn't care.

- God told Eli that there would never be an old man in his house again (1 Samuel 2:32). Yet Eli didn't repent, or show remorse, or express sorrow. Instead he ignored God and refused to take Him seriously. Even though God told Eli that He was going to curse Eli's family *forever* because of their sins, he did nothing. Eli didn't care.
- When God told Eli that enemies were going to enter into His tabernacle, he was indifferent (1 Samuel 2:32). He took no action and did nothing to either seek God's mercy or protect the tabernacle. Eli didn't care.
- There are times when God allows children to survive in order to bring grief to their parents (1 Samuel 2:33).
- God was so angry with the sins of Hophni and Phinehas, and Eli's failure to do anything about it, that He cursed Eli's descendants *forever* (1 Samuel 2:33). There are times when God curses a person's descendants because of that individual's sins.
- There are times when God gives people an early death because of the sins of their ancestors (1 Samuel 2:33).
- There are times when God blesses people by building them a house (that is, giving them a family and descendants) (1 Samuel 2:35).
- God seeks people who will do what's in His heart (1 Samuel 2:35).
- When Samuel was a child, there was no open vision. God wasn't speaking to Israel (1 Samuel 3:1). Since Eli didn't care about the things God told him, this isn't surprising.

- God is the one who gave victory to the Philistines, and gave the Ark of the Covenant into their hands (1 Samuel 3:11).
- God spoke to Eli about the coming judgment upon his household, and gave him time to repent and change. When Eli did nothing, God spoke to Samuel and told him that He was going to carry out that judgment (1 Samuel 3:12).
- At first God spoke to Eli about the coming judgment upon his household. When Eli ignored God, the next time God spoke He spoke to Samuel instead (1 Samuel 3:12).
- There are times when God punishes a household with an eternal judgment for its sins (1 Samuel 3:13).
- God told Samuel there was no way the household of Eli could ever be purged of its iniquity. It was too late, and their sins couldn't be forgiven (1 Samuel 3:14). There comes a time when God is no longer willing to forgive someone's sins. (Before that day came, God did warn Eli. He even gave Eli many years to repent. The limit only came after Eli spent years despising God *in His own house* and stubbornly refused to care about what God told him.)
- When Eli wanted to know what God had told Samuel, he didn't try to reassure Samuel or encourage him. Instead he threatened him (1 Samuel 3:17). Eli treated other people badly.
- God gave Eli two witnesses that judgment was coming against his house before He sent that judgment (1 Samuel 3:18). Eli ignored both of them.
- God warned Eli that His judgment was coming against his house *years* before it actually came (1 Samuel 3:19).

However, it did come, just as God said.

- All of the words of God are important, and must be heard and taken seriously (1 Samuel 3:19).
- Samuel was a prophet of God (1 Samuel 3:20). All of Israel knew this.
- God used Samuel to speak to all of Israel (1 Samuel 4:1).
- In the days of Eli, the Israelites put their faith in the Ark of the Covenant instead of in God (1 Samuel 4:3). They didn't inquire of the Lord and seek His aid in battle. Instead they took His holy Ark into battle as if it would somehow save them when God was against them.
- God dwells between the cherubims (v1 Samuel 4:4).
- The Philistines were afraid of the God of Israel (1 Samuel 4:7). They knew about the great things He had done in the past. It seems the Philistines took God more seriously than the Israelites did.
- The Philistines believed that the God of Israel was multiple gods (1 Samuel 4:8). They were wrong.
- When the Philistines fought against Israel after the Israelites brought the Ark of the Covenant to the battlefield, 30,000 Israelite soldiers died (1 Samuel 4:10).
- Hophni and Phinehas were both killed on the same day (which is exactly what God said would happen) (1 Samuel 4:11).
- When Eli was told that the Ark of the Covenant had been taken, he fell backwards and died (1 Samuel 4:18). Eli and his two sons died on the same day, just as God had said.
- When Eli died, he was fat (1 Samuel 4:18).

- When Eli died, he had judged Israel for 40 years (1 Samuel 4:18).
- The day after the Ark of the Covenant was put into the temple of Dagon, the Philistines saw that Dagon (the idol) had fallen upon his face to the earth before the Ark (1 Samuel 5:3).
- While the Ark of the Covenant was in Ashdod (which was in Philistine territory), God destroyed the people of Ashdod (1 Samuel 5:6). God punished them for having possession of it.
- Even though the Philistines of Ashdod realized that the God of Israel was stronger than the false god that they worshiped, they didn't repent and stop worshiping Dagon. Instead they decided to get rid of the Ark of the Covenant (1 Samuel 5:7). The wicked often seek to get rid of God when they realize He's stronger than them.
- When the hand of God was against the Philistines because the Ark of the Covenant was in one of their cities, the lords of the Philistines decided to solve the problem by moving the Ark to a different Philistine city (1 Samuel 5:8). That went poorly.
- When the Ark of the Covenant was in Gath (which was in Philistine territory), God sent very great destruction against that city (1 Samuel 5:9). When the Ark of the Covenant was in Ekron (which was in Philistine territory), there was deadly destruction throughout all the city (1 Samuel 5:11). The Philistines understood pretty quickly that destruction and death had come upon them because they had the Ark of the Covenant in their midst (1 Samuel 5:11).
- The Ark of the Covenant was in the country of the

Philistines for seven months (1 Samuel 6:1).

- Even the pagan priests and diviners of the Philistines knew that the hand of the God of Israel was against them, and that's why they had been suffering (1 Samuel 6:3).
- The pagan priests and diviners told the Philistines that when they returned the Ark of the Covenant to Israel, they should include a trespass offering of five golden emerods and five golden mice (1 Samuel 6:4). This represented the ways God had plagued them for possessing the Ark of the Covenant. The reason there were five was to represent the five lords of the Philistines.
- Even though the Philistines knew that the God of Israel was far stronger than the gods that they worshiped, and even though they had seen His power and His might, they still refused to repent and worship Him. Instead they continued to worship their pagan gods that couldn't save them (1 Samuel 6:5). There are times when nations clearly see God's power, and yet refuse to worship Him. Instead they continue to worship idols that can't save them.
- The Philistines knew the story of the exodus. They knew that Pharaoh had hardened his heart and refused to let Israel go, and as a result God sent plagues upon Egypt. They didn't want to repeat Pharaoh's mistake (1 Samuel 6:6). They were worried that if they didn't return the Ark of the Covenant then the God of Israel would do to them as He had done to the Egyptians.
- It seems the pagan priests and diviners of the Philistines didn't know how to transport the Ark of the Covenant (1 Samuel 6:7). They should have asked someone in Israel to help them, but they didn't.

- The Philistines wanted to test God by returning the Ark of the Covenant in a spectacularly stupid way, to see if He would cause the Ark to miraculously return in spite of their foolishness (1 Samuel 6:v7). God was gracious to them and allowed their plan to work.
- The pagan priests and diviners of the Philistines would only admit that God was responsible for the disasters that had fallen upon them if their cows were able to take the Ark of the Covenant back to Israel on their own, without a driver. Yet the truth is that God was indeed responsible for all the things that happened to them, regardless of how He chose to treat their incredibly stupid way of transporting the Ark back to Israel (1 Samuel 6:9).
- God can control the actions of cows (1 Samuel 6:12).
- The lords of the Philistines wanted to see if the driverless cart that was carrying the Ark of the Covenant reached Bethshemesh (in Israel). They wanted to witness what happened (1 Samuel 6:12).
- When the cart carrying the Ark of the Covenant came to the field of Joshua the Bethshemite, the Israelites broke apart the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to God (1 Samuel 6:14).
- The Ark of the Covenant was also called the Ark of the Lord (1 Samuel 6:15).
- The men of Bethshemesh didn't have respect for the Ark of the Covenant. Instead of leaving it alone or having the priests carry it away, they violated the Mosaic Law by opening it and looking inside it (1 Samuel 6:19). When they did this God killed 50,070 people. (The restrictions of the Mosaic Law protected the Israelites. Circumventing them had terrible consequences.)



- God is holy (1 Samuel 6:20). He requires people to treat Him as holy.
- When the Philistines returned the Ark of the Covenant to Israel, it wasn't transported back to the tabernacle. Instead it was transported to the house of Abinadab (1 Samuel 7:1). The Ark actually *never* made it back into the tabernacle. Instead it remained in strange places until Solomon dedicated the first temple and moved it there (which was around 100 years later). This was senseless and foolish, but it's what the Israelites did.
- We must return to God with all our heart (1 Samuel 7:3).
- We must remove any idols that we have from our lives (1 Samuel 7:3).
- We must prepare our hearts for God (1 Samuel 7:3).
- We must serve God alone (1 Samuel 7:3).
- The reason the Israelites put away their idols was because they wanted God to deliver them from the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:4).
- Samuel was a judge of Israel (1 Samuel 7:6).
- In the days of Samuel, God used thunder to give the Israelites victory over the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:10).
- The reason Samuel named the stone that he set up between Mizpeh and Shen "Ebenezer" was because that's how far the Israelites went when God helped them (1 Samuel 7:12). It seems that "Ebenezer" means "stone of help".
- The hand of God was against the Philistines all the days that Samuel judged Israel (1 Samuel 7:13).

- Samuel remained a judge of Israel for all his life (1 Samuel 7:15). This seems to mean he continued to judge Israel during the reign of Saul.
- The elders of Israel claimed that they wanted a king so Israel would be like the nations around them (1 Samuel 8:5). They didn't want Israel to be different from other nations, or set apart from them (which was what God wanted). In reality the Israelites wanted a king because they didn't want God to rule over them (1 Samuel 8:7). They had rejected Him.
- Even though God knew the Israelites wanted a king because they had rejected Him, He still commanded Samuel to give them the king they asked for (1 Samuel 8:7). There are times when God gives wicked people exactly what they want (and it costs them dearly).
- God told Samuel that the Israelites had forsaken Him since the day He brought them out of Egypt (1 Samuel 8:8).
- God commanded Samuel to warn the Israelites how bad a king would treat them. The Lord wanted them to know in advance that when He granted their prayer, they would suffer (1 Samuel 8:9). God was right. Saul was far worse than any judge had ever been.
- There are times when God warns people in advance will happen to them if they choose the wrong path (1 Samuel 8:9). This gives them a chance to repent and change.
- The Israelites were told that God didn't want them to have a king, and yet they demanded one anyway (1 Samuel 8:10). They didn't care what God wanted.
- When a nation has a king, it's a heavy burden upon that

nation (1 Samuel 8:11).

- The system of government that God gave to Israel (being ruled over by judges) was better than having a king (1 Samuel 8:11).
- God considered it to be a heavy and oppressive burden for a king to levy a 10% tax upon a nation (1 Samuel 8:15).
- Samuel warned Israel that if they cried out to God when the king they had chosen oppressed them, God wouldn't hear them (1 Samuel 8:18).
- Kish (the father of Saul) was a mighty man of power (1 Samuel 9:1).
- Kish (the father of Saul) was from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Samuel 9:1). That tribe had a violent and bloody history.
- Saul was said to be the most handsome person among all of the Israelites (1 Samuel 9:2). He was also about a foot taller than everyone else.
- It seems that in ancient Israel, the common people inquired of God by going to prophets instead of going to priests (1 Samuel 9:9).
- God referred to Saul as the captain of the Israelites (1 Samuel 9:16).
- God told Samuel that Saul was the person He had chosen to be the ruler of Israel (1 Samuel 9:17). Saul was exactly what Israel said that they wanted: a tall and handsome person who would lead them into battle.
- Samuel told Saul that God had anointed him to be the captain over Israel (1 Samuel 10:1).

- Samuel used a vial of oil to anoint Saul as the ruler of Israel (1 Samuel 10:1).
- Rachel's sepulcher was located at the border of Benjamin at Zelzah (1 Samuel 10:2). It still existed in the days of Saul.
- The Spirit of the Lord can cause people to prophesy (1 Samuel 10:6).
- God gave Saul multiple signs that His word to him was true and he really had been anointed as the ruler of Israel (1 Samuel 10:7).
- God told Israel that for hundreds of years He had been doing the very things the Israelites wanted a king to do: leading them, delivering them, and giving them victory in battle (1 Samuel 10:18-19). Yet they rejected Him anyway, even though He repeatedly saved them from all their adversaries and delivered them from all their troubles.
- Even after God told Israel that by seeking a king they were rejecting Him, the Israelites didn't repent or show remorse. Instead they continued to seek a king, even though God plainly told them that doing so was a rejection of Him (1 Samuel 10:19).
- It seems the first time people said "God save the king" was when the Israelites said it about Saul (1 Samuel 10:24). That turned out to be the wrong thing to wish for.
- Samuel told the Israelites how the kingdom of Israel would function now that it had a king, and then wrote it down in a book (1 Samuel 10:25). However, that book has been lost.
- God has the ability to touch people's hearts and cause

them to do things (1 Samuel 10:26). He is sovereign over our heart.

- When the men of Jabesh wanted to make peace with Nahash the Ammonite, Nahash said he would only make a covenant with them if he could first put out all of their right eyes (1 Samuel 11:2). He wanted to do this so it would be a reproach upon Israel. (Saul saved the men of Jabesh from Nahash. When Saul was later killed in battle, the men of Jabesh recovered his body from the Philistines and buried it.)
- At the beginning of Saul's reign, there were times when the Spirit of God came upon him (1 Samuel 11:6).
- Saul didn't have the Spirit of God all the time. Instead the Spirit only came upon him occasionally (1 Samuel 11:6).
- When Saul wanted to gather the nation of Israel together to fight against the Ammonites, he threatened to kill those who wouldn't come (1 Samuel 11:7). Saul continued to use threats of violence to get his way for the rest of his reign.
- Saul killed his own oxen to make a point that he would kill anyone who didn't do what he commanded (1 Samuel 11:7). He was a violent and savage king who ruled by force and threats.
- When Saul decided to attack the Ammonites, he didn't first inquire of God. Instead he used death threats to gather a large army, and then attacked the Ammonites (1 Samuel 11:11).
- Saul's first act as the king of Israel was saving the people of Jabeshgilead from the Ammonites (1 Samuel 11:11).
- When Saul was victorious over the Ammonites, he gave

the glory to God (1 Samuel 11:13).

- Samuel served the Israelites his whole life, from his childhood until old age (1 Samuel 12:2).
- Samuel was a man of integrity (1 Samuel 12:4). He wasn't corrupt.
- After God gave Canaan to the Israelites, they forgot Him (1 Samuel 12:9).
- God is the one who caused the Philistines to fight against Israel (1 Samuel 12:9). The reason the Lord did it was because the Israelites forgot Him.
- Even though God had delivered the Israelites many times throughout their history, they refused to go to Him when Nahash came against them. Instead they demanded a king (1 Samuel 12:12).
- Samuel told the Israelites that the reason enemies came against them in the first place was because they rejected God and served idols. Yet instead of repenting, the Israelites decided to reject God even more and demand a king (1 Samuel 12:12).
- Saul was the king the Israelites desired (1 Samuel 12:13). He was tall, handsome, and would go out and fight battles for them, which was what Israel wanted.
- Samuel told the Israelites that if they feared God then their king would as well (1 Samuel 12:14). It seems the reason Israel had so many wicked kings was because the people themselves were wicked. The kings God gave Israel were a reflection of the spiritual condition of the nation.
- It was very wicked for the Israelites to reject God as their

king and seek someone else to rule over them (1 Samuel 12:17).

- Thunder and rain can be signs from God (1 Samuel 12:18).
- Idols don't benefit those who serve them (1 Samuel 12:21). They can't deliver people in times of trouble.
- God won't forsake the Israelites (1 Samuel 12:22).
- Samuel said he would never stop praying for the Israelites (1 Samuel 12:23).
- Samuel said he would teach the Israelites the way that was good and right (1 Samuel 12:23).
- We must serve God in truth (1 Samuel 12:24).
- We must consider the great things God has done (1 Samuel 12:24).
- Samuel warned the Israelites that if they were wicked then their king would be consumed (1 Samuel 12:25).
- By the time Saul was in his second year as king over Israel, his son Jonathan was already an adult who was leading men to war (1 Samuel 13:2). Jonathan must have been born years before Saul was made king over Israel.
- When the Israelites saw the enormous army that the Philistines brought against them, they didn't cry out to God, or look to God for deliverance, or trust in Him to help them. Instead they fled (1 Samuel 13:6).
- When Samuel didn't come to Gilgal within seven days, Saul didn't send someone to look for him to see if something had happened, or go search for him himself, or send his son Jonathan to find him. He also didn't inquire

of God. Instead he offered the burnt offering himself, even though he was forbidden from doing so under the Mosaic Law (1 Samuel 13:9). What made this worse is that the burnt offering symbolized complete dedication to God, and yet Saul disobeyed God when he offered it! This means *his offering was a sinful mockery of the very concept of that offering*. It's not surprising this greatly angered God.

- The reason Samuel didn't go to Saul in the seven days that were appointed was because God was testing Saul. If Saul had waited and obeyed God then He would have established Saul's kingdom upon Israel forever (1 Samuel 13:13). There are times when God blesses those who wait upon Him (and curses those who don't).
- Samuel told Saul that since he offered the burnt offering in disobedience to God, his kingdom wouldn't continue (1 Samuel 13:14). This means his kingdom wouldn't be passed on to his children after he died. Saul violently rejected this and refused to accept it, and yet the word of God still came to pass anyway.
- We must seek the heart of God (1 Samuel 13:14).
- Those who don't keep God's commandments don't have a heart after God (1 Samuel 13:14).
- Those who don't wait upon God don't have a heart after Him (1 Samuel 13:14).
- In the second year of Saul's reign, the only people in Israel with swords and spears were Saul and Jonathan (1 Samuel 13:22).
- Jonathan went to the garrison of the Philistines with just his armorbearer, while Saul did nothing even though he



had 600 men with him (1 Samuel 14:2).

- Jonathan told his armorbearer that God could work through many people or through few people (1 Samuel 14:6).
- There are times when God uses earthquakes to fill armies with fear (1 Samuel 14:15).
- On the day that God saved Israel from the Philistines, Jonathan made things much better (by going out and fighting the Philistines) and Saul made things much worse (by forbidding his army from eating any food) (1 Samuel 14:24).
- When Saul spoke to his men about the Philistines, he didn't refer to them as the enemies of Israel. He also said nothing about saving Israel or protecting its people. Instead he viewed the Philistines as *his* enemies, and he wanted to be avenged of them. To Saul it was all about himself, not about his nation or its people (1 Samuel 14:24).
- The Israelites feared Saul (1 Samuel 14:26).
- The Israelites waited to tell Jonathan about Saul's curse on those who ate food until *after* Jonathan ate some honey (1 Samuel 14:28). They should have said something sooner.
- Saul didn't want to show his son Jonathan any mercy. He wanted put his own son to death for eating some honey, even though Jonathan didn't know that Saul had forbidden people from eating food that day (1 Samuel 14:44). Saul was cruel and merciless, even to his own children.
- The kingdom of Saul was full of wars. It wasn't a time of

peace (1 Samuel 14:47).

- The captain of Saul's army was his cousin Abner (1 Samuel 14:50).
- There was war against the Philistines all the days of Saul (1 Samuel 14:52). Even though Saul won victories for Israel against the Philistines, he never defeated them. Instead he fought against them all his life.
- Israel wanted a king to lead them in to battle, and that's what Saul did. Saul led Israel into battle all his life, but he never led them into peace (1 Samuel 14:52).
- Samuel told Saul that since God was the one who anointed him as king, Saul had to listen to God and do as He commanded (1 Samuel 15:1). However, throughout Saul's life he rejected this principle.
- God remembered that the Amalekites had attacked the Israelites after they left Egypt, but had never been punished for it (1 Samuel 15:2). He still cared about it hundreds of years later. The passage of time doesn't erase the guilt of sin. (Only the blood of Jesus can do that.)
- God commanded Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites because of something they did to Israel hundreds of years ago that had never been avenged (1 Samuel 15:3). There are times when God waits hundreds of years to punish a nation for its wickedness.
- God holds nations accountable for their actions (1 Samuel 15:3).
- God holds nations accountable for how they treat the Israelites (1 Samuel 15:3).

- When God commanded Saul to utterly destroy everything that belonged to the Amalekites, Saul didn't do that. Instead he kept everything he wanted to keep, and destroyed everything he didn't desire (1 Samuel 15:9).
- God holds kings accountable for their actions (1 Samuel 15:11).
- God is grieved when people don't obey Him (1 Samuel 15:11).
- When Samuel went to Saul, Saul immediately lied to his face and told him that he had performed the commandment of the Lord (1 Samuel 15:13). Saul did this even though he knew Samuel was a prophet, and even though he knew his disobedience was obvious.
- Although Saul sought to violently punish other people for their sins, he refused to be corrected for his own sin and he refused to take responsibility for his actions (1 Samuel 15:15).
- When Saul first became king over Israel, he was humble (1 Samuel 15:17). That didn't last long.
- It's better to obey God than to give Him gifts (1 Samuel 15:22).
- Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). Both are an act of wicked defiance against God. (It's interesting that Samuel was the person who told Saul that, and Saul later used witchcraft to speak to Samuel after he died. Saul did whatever he pleased no matter how much God hated it – and in the end it killed him.)
- After Saul disobeyed God and didn't destroy the Amalekites, God rejected Saul from being king (1 Samuel

15:23).

- Since Saul rejected God's word, God rejected him from being king over Israel (1 Samuel 15:26). There are times when God rejects those who reject Him.
- Saul knew right away that he was no longer the rightful king of Israel (1 Samuel 15:27). Yet he refused to accept this and spent the rest of his life fighting it.
- When Saul tore Samuel's mantle, Samuel told him that *on that very day* God had torn the kingdom of Israel away from him and given it to one of his neighbors (1 Samuel 15:28). From that moment Saul was no longer the rightful king of Israel. Instead David was the rightful king.
- Samuel called God the Strength of Israel (1 Samuel 15:29).
- God will not lie (1 Samuel 15:29).
- Samuel told Saul that God wasn't going to change His mind, and would never give the kingdom of Israel back to him (1 Samuel 15:29). But Saul never accepted this and never yielded the throne. Instead he relentlessly fought against David until God killed him.
- Saul didn't show any actual remorse when he was confronted with his sin. Instead of repenting, he demanded to be honored instead (even though he had just been told that he was no longer the rightful king of Israel) (1 Samuel 15:30). There are times when wicked people demand honor that doesn't belong to them.
- Even though God commanded Saul to kill Agag, he refused. Instead Samuel was the one who killed him (1 Samuel 15:33).

- After Samuel killed Agag, he never went to see Saul again for the rest of his life (1 Samuel 15:35).
- God didn't want Samuel to continue mourning over Saul, who He had rejected (1 Samuel 16:1).
- Samuel knew that Saul would kill him if he openly anointed someone else as the king over Israel (1 Samuel 16:2). Saul wasn't going to allow anyone else to be anointed as the next king over Israel, even though he knew God had rejected him and he had no right to reign over Israel any longer.
- When Samuel asked God how he could anoint a king to replace Saul without getting killed, God told Samuel to use a cover story to deceive Saul and hide his true intentions (1 Samuel 16:2). It seems it wasn't wrong for Samuel to deceive Saul and lie about why he had gone to see Jesse's family.
- God doesn't regard a person's outward appearance (their height or countenance). Instead what He regards is their heart (1 Samuel 16:7).
- David was the youngest of eight sons (1 Samuel 16:11).
- David was handsome (1 Samuel 16:12).
- Samuel took his horn of oil and anointed David as the king of Israel, just as God commanded him (1 Samuel 16:13).
- When Samuel anointed David, he did so while David was in the midst of his brethren (1 Samuel 16:13). This means David's brothers knew that Samuel had anointed him as king. Yet they despised him and treated him poorly anyway.

- When Samuel anointed David, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him (1 Samuel 16:13). It seems that after Samuel anointed David, the Spirit of the Lord remained upon him for the rest of his life.
- After God rejected Saul, He took His Spirit from him (1 Samuel 16:14). In the Old Testament, people could lose the Holy Spirit.
- After God rejected Saul, God sent an evil spirit to trouble him (1 Samuel 16:14).
- It seems that harp music can help those who are troubled by an evil spirit (1 Samuel 16:16). This means harp music can be used as a tool in spiritual warfare.
- By the time Saul was being troubled by an evil spirit, David had a reputation for being a skilled harp player and a mighty man of war (1 Samuel 16:18).
- David loved Saul greatly (1 Samuel 16:21). This may be why he never took any action against Saul.
- David became Saul's armorbearer (1 Samuel 16:21).
- When Saul was troubled by an evil spirit and David played a harp for him, the evil spirit departed (1 Samuel 16:23). It seems that harp music can drive away evil spirits. (Apparently they don't like it.)
- Goliath was a giant who was around 9 feet tall (1 Samuel 17:4-5). The coat of mail that he wore weighed more than 100 pounds.
- Goliath said that if the champion of Israel was able to fight him and kill him, the Philistines would be the servants of Israel (1 Samuel 17:9). This was a lie. When David defeated Goliath the Philistines didn't surrender.

- When Saul went to battle against the Philistines, David left Saul and went home to Bethlehem (1 Samuel 17:17). This may mean that when Saul went out to war, he left his job playing the harp and returned home.
- Even though Goliath challenged Israel for 40 days, no one went out to fight him. Not Saul, not Jonathan, not any of the Israelites, and not the three oldest sons of Jesse. They all had a chance to fight him but none of them did (1 Samuel 17:16).
- The Philistines weren't in a hurry to fight the Israelites. They did nothing for 40 days while Goliath challenged them every morning and every evening (1 Samuel 17:16).
- It seems Saul didn't feed his army. Instead the Israelites had to supply their own food while they were on the battlefield (1 Samuel 17:17).
- The reason David went to the camp of the Israelites when Goliath was challenging them was because his father sent him there to provide food for his brothers (1 Samuel 17:17).
- Jesse told David to take ten cheeses to the captain of the unit that his three oldest sons were assigned to (1 Samuel 17:18). This means one of the reasons David went to the Israelite camp was to deliver cheese.
- It seems that Saul promised to give great riches and his daughter to whoever killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:25). Those were lies. Saul didn't do either of those things.
- David said that Goliath was reproaching Israel (1 Samuel 17:26). He believed that killing Goliath would take away that reproach.

- David wasn't afraid of Goliath (1 Samuel 17:26).
- Before David fought Goliath he wanted to know what reward he would be given for killing him (1 Samuel 17:26). However, he never got that reward. That was another one of Saul's many lies.
- Eliab (who didn't fight Goliath, even though he was given the opportunity to do so) was angry with David for being willing to fight the giant (1 Samuel 17:28). Although Eliab refused to fight Goliath himself, he did criticize David for being willing to fight him. (It's not surprising God rejected Eliab and said he had a bad heart.)
- There are times when the wicked falsely condemn innocent people for the very sins they're guilty of (1 Samuel 17:28).
- Eliab accused David of only coming to the camp so he could see the battle (1 Samuel 17:28). Yet Eliab knew full well that he had come to bring them food. This means Eliab knowingly and deliberately lied.
- Saul thought that David was too young and inexperienced to fight Goliath (1 Samuel 17:33). Apparently it never occurred to Saul to seek God's help to kill Goliath.
- David told Saul that killing Goliath would be no different from the time he killed a lion and a bear. This was because Goliath had defied the armies of the living God (1 Samuel 17:36). Since David had faith in God, he wasn't concerned about Goliath's size.
- It seems that David was about the same height as Saul, since Saul's armor fit him (1 Samuel 17:38).
- Even though Saul had a full set of armor, he didn't go and



fight Goliath (1 Samuel 17:38).

- The reason David was unwilling to wear Saul's armor to fight Goliath was because he hadn't worn them before and wasn't used to them (1 Samuel 17:39). David didn't tell Saul that his armor was too large, which is evidence that David and Saul were roughly the same height.
- It seems David didn't take Saul's sword with him when he fought Goliath (1 Samuel 17:39).
- When David fought Goliath, he went alone. No one else went with him (such as his brothers, or Jonathan, or Saul, or other Israelites) (1 Samuel 17:40). David fought Goliath by himself. No one else was willing to do it.
- When Goliath saw that David was young and handsome, he despised him (1 Samuel 17:42).
- David told Goliath that he was coming against him in the name of the God who Goliath had been defying (1 Samuel 17:45).
- When Goliath fought David, Goliath put his faith in his size, his might, his weapons, and his armor (1 Samuel 17:45). None of those things were able to save him.
- David intended to kill both Goliath *and* the army of the Philistines (1 Samuel 17:46-47). David said he wanted to do that so all the earth would know that there was a God in Israel. David's purpose was to give God glory and show that the battle belonged to Him.
- David used Goliath's own sword to cut off his head (1 Samuel 17:51). This means David was strong enough to wield Goliath's sword.
- When the Philistines saw that Goliath was dead, they

didn't surrender as promised. Instead they fled (1 Samuel 17:51).

- David took Goliath's head and brought it to Jerusalem (1 Samuel 17:54). He put the giant's armor in his tent (1 Samuel 17:54).
- After David killed Goliath, the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David (1 Samuel 18:1). This is when their relationship began.
- Jonathan loved David as he loved his own soul (1 Samuel 18:3).
- When the women came out of the cities of Israel to meet Saul, they sang that David had slain ten thousands (1 Samuel 18:7). This praise caused David immense trouble, both in Israel and in the land of the Philistines. It made his life worse and did him great harm.
- When Saul heard the women of Israel say that David had done more on the battlefield than him, he believed it meant that David was going to take his throne (1 Samuel 18:8). However, God had *already* taken Saul's throne away from him. Saul had no right to be reigning over Israel.
- After the women of Israel praised David more than they praised Saul, Saul turned against David (1 Samuel 18:9). Saul spent the rest of his life trying to kill David.
- Saul tried to kill David the day after the women of Israel praised David more than they praised him (1 Samuel 18:11).
- When Saul tried to kill David with a javelin, David didn't defend himself and attack Saul, even though by this point David was the rightful king and Saul was not (1 Samuel

18:11). This decision to spare Saul cost many people their lives, because Saul went on to commit both mass murder and genocide.

- Saul was afraid of David (1 Samuel 18:12).
- Saul knew that God was with David (1 Samuel 18:12). Yet Saul kept trying to kill him anyway.
- Saul broke his promise to give his daughter Merab to David so she could be his wife (1 Samuel 18:19). Saul lied throughout his reign. He was a deeply dishonest man.
- One of David's wives was Michal, the daughter of Saul (1 Samuel 18:27). This didn't turn out well for either of them.
- When Saul told Jonathan to kill David, and Jonathan defended David, Saul swore by the Lord that David wouldn't be killed (1 Samuel 19:6). This was a lie. Saul never stopped trying to kill David for as long as he lived.
- Saul used the holy name of God to tell lies (1 Samuel 19:6).
- David continued to play his harp for Saul when the evil spirit came upon him. He did this even though Saul was armed with a deadly weapon, and even though he knew that Saul had already told both his son and his servants to kill him (1 Samuel 19:9). His decision to continue serving Saul didn't help anyone.
- When Saul failed to kill David with his javelin (again), Saul sent messengers to watch David's house so they could kill David in the morning (1 Samuel 19:11).
- Even though Saul knew that his daughter Michal loved David, he still sent messengers to the house where Michal

lived in order to kill David (1 Samuel 19:11).

- When Saul sent messengers to David's house to kill him, Michal let David down through a window so he could escape (1 Samuel 19:12).
- When Saul sent messengers to David's house to kill him, David didn't take his wife Michal with him when he fled. Instead he left her behind (1 Samuel 19:12). This proved to be a terrible mistake. After David left, Saul gave her to another man and that destroyed his relationship with her. By the time he saw her again years later, she hated him and their relationship never recovered.
- When Saul asked Michal why she deceived him and allowed David to escape, Michal lied and said that David threatened to kill her if she didn't let him go (1 Samuel 19:17). In reality she was the one who told David to leave.
- When David went to Samuel after Saul tried to kill him, he told Samuel everything that Saul had done to him (1 Samuel 19:18).
- Even though David was popular among the Israelites, they still betrayed him to Saul and told Saul where he was hiding. The Israelites consistently betrayed David throughout the rest of Saul's life (1 Samuel 19:19).
- Saul didn't care that God was miraculously protecting David. Saul kept trying to kill David over and over again, even though God protected him every time (1 Samuel 19:21).
- When Saul traveled to Naioth to kill David, the Spirit of God came upon him (1 Samuel 19:23). This may have been the last time God's spirit came upon him.
- There are times when God sends His Spirit upon wicked

people to stop them from doing something evil that they intended on doing (1 Samuel 19:23).

- There were two instances when God sent His Spirit upon Saul and caused him to prophesy. The first was to confirm to Saul that God had chosen him as king. The second was to confirm to Saul that God was no longer with him and had given the kingdom of Israel to David (1 Samuel 19:24).
- David didn't understand why Saul was trying to kill him (1 Samuel 20:1). It should have been obvious to him, but it wasn't.
- When David told Jonathan that Saul was trying to kill him, Jonathan thought David was wrong (1 Samuel 20:2). He wasn't.
- Jonathan wanted David to never stop being kind to his descendants (1 Samuel 20:15). David didn't keep this promise. Late in David's life he unjustly took away half of the property of Jonathan's son Mephibosheth, and gave it to Saul's servant. When David found out that servant had lied to him and Mephibosheth was innocent, he didn't care and he didn't make it right.
- It seems it was common in the ancient world to have someone fetch arrows after they were shot (1 Samuel 20:21).
- When the new moon came and Saul saw that David's place was empty, Saul didn't say anything because he thought David didn't attend because he was unclean (1 Samuel 20:26). It's astonishing that Saul thought the person he was trying to kill would come and share a meal with him.

- Saul told Jonathan that as long as David was alive, Jonathan's kingdom wouldn't be established (1 Samuel 20:31). Yet God had already taken the kingdom away from both Saul and Jonathan! By that point it was far too late.
- Even though God took the kingdom of Israel away from Saul, Saul intended on keeping it (1 Samuel 20:31). Saul didn't succeed.
- When Jonathan asked Saul what David had done that was worthy of death, Saul had no answer. Instead Saul tried to kill Jonathan on the spot (1 Samuel 20:33). This was the second time Saul tried to kill his own son.
- There are times when the wicked are unwilling or unable to reason with the righteous, and try to kill them instead (1 Samuel 20:33).
- Jonathan was ashamed because David was Saul's faithful servant, and yet Saul was trying to kill him (1 Samuel 20:34).
- When Ahimelech the priest asked David why he was alone, David told him that he was on a mission from Saul (1 Samuel 21:2). That was a lie.
- One of the reasons David went to Ahimelech the priest was because David didn't have any food, and he thought he could get food from the tabernacle (1 Samuel 21:3).
- Even though the shewbread was holy and could only be eaten by the priests, Ahimelech was willing to give it to David when he was hungry and wanted food (1 Samuel 21:4).
- Ahimelech thought there were other people with David,

because David lied to him about what was going on (1 Samuel 21:4). In reality David was alone and the food was just for him.

- One of the reasons David went to Ahimelech the priest was because when he fled his house, he didn't bring any of his weapons with him (1 Samuel 21:8). It seems he thought there would be weapons at the tabernacle (and he was right).
- For some reason the sword of Goliath was kept in the tabernacle complex (1 Samuel 21:9).
- It seems David was strong enough and tall enough to wield the sword of Goliath (who was a nine-foot-tall giant) (1 Samuel 21:9).
- David didn't flee from Goliath, but he did flee from Saul (1 Samuel 21:10). This was in spite of the fact that both of them were the enemies of God, and neither had a right to reign over Israel.
- When David was identified while hiding in Philistine territory, he pretended to be a madman (1 Samuel 21:13). This was the first time he lied to Achish (but not the last).
- When David's family and brothers heard that he was in the cave Adullam, they went to him (1 Samuel 22:1). It's possible this was to hide from Saul.
- When David was in the cave Adullam, he was joined by around 400 men (1 Samuel 22:2).
- David was captain over a group of people who were in distress, in debt, and discontent (1 Samuel 22:2).
- David asked the king of Moab if his parents could stay with him for a while (1 Samuel 22:3). It's possible this was

to protect them from Saul.

- Although David took action to protect his father and mother, he did nothing to protect his wife Michal. He left her behind when he fled, and he never fetched her or put her in a safe place (1 Samuel 22:3). This ultimately destroyed his relationship with her.
- Saul didn't claim that David had done something evil, or say that David deserved to be killed. Instead Saul used bribes and threats to get people to do what he wanted (1 Samuel 22:7). This was a consistent pattern throughout his life.
- Saul claimed that none of his servants felt sorry for him because none of them had told him that Jonathan had stirred up David against him (1 Samuel 22:8). This was a lie. Jonathan did *not* stir up David against him. In fact, David never fought against Saul his entire life.
- Saul wanted his servants to feel sorry for him even though he was trying to murder David, one of his most loyal and faithful servants (1 Samuel 22:8).
- Saul claimed that David was lying in wait to kill him (1 Samuel 22:8). This was a lie. David never took any action against Saul his entire life.
- Doeg told Saul that Ahimelech the priest had inquired of the Lord for David (1 Samuel 22:10). That was a lie. Ahimelech gave David food and Goliath's sword, but he didn't inquire of the Lord for him (and David never asked him to either).
- It seems Doeg didn't tell Saul that the reason Ahimelech helped David was because David told him he was on a mission from Saul. Apparently Doeg wanted to make it



look like Ahimelech was David's ally, which wasn't the case (1 Samuel 22:10).

- Saul said that Ahimelech plotted with David to kill him (1 Samuel 22:13). That was a lie.
- Saul condemned Ahimelech to death (1 Samuel 22:16). Under the Mosaic Law a person could only be put to death at the testimony of two witnesses. There was only one witness against Ahimelech, but Saul killed him anyway. Throughout Saul's life he ignored God's law and did whatever he pleased.
- Saul condemned the entire household of Ahimelech's father to death (1 Samuel 22:16). Under the Mosaic Law fathers couldn't be executed for the sins of their children, but Saul didn't care. He had no problem killing entire families over the offense of a single person.
- Saul told his servants that the priests of the Lord deserved to die for two reasons: because they supported David, and because they knew where David had fled and didn't tell him (1 Samuel 22:17). Both of those statements were lies.
- When Saul commanded his servants to kill the priests of the Lord, they refused (1 Samuel 22:17).
- Saul was far worse than any judge of Israel. No other judge killed as many innocent people as he did (1 Samuel 22:17). Israel's desire for a king didn't improve their lives.
- When Saul's servants wouldn't kill the priests, Saul commanded Doeg (the captain of his servants) to kill them (1 Samuel 22:18). Doeg killed 85 priests of the Lord in a single day. (It's amazing that Saul did this and then expected God to continue to speak to him and solve his

problems.)

- At Saul's command, Doeg slaughtered *everyone* in the city of Nob, including the men, women, children, and infants (1 Samuel 22:19). Doeg even killed all of the animals. The reason Saul did this was because Ahimelech the priest helped David. Saul shed a *tremendous* amount of innocent blood, and he did so without remorse or pity. He was truly a violent, bloody, and cruel man.
- Saul was unwilling to put to the Amalekites to death, even though God had commanded him to kill them. Yet Saul was willing to slaughter everyone and everything in the priestly city of Nob, even though they had taken no action against him (1 Samuel 22:19). Saul was willing to kill the priests of God *and their families*, but not the wicked king of the Amalekites.
- Saul murdered Hebrew men (1 Samuel 22:19).
- Saul murdered Hebrew women (1 Samuel 22:19).
- Saul murdered Hebrew children (1 Samuel 22:19).
- Saul murdered Hebrew infants (1 Samuel 22:19).
- When Saul commanded Doeg to kill the Lord's priests, and he did so, God held Saul responsible for killing them (1 Samuel 22:21). Those who command other people to commit murder are guilty of murder (which is a lesson David failed to learn).
- David told Abiathar that he knew Doeg would surely tell Saul about his visit to Ahimelech (1 Samuel 22:22). Yet David did nothing to protect Ahimelech or to stop Doeg from telling Saul.
- Saul did a poor job defending Israel against the

Philistines. They kept invading Israel during his reign (1 Samuel 23:1).

- It seems that David started inquiring of the Lord after Abiathar the priest joined his group (1 Samuel 23:2).
- Even though David was on the run from Saul and his life was in danger, he still cared about the people of Keilah (1 Samuel 23:2). He wanted to save them from the Philistines (which is something Saul should have been doing, but wasn't).
- It seems that priests used their ephod to inquire of the Lord (1 Samuel 23:6).
- Even though David had just rescued Keilah from the Philistines, when Saul heard that he was at Keilah his only concern was hunting down David so he could murder him (1 Samuel 23:7).
- Saul used a lot of religious language, even though he was a very wicked person who was in open rebellion against God (1 Samuel 23:7).
- Saul wanted to wage war against the very city (Keilah) that David had just saved from the Philistines (1 Samuel 23:8). In fact, Saul's plan was to bring his entire army against that city! It seems Saul was an even bigger danger to Keilah than the Philistines.
- When David inquired of God, he didn't ask if he should take some action against Saul (1 Samuel 23:11). In fact, David *never* asked God that question, even though David was the rightful king of Israel and Saul was not. Even after Saul slaughtered an entire town of Israelites (including the women and children), David *still* didn't ask God what he should do about Saul.

- Even though Saul hunted David every day, David didn't take any action against him (1 Samuel 23:14). David refused to defend himself or his throne, even though God had rejected Saul and made David the king of Israel.
- When David was in the wilderness of Ziph, Jonathan visited him (1 Samuel 23:16). However, Michal (David's wife) didn't. David never sent for her and Jonathan didn't bring her to him. Although David put his parents into the care of the king of Moab, he did nothing to protect Michal.
- When Jonathan met David in the wilderness of Ziph, he told David that when David was king, Jonathan would be next to him supporting him (1 Samuel 23:17). However, Jonathan was killed in battle so that never happened.
- Jonathan wanted David to be king (1 Samuel 23:17). He wasn't jealous of David.
- Saul used God's holy name to bless people who were trying to help him murder an innocent man (1 Samuel 23:21). It's a terrible sin to use God's name to support evil.
- David was afraid of Saul (v1 Samuel 23:6).
- When Saul was in the wilderness of Maon, David didn't attack Saul, or defend himself from Saul, or inquire of God to ask what he should do in that situation. Instead he tried to flee (1 Samuel 23:26). David refused to take *any* action against Saul, even though Saul posed a tremendous danger to Israel, and to David's men, and to David's family, and to David himself. Even though David was the anointed king of Israel and Saul was guilty of mass murder, David *still* refused to bring Saul to justice. Instead he did nothing (1 Samuel 24:4).

- David had several opportunities to end Saul's bloody reign, but he rejected all of them. He chose to do nothing and allowed Saul to escape (1 Samuel 24:4). This consistently led to the death of innocent people whose lives could have been saved.
- Even though the Mosaic Law required murderers to be put to death and said they couldn't be spared under any circumstances (Numbers 35:31), David repeatedly spared Saul and let him go (1 Samuel 24:4). At the very least David could have inquired of God to seek His will in this matter, but he never did.
- David was so opposed to bringing Saul to justice that he felt bad about even cutting off the robe of Saul's skirt (1 Samuel 24:5). The *many* terrible things that Saul did failed to motivate David to inflict any punishment upon him at all – even though God had anointed David as the king of Israel, and God had rejected Saul and taken His Spirit from him.
- David referred to Saul as his master (1 Samuel 24:6). This was a lie. David was the rightful king of Israel. Saul wasn't, and David knew this.
- David said that Saul was God's anointed, which was a lie (1 Samuel 24:6). David knew that he was the actual anointed king of Israel, and God had rejected Saul. David's reasons for not killing Saul were lies.
- David insisted on honoring Saul, a man God had utterly rejected (1 Samuel 24:8).
- David insisted on treating Saul as the rightful king of Israel, even though God had taken the kingdom away from Saul and had rejected him (1 Samuel 24:8).

- David asked Saul why he listened to people who told him that David sought to hurt him (1 Samuel 24:9). This was nonsense. *Saul* was the one who was telling people that! Everyone else consistently told Saul that David was innocent.
- David said that his hand wouldn't be upon Saul (1 Samuel 24:12). It seems there was literally nothing Saul could do that would motivate David to take action against him.
- In the days of Saul, there was an ancient proverb in Israel which said that wicked people should be left alone and not opposed (1 Samuel 24:13). *That is a very wicked saying*. God has commanded those in authority to *stop* the wicked! It's an awful thing when rulers do nothing and allow violent and bloody evildoers to flourish.
- David rejected the idea that he had a responsibility to bring evildoers to justice and protect the innocent from those who would murder them. Instead his approach was to do nothing and let God handle it (1 Samuel 24:13). This was a *serious* violation of the responsibility that God gave to rulers, which dated all the way back to the days of Noah (Genesis 9:5-6).
- David told Saul that David was nothing (1 Samuel 24:14). This was a lie. David was a powerful warrior and had an army of hundreds of men.
- David wanted God to judge between him and Saul (1 Samuel 24:15). In other words, David abdicated his responsibility to judge the man who gave the command to slaughter the entire priestly city of Nob, and instead asked God to deal with it Himself. David did this even though God told Noah that it was *mankind's* responsibility to bring murderers to justice, not His

(Genesis 9:5-6).

- Saul prayed that God would bless David for sparing Saul's life (1 Samuel 24:19). In reality, David's decision to spare Saul's life had terrible consequences for him, his men, and the whole nation of Israel. It even got Jonathan killed (because he died in a battle that took place when David was hiding from Saul in the land of the Philistines). Nothing good came from sparing Saul.
- Saul told David that he knew David would be king (1 Samuel 24:20). Yet Saul never stopped trying to kill him (because that knowledge was the very reason why Saul was trying to kill him in the first place).
- Saul told David to swear an oath by the Lord that after Saul died, David wouldn't kill all of Saul's descendants (1 Samuel 24:21). David agreed to this. However, he wouldn't have wiped out Saul's family even if he hadn't sworn an oath.
- When Samuel died, all of Israel lamented his death (1 Samuel 25:1). It's not wrong to lament the passing of God's faithful servants.
- Even though Nabal hadn't hired David to work for him, David still expected him to give David a gift (1 Samuel 25:8).
- When David sent people to ask Nabal for a gift, Nabal gave them a rude and churlish answer (which lived up to his bad reputation) (1 Samuel 25:10).
- When David sent people to ask Nabal for a gift, Nabal claimed that he didn't know who David was (1 Samuel 25:10). This was a lie. Not only was David famous for killing Goliath and being a mighty man of valor, but Nabal

knew that David was a son of Jesse!

- When David sent people to ask Nabal for a gift, Nabal called David a wicked servant who had rebelled against his master Saul (1 Samuel 25:10). Nabal was definitely a wicked and vile man. However, the only actions he took against David were insulting him, and refusing to pay him for services that he never requested in the first place.
- Even though David was unwilling to kill Saul, who slaughtered dozens of the Lord's priests and murdered both women and infants, he *was* willing to murder Nabal – a man who was only guilty of insulting him. In fact, not only did David decide to kill Nabal, but he also decided to kill *everyone in Nabal's household* – even though Nabal's household hadn't harmed David in any way (1 Samuel 25:13).
- When David heard that Nabal had insulted him, he didn't try to speak to him again, or pursue other solutions, or inquire of God. Instead he *immediately* decided to kill Nabal and everyone in his household (1 Samuel 25:13).
- David's men protected Nabal's servants and sheep while they were in the fields (1 Samuel 25:16). David expected to be paid for this service, even though he hadn't been hired to provide it.
- The young man who spoke to Nabal's wife Abigail believed that something bad would happen as a result of Nabal's rudeness to David's servants (1 Samuel 25:17). He wasn't wrong. If Abigail hadn't taken quick action, David and his men would have killed all of them.
- Nabal had a bad reputation among his servants (1 Samuel 25:17).



- Abigail decided to give David a large present of food in order to keep him from killing Nabal and everyone in his household (1 Samuel 25:19). It worked.
- David was determined to kill Nabal and his entire household before morning (1 Samuel 25:22). If it hadn't been for Abigail, he would have.
- Abigail asked David not to avenge himself and not kill Nabal and his household. She did this in a very humble way that was designed to appease David (1 Samuel 25:26).
- Abigail told David that he fought God's battles (1 Samuel 25:28). She may have been implying that killing her and the rest of her family was *not* one of God's battles, and was something David shouldn't do.
- Abigail told David that no evil had been found in him all his days (1 Samuel 25:28). She may have been implying that it would be evil for David to kill her and her family.
- Abigail told David that God would sling out the souls of his enemies the way a stone was slung out of a sling (1 Samuel 25:29). It's interesting that she used the analogy of a sling, given that David used a sling to kill Goliath.
- Abigail told David that when he became the ruler of Israel, she didn't want him to be grieved that he had shed blood without a just cause (1 Samuel 25:31). Abigail was telling David that if he killed her and her family, he would regret it.
- When Abigail told David to not kill Nabal's household, *he listened* (1 Samuel 25:33). This set him apart from all the kings of Israel and Judah who refused to listen to rebuke and who couldn't be reasoned with.

- David said God had prevented him from hurting Abigail and her family (1 Samuel 25:34). There are times when God prevents people from sinning.
- About ten days after Abigail met David and gave him food, God smote Nabal and killed him (1 Samuel 25:38). God gave Nabal ten days to repent of his wicked ways (but it seems he never did).
- When David heard that Nabal was dead, he sent messengers to take Abigail as his wife (1 Samuel 25:39-42). Yet it seems he never sent messengers to fetch his wife Michal.
- When Abigail became David's wife, she brought five maids with her who served her (1 Samuel 25:42).
- David also took Ahinoam as his wife (1 Samuel 25:43).
- When David was hiding from Saul, he had two wives who were with him (Abigail and Ahinoam) (1 Samuel 25:43).
- When David was hiding from Saul, Saul took Michal (who was David's wife) and gave her to Phalti (1 Samuel 25:44). The Mosaic Law didn't allow Saul to give someone's wife to someone else, but he did it anyway. Phalti also had no right to take someone else's wife, but he did – even though that union was an adulterous one which was punishable by *death* under the Mosaic Law.
- Although Saul asked David to swear an oath that David wouldn't kill his descendants after he died, Saul kept trying to kill David (1 Samuel 26:2). Saul never repented and he never stopped.
- When Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, David didn't ask God what he should do. In fact, he never asked God what

he should do about Saul (even though he inquired of the Lord about other matters). Instead of asking God he asked Abishai and Ahimelech (1 Samuel 26:6).

- David told Abishai that it would be wrong to kill Saul, because Saul was the Lord's anointed (1 Samuel 26:9). This was a lie. God had rejected Saul and made David the rightful king of Israel.
- God gave David two occasions to kill Saul. Both times David did *not* ask Him what he should do, and both times he spared Saul (even though the Mosaic Law said that murderers could *not* be spared but had to be put to death) (1 Samuel 26:9). God kept turning Saul over to David, and David kept refusing to take any action against him. This had terrible consequences.
- After David and Abishai left Saul's camp, David told Abner that he was worthy of death because he failed to protect Saul (1 Samuel 26:16). Yet the reason Abner fell asleep was because God put the whole camp to sleep. It wasn't Abner's fault.
- David was angry with Abner for not protecting Saul (1 Samuel 26:16). Yet David never expressed any anger against Saul, who was guilty of genocide and mass murder. Throughout David's life he was consistently angry with the wrong people.
- David asked Saul why he was pursuing him, and asked what evil he had done (1 Samuel 26:18-19). This was a foolish question to ask. David knew full well that Saul was pursuing him because Saul wanted to kill David to prevent him from becoming king. David kept refusing to acknowledge the very obvious fact that *David* (not Saul) was the rightful king of Israel, and Saul was trying to kill David so he could keep the throne for himself.

- David said that when Saul hunted him, it made it impossible for him to go to the tabernacle and worship God (1 Samuel 26:19). Yet David refused to take action against Saul, even though David was the rightful king of Israel and Saul was not.
- David compared himself to a flea (1 Samuel 26:20). This was a lie. David was a powerful warrior with an army, and was the rightful king of Israel.
- When David confronted Saul the second time, Saul said that he would stop trying to kill David because David hadn't killed him (1 Samuel 26:21). This was a lie. Saul never stopped trying to kill David.
- When David confronted Saul the second time, he prayed that God would repay each person according to their righteousness (1 Samuel 26:23). However, it was *not* a righteous thing for David to spare Saul. The Mosaic Law didn't allow murderers to be spared. It was wrong for Saul to try to kill David, and it was wrong for David to flee instead of bringing him to justice.
- When David confronted Saul the second time, David prayed that God would deliver him out of all tribulation (1 Samuel 26:24). Yet God gave David two opportunities to bring Saul to justice for the *extremely* evil things he had done and all the innocent blood he had shed, and David rejected both of them! The reason David suffered and was in hiding for so many years was because *that was his choice*. God gave him another option *twice* and he rejected it.
- David believed that one day Saul would kill him (1 Samuel 27:1).
- When David went to Gath (to flee from Saul), he brought

his 600 men with him (1 Samuel 27:2).

- Saul only stopped trying to kill David after David moved to the territory of the Philistines (1 Samuel 27:4).
- Achish gave the Philistine town of Ziklag to David (1 Samuel 27:6). When the book of 1 Samuel was written, the city of Ziklag still belonged to the kings of Judah.
- There was a time when the Philistines allowed David to live in their midst (1 Samuel 27:7).
- When David fled from Saul, he left Israel for 16 months (1 Samuel 27:7).
- David successfully deceived Achish into believing that he was waging war against Israel, even though he really wasn't (1 Samuel 27:12). This caused Achish to believe that David was one of his faithful servants.
- When the Philistines gathered their armies to fight against Israel, Achish told David that he wanted him and his men to join him in battle (1 Samuel 28:1). Achish believed the lies David had been telling him and thought David was on his side.
- Saul continued to inquire of the Lord even though God had rejected him, and he had shed much innocent blood and hadn't repented (1 Samuel 28:6). It's amazing Saul would dare to try to inquire of God after all the evil he had done.
- At the end of Saul's life, when God refused to answer him, Saul didn't repent. Instead he decided to sin even more by resorting to witchcraft, which was something God hated and had forbidden (1 Samuel 28:7). Saul had a lifelong habit of breaking the Mosaic Law whenever he thought he would benefit from it.

- When the witch at Endor was reluctant to engage in witchcraft, Saul swore an oath to her *in the name of the Lord* that she wouldn't die for doing so (1 Samuel 28:10). This was a very wicked thing for Saul to do. The Mosaic Law required witches to be put to death (Leviticus 20:27), and yet Saul used the holy name of God to violate His law and swear that the witch would *not* be put to death. Saul had a consistent pattern of using God's name to violate His law.
- The witch at Endor was actually able to bring up Samuel (who was dead) so that Saul could talk to him (1 Samuel 28:12). It really worked. However, God hates witchcraft and has forbidden it. Although Saul did get to talk to Samuel, it didn't work out for him. Nothing good came of it.
- It seems the witch at Endor could see Samuel, but Saul couldn't (1 Samuel 28:13).
- When the witch at Endor brought Samuel up out of the ground, it disturbed his peace. He didn't want to be brought up (1 Samuel 28:15).
- When the witch at Endor brought Samuel up out of the ground, he didn't know what was going on. He didn't know why Saul had brought him up (1 Samuel 28:15).
- The reason God stopped answering Saul was because God had departed from him and become his enemy (1 Samuel 28:16). It turned out that violating God's law even more by engaging in witchcraft didn't help Saul. (What he needed to do was *repent*, but he never did that.)
- When Saul asked Samuel what to do, Samuel said the reason God took the kingdom of Israel away from him and gave it to David was because Saul didn't carry out

God's fierce wrath against Amalek (1 Samuel 28:18). Saul disobeyed God and it cost him the kingdom. There are times when disobedience costs people the promises of God.

- There are times when God punishes kings who disobey Him (1 Samuel 28:18). God holds people accountable for their actions – including kings.
- When Saul asked Samuel what to do, Samuel told him that tomorrow he and his sons would die (1 Samuel 28:19). Everything that Samuel told Saul was bad news that he didn't want to hear.
- Even though Saul knew that he was going to die the next day, he didn't repent (1 Samuel 28:20). There's no evidence that thought even crossed his mind.
- The reason the princes of the Philistines didn't want David and his men to join them in battle against Israel was because they were afraid David would fight against them instead of against Israel (1 Samuel 29:4). They were wiser than Achish (and they were probably right).
- The people who destroyed Ziklag and kidnapped the families of David and his men were Amalekites (1 Samuel 30:1). That was the same group that God commanded Saul to utterly wipe out. (Saul refused, and wiped out the Israelite city of Nob instead.) If Saul had obeyed God then that raid would never have happened.
- It seems the Amalekites waited until the Philistine army left the country and went to fight Israel, and then invaded Philistine territory (since the land was left defenseless) (1 Samuel 30:1).
- When David and his men returned to Ziklag and found

that it had been burned with fire and their families were gone, they wept until they no longer had power to weep (1 Samuel 30:4). It's not wrong to weep when something terrible happens.

- When David and his men returned to Ziklag and found that it had been burned with fire and their families were gone, David's men talked about stoning him (1 Samuel 30:6).
- When David was greatly distressed, he encouraged himself in God (1 Samuel 30:6). David truly was a man after God's own heart, and he truly did have enormous faith in God. No other king of Israel or Judah was like him.
- When David and his men returned to Ziklag and found that it had been burned with fire and their families were gone, David didn't immediately chase after the Amalekites. Instead he first inquired of God to see if he should pursue them (1 Samuel 30:8).
- When God told David that he would recover everything if he pursued the Amalekites, David believed Him (1 Samuel 30:9).
- The reason the Egyptian servant was in the field where David and his men found him was because he had fallen sick three days earlier, and his master had abandoned him (1 Samuel 30:13-15). If his master hadn't done that, David and his men wouldn't have been able to find and overtake the Amalekites. God put things in motion to give David victory over the Amalekites *three days* before David began pursuing them (which was before David knew he had a problem). God led David to exactly the right person who could lead him and his men to the Amalekites.
- When David and his men found the Amalekites who



burned Ziklag, they smote them from twilight until the evening of the next day (1 Samuel 30:17). God gave David and his men victory over a very large company of Amalekites.

- God told David that if he pursued after the Amalekites he would overtake them and recover everything, and that's exactly what happened. Not a single thing or person was missing (1 Samuel 30:19). God always keeps His promises.
- David gave God the glory for the victory over the Amalekites (1 Samuel 30:23).
- David gave God the glory for the loot that was taken from the Amalekites (1 Samuel 30:23).
- David made it a statute in Israel that those who remained behind received the same portion of the spoils of battle as those who went to battle (1 Samuel 30:25).
- The Amalekites who David defeated obtained their spoil in part by raiding Israel. When David recovered the loot, he returned a portion of it to people within Israel (1 Samuel 30:26).
- Jonathan died in battle while facing the Philistines, at a time when David had left Israel and was chasing the Amalekites (1 Samuel 31:2). If David had brought Saul to justice instead of fleeing the country, David would have been fighting that battle at Jonathan's side – and the outcome may have been different.
- When Saul was badly wounded by Philistine archers, his immediate thought wasn't repenting of his sins. Instead he looked for a way to be killed by someone other than the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:4). It was a foolish end to a foolish life.

- Saul committed suicide (1 Samuel 31:4).
- While in battle with the Philistines, Saul died, along with three of his sons and his armorbearer. They all died on the same day, just as Samuel said would happen (1 Samuel 31:6).
- The king that the Israelites desired didn't save them. Instead Saul and his three sons died in battle, and the Philistines took over cities in Israel (1 Samuel 31:7).
- When the Philistines found that Saul was dead, they cut off his head (1 Samuel 31:9).
- The Philistines fastened the body of Saul and his sons to the wall of Bethshan (1 Samuel 31:10). They were displayed as trophies.
- When the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, they decided to recover the bodies of him and his sons (1 Samuel 31:11). These were the same people Saul had saved 40 years earlier at the beginning of his reign.
- When the valiant men of Jabeshgilead recovered the body of Saul and his sons from the Philistines and brought them to Jabesh, they burned them (1 Samuel 31:12).
- After the men of Jabeshgilead burned the body of Saul and his sons, they took their bones and buried them under a tree in Jabesh (1 Samuel 31:13).