

# **Unfolding Unveiling: Studies of Christ Revealed in the Types of Joshua, David, and Solomon**

## **Part Five: Saul**

### **Chapter Seventeen: How Saul Reacts to David**

#### **The Self-life Challenged**

We will now look at how the rejected king reacts to the One, which is found in I Samuel 17:55-18:16. We have studied how Saul takes to himself. I Samuel 18:2 says that Saul took David and would not let him go back to his father's house after he fought Goliath. Saul thought that David could be a benefit to his kingdom, if at such a young age he was already winning against such a formidable enemy.

David is not supposed to be serving Saul; David is supposed to be king. Nonetheless, Saul makes use of David, and the self-life will make use of the Lord when it benefits him to do so.

Saul begins to have a problem with David upon seeing how the Lord is with him and how blessed he is. Saul realizes that as long as the Lord is with David, he will be a challenge and a threat to Saul's kingdom, not a help to it. Saul knew that his kingdom had been torn away from him by the Lord and that someone else would be raised up to be king. Now he is starting to realize that David may be his replacement.

What will the self-life do when it is about to lose what it has sought to save? Whatever it needs to do to prolong its kingdom. Saul decided that David might not be such a benefit to his kingdom after all; perhaps it would just be better to eliminate him. When Saul was agitated by the evil spirit, he tried to kill David. Self-preservation is a governing force for the self-life, and this governing force will permit all kinds of wrongdoing – even murder – for the sake of maintaining the status quo. In verse 12, we see that Saul was afraid of David. Saul sensed that the Lord had left him and was now resting on David, which made him jealous and afraid. His image and his standing before men was being challenged by another.

It says twice in this passage that David behaved himself wisely. We can take this to be a contrast to Saul's behavior, so that David was meek before Saul and did not put himself forward. David knew Saul's antagonistic tendencies because as a boy David had played the harp for him when that evil spirit was tormenting him. Most likely, David was trying to keep himself out of the spotlight as much as he could. This in turn called Saul to be afraid because he could not find anything wrong in David's actions by which he could accuse the youth and kill him.

A person who is moving in the Lord is an offense to the one who is governed by the self-life. The self-life is afraid of the blessing of the Lord on that person and that the manifest nature of the Lord is being enlarged in that one. The self-life hates whatever looks more blessed than itself, and the presence of Christ in another stirs up this aspect of the self-life in a way that only the contrast of the Lord can. These ugly elements remained hidden in Saul's heart and did not surface until David the king and his government was revealed. Before David killed Goliath, we do not see Saul motivated by jealousy or murder.

Self does not look too bad right at first. When Saul was first crowned king, he was a good man and a good warrior. But it starts looking ugly when it is contrasted with Jesus. Saul did not look ugly until David appeared and killed Goliath. But then all of the envy, hatred, and murder came out of his heart. This is because the self-life has its own head. In the new man there is only one Head, and that is Jesus. We see this for the very first time in David. And when we start being dealt with by the Lord to begin to identify in a Head as a member, where our personal agenda has no place, the self-life reacts.

The emergence of God's King drew these elements out of Saul. He did not like this One that will cause us to lose our individualistic mentality. The self-life wants nothing to do with the Lord in this way, because He demands that we lose everything to be gathered up in the One.

Once again, it is significant in the Scriptures' depiction of the self-life that we see how it never gives away, never relinquishes, never gives up, never lays down, never submits, never obeys the Word of the Lord, never obeys God's intentions, and does not care what God's intentions are. It has no intention of bowing its knee to the true king, nor is it in its nature to do so. To lose that which it has gained is its deepest fear. Such motives are resident in every believer. When the self-life rears its head in any of us, we have no solution apart from the Cross.

### **Appealing to the Soul**

The next story in chapter 18 also deals with the self-life and how it seeks to save. Saul was unsuccessful at killing David in verses 10-11, so he tried get rid of him by craftier means. In verses 17-27, Saul offered the hand of his daughter Michal to David in marriage, with the dowry being one hundred foreskins of the Philistines. Saul hoped that David would die in the attempt of obtaining such an important position as marriage to the king's daughter.

This is a typical tactic of the self-life. Saul tried to appeal to something in David in order to manipulate him. The only way that we can be manipulated is if there is something in us that can be appealed to, such as the need to be honored, noticed, or flattered. Saul assumed that the desire for recognition in battle and the honor of being the king's son-in-law would motivate David. He made the marriage arrangement look as if it would make David important and thus drive him into battle where he could be killed by the enemy.

This did not work on David because he is not like Saul, who had things inside him that could be manipulated. He thought that he could build David up and make him think that he was something more than what he was. We will only believe such an offer if there is something inside of us that wants to believe that about ourselves. If we really know ourselves in light of the Cross, we will not be deceived by flattery.

David's answer to Saul's offer comes in verse 18: "And David said unto Saul, Who am I? And what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?" David is so humble that he cannot be appealed to! He cannot be flattered because he knows who he is, and he has no pride. The Spirit of Christ cannot be baited. It does not need a status symbol, nor does it desire power. From the Scriptures, we cannot even be sure whether David was unaware of Saul's schemes or not, but if we are governed by the Spirit of Christ, we will be kept from such plans without having to be aware of what is happening.

### **David's Enemy**

After the failure of Saul's plan, verse 28-29 says, "And Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David... And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually." Before this time, Saul just envied David, but this incident was the turning point where Saul made himself David's enemy. Perhaps the javelin-throwing incident could have been passed off as a man with a bad temper, as the Scriptures did not say at that point that Saul made himself David's enemy. The Scriptures do not say when he offered Michal to David in marriage that he made himself David's enemy. But it was after David was both preserved and blessed through it all that Saul made a decision that there would never be a reconciliation between the two of them.

From this time forward in the Scriptures, we hear nothing of Saul's accomplishments, if there were any. All we know is that he spent the rest of his life chasing David. We do not hear of any battles that he fought. We do not know whether he brought Israel into prosperity or ruin.

All of us have the Spirit of Christ in us, and all of us have a self-life that wants to remain on the throne. We hang in the balance between the two, and we choose which will be our motivation. It is not that we are either Saul or David; we are the agents through which one of these will manifest. We must choose where we will identify. Do we have our own ideas? Do we have our own plans? Are we trying to make our circumstances beneficial for ourselves? Even in good things and Christian things we can make ourselves the center. Or do we lose ourselves as the center and find ourselves as members?

Choosing David as our king will require a total loss of your viewpoint as well as a loss of self as both head and center. There are no treaties or concessions made between the two kingdoms. If we choose Saul as our government, we may be blessed by Christ from time to time, but when He appears, either as being made manifest in others or revealed in the Scriptures, or when required to operate as a member of the body instead of as an individual, Christ will offend us. We will perceive all situations in which Christ is made manifest to be working against us. Those are the consequences of that choice. If you seek

to save, you lose. Saul lost the whole kingdom as well as his soul. If we choose David, however, there is a path of suffering which we must walk. David spent his first years as king under severe persecution. This choice is not one we make with our intellect, but with our heart condition.