1 Samuel 16-20

Before you start – Did you know that Psalms, 19, 23, and 29 may go with this time period? Check them out!
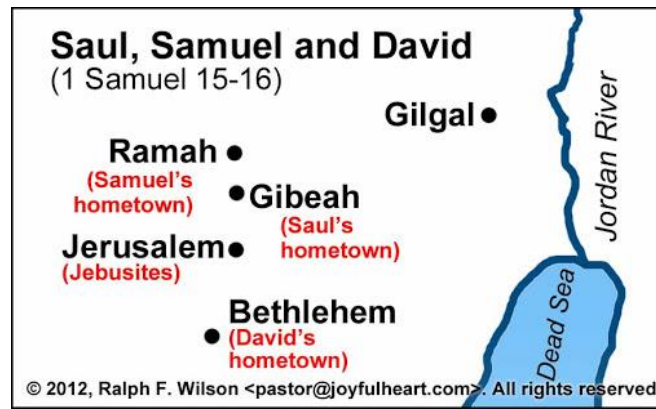
Chapter 16 – Significant parts

- Location – not only is the location Bethlehem, but look closely at the map. This is a small area, that is being used to change the very course of History. What could God do with our small bit of Carrick?

Characters –

- Jesse – Means 'A King', even David's father's name was to do with royalty.
- Jesse's sons – 16:5-13 – the sons are called in terms of age, prowess, looks etc… here we see how God sees us… not on the outward but on the heart.

How does 1 Samuel 16:7 transform how we interact with the world and our community?

Saul, Samuel and David (1 Samuel 15-16)

Gilgal

Ramah (Samuel's hometown)

Gibeah (Saul's hometown)

Jerusalem (Jebusites)

Bethlehem (David's hometown)

Jordan River

Dead Sea

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- The runt (v11) – Jesse forgets he has another son, but then finally remembers and labels him the runt! (the word haqqaton (Hebrew) which is used for 'youngest' would have also been used to describe someone's value – hence runt of the litter)

V13 Onwards

V13 and v14 are incredibly poignant and sad. The joy of the Spirit of God resting on David is then paralleled with the evil spirit coming to rest upon Saul.
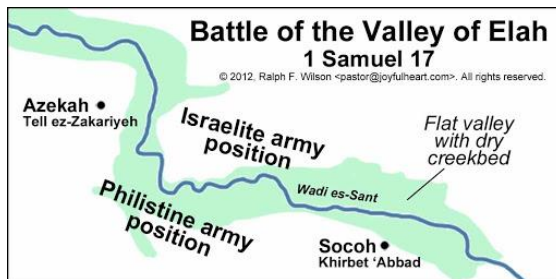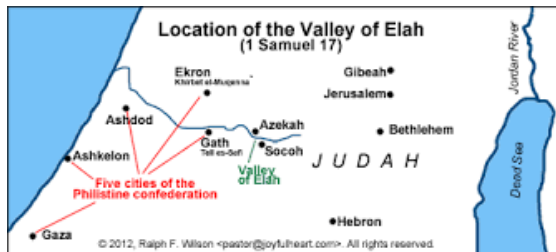
What does it mean that God 'sent' the evil spirit? How does that fit?

This is a great question that deals with a lot of problems we may have regarding suffering. We believe that God is all good, and that He can never initiate evil – ie that evil cannot come from good, but we also believe that He can send something in terms of 'allowing' it to happen in order to bring glory in the longer story. As He lifts His hands of protection from Saul, evil spirits can now flock in to distress Saul.

The wonderful thing about being a Christian is that the presence of Jesus lives IN us… His Holy Spirit has made us a temple, He will protect us from any invasive or evil spirits who would want to do anything like in this story. Praise Jesus!

The chapter ends with David, empowered by the Holy Spirit, using his musical ability to soothe the King and endearing himself to him. All things God is working towards His glory… all things working toward Jesus.

Chapter 17

Location of the Valley of Elah
(1 Samuel 17)

Battle of the Valley of Elah
1 Samuel 17

Interesting points to reflect on –

- The Philistine-Hebrew conflict is coming to a head. Both sides need a victory soon. There can be no peaceful solution.
- Men of Goliath's height weren't unheard of, but in battle he would have been a fearsome sight.
- Saul would have been the logical choice to fight because he was known for his height remember? It is one of the reasons for His Kingship! He feels deep fear at this.

- David on the other hand is the one *least* expected to fight Goliath. He cares little for the rewards promised… for David this is about God's honour.
- The chapter ends with the final peaceable moment between these two great men. The final moment of real respite between a tragic King whose realm is falling apart around him, and a King-in-waiting whose heart and courage has just been publicly seen.

Chapter 18/19/20

Possible Psalm 57 goes with these pages

(David and Jonathan)

In these chapters we see the rise of David in fame, in terms of his relationships with Jonathan, and his love Michal. He becomes an increasingly sore thorn in the side of the Philistines.

This leads to Saul attempting to murder him (18:11), trying to manipulate David through marriage (18:17) (since David was poor, the dowry he would have to pay would be through killing, eg killing 100 Philistines, an impossible task surely), tries to kill him with a spear (19:10), sends assassins to end him (19:11) and then finally when he hears David is in Ramah with Samuel he leads men there himself.

God has other plans though! (Check end of chapter 19)

In Chapter 20 David is beyond himself, the whole country feels like it is out to kill him. He runs to his closest ally and friend Jonathan.

Jonathan is a remarkable man. He knows that David's very existence means that his own Kingdom can't come about – 20:31

Jonathan and David are not playing for power. They only care about God.

Imagine having friendships like that?

Imagine loving Jesus like that?