

Who Am I ?

In many ways the true, Old Testament story of the life of David, the shepherd boy, is an amazing story. As is the case with most of our lives, his life was filled with "highs" and "lows," "victories," and "defeats." Unlike our lives, however, throughout David's life, there were foreshadows of the Christ Who was to come several centuries after he lay on his deathbed and breathed his last breath. One of the more well-known foreshadowing events of his life was when he encountered Goliath, the Philistine giant, in *I Samuel 17*.

After cutting off the head of this giant, upon the inquiry of King Saul concerning whose son he was, David was brought to Israel's king. As he stood before the king, *"with the head of the Philistine in his hand,"* King Saul asked him, *"Whose son are you, young man?"* David answered, *"I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."*¹

When Saul witnessed David's popularity, because of this great feat, as compared to his own, he became angry and was sorely displeased with the acclaim that David received, especially the acclaim that was given to him by the women of Israel. *"Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands,"*² they shouted. *"From that day forward,"* it is written in *I Samuel 18:9*, Saul looked at

David with great suspicion and plotted to kill him.

First, he tried to kill him with a spear.³ Then, to disguise his hidden motive to have David killed by the hands of the Philistines, he offered him his daughter Merab.⁴ It was then that David responded to Saul's offer by saying, *"Who am I...that I should be son-in-law to the king?"*⁵ Saul's plans did not work out and when they didn't he then offered another daughter, Michal, hoping that she would *"be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines [would prevail] against David."*⁶ Again, Saul failed; then he *"became David's enemy continually."*⁷

The story of King Saul's determination to kill David continues in *chapter 19*. If Saul could not orchestrate David's death covertly, he would do it overtly; thus, he told his son Jonathan and all his servants to kill David.⁸ But Jonathan loved David and interceded for David's safety.

Saul feigned to agree with Jonathan's intercessory plea only to try again to kill David with yet another spear.⁹ But again, by God's grace, David escaped death. So, once again Saul tried; he was

¹ *I Samuel 17:57-58*

² *I Samuel 18:7*

The Gospel Defender Ministries
Post Office Box 575
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-0575

³ *I Samuel 18:9*

⁴ *I Samuel 18:17*

⁵ *I Samuel 18:18*

⁶ *I Samuel 18:21*

⁷ *I Samuel 18:29*

⁸ *I Samuel 19:1*

⁹ *I Samuel 19:10*

relentless. He *"sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning."*¹⁰ But this time it was Saul's daughter, Michal, who protected David by helping him to escape *"through a window."*¹¹ All the way to the end of *I Samuel*, until Saul fell on his own sword during a battle with the Philistines, Saul tirelessly pursued David, his son-in-law.

It is not a misapplication of Scripture to liken King Saul's incessant pursuit to kill David to that of King Satan's pursuit to destroy the Christ - and us. There are too many similarities to overlook.

What is striking and worthy of our attention in all of this is that at the beginning of David's relationship with Saul, Saul made David a member of his own household. *II Samuel 18:2* says that once Saul was introduced to David he *"would not let him [David] go home to his father's house anymore."* Saul's love of and appreciation for David soon deteriorated after that first meeting but all the while David looked at Saul through eyes of respect. Saul was King; David was but a servant. When presented with the prospect of marrying into the royal family, David's humility is seen in his asking, *"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?"*¹²

As we come into the presence of the King of all kings, including King Saul, at this sacred Table, this is a good question for each of us to ask ourselves. "Who are we - who am I - that we - that

¹⁰ *I Samuel 19:11*

¹¹ *I Samuel 19:12*

¹² *I Samuel 18:8*

I - should have been adopted into the family of God Almighty and sit here in the presence of His only begotten Son?" "Who are we - who am I - that we - that I - should be allowed to sit at this Table to commune, not with an earthly king, but with the heavenly, eternal King Jesus?" "What have we done - what have I done - to be granted such an honor and privilege?" The answer is none of us has done *anything* deserving to be here. It is only by His grace that we can approach this holy Table.

King Saul feared that David would seize his kingdom; King Jesus longs for us to be in His kingdom. King Saul tried to kill David to stop him from having a kingdom; King Jesus died to save us from being in Satan's kingdom. King Saul was David's enemy and unto his death plotted to have David killed; King Jesus desires to be our friend Who will do good for those who need a friend like Him. Because of His longing for us to become His brethren in His Kingdom He shed His own blood to obtain our salvation. But, "Who are we - who am I - that we - that I - should be sons of God Almighty and brothers of His only begotten Son?"

Apostle Paul gave us a wonderful reminder of the honor that has been bestowed upon us. *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For [we] did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but [we] received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we*

*suffer with Him that we may also be glorified together."*¹³

The King has invited his family of sons and daughters to eat and drink with Him and in remembrance of Him every Lord's Day. Perhaps the question to be asked at this time is not "Who are we - who am I - that we - that I - should be a son to the King?" Rather, the question should be this: "What son or daughter would dare fail to acknowledge the honor and to receive the blessing of attending this Supper with the King of all kings, the Lord Jesus Christ?"

Prayer

Our God and Father in heaven, we come to You in the name of and in memory of the One for Whom this Table has been set. We thank You and praise You for having qualified us to eat this loaf and drink this cup by giving us the blessed privilege to have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ and to have obeyed it. It is but by Your grace that we sit here and feast at the Table which cannot be bought or sold for it is not our Table; it is His. It was not our body nailed to the cross; it was His. It was not our blood that flowed from our veins onto the ground; it was His. We ask that You bless this loaf and that You receive our thanks for this cup. Help us to worship and glorify our Lord. It is to Him that we owe our salvation and our citizenship in His holy, everlasting kingdom, the church. Amen.



¹³ *Romans 8:14 - 17*