

Dr. Elaine Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 19, Transition to Monarchy Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 19, Transition to Monarchy, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Phillips' lecture focuses on the transition from Saul's reign to David's rise in the Old Testament. The lecture reviews the reasons for Saul's downfall, contrasting his actions and heart with David's, even considering David's sins. **It explores the role of the Spirit of the Lord and the presence of an evil spirit in both leaders' lives.** The narrative follows David's anointing, his popularity, and his time as a fugitive, analyzing his interactions with key figures like Jonathan and Achish. **The lecture also examines Saul's demise, including his encounter with the witch of Endor and his death at Mount Gilboa.** Finally, the lecture explores David's lament over Saul and Jonathan, emphasizing the tragic state of the kingdom David would inherit.

2. 31 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 19 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → OT Introduction → OT Lit).



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on19.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 19, Transition to Monarchy

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from Dr. Phillips' lecture on "Saul to David," drawing heavily on quotes from the source material.

Briefing Document: Elaine Phillips' Lecture 19, Saul to David

Overview:

This lecture focuses on the transition of power from Saul to David, analyzing the reasons for Saul's downfall, highlighting David's positive attributes, and exploring the complex relationship between God, Saul, and David. It also explores the broader theological questions concerning God's choices, sovereignty, and the nature of good and evil.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. Saul's Disobedience and the Removal of Kingship:

- The lecture emphasizes that Saul's kingship was removed primarily due to his "presumptuous sacrifice at Gilgal" and his failure to "deal fully with the Amalekites by exterminating them."
- Dr. Phillips poses the question of why Saul's sins seem worse than David's, considering David's adultery and murder.
- The lecture suggests that the key difference lies in the "heart issue," specifically Saul's lack of humility and ongoing disobedience, contrasting it with David's eventual repentance. As Dr. Phillips states, "After all, God himself says he's going for a man after God's own heart, and David is indeed a man after God's own heart. And I think we'll see it has everything to do with his humility and his ability to recognize that he is just utterly, utterly wrong once he comes around to that point."

1. The Spirit of the Lord and the Evil Spirit:

- The lecture delves into the complex issue of the Spirit of the Lord departing from Saul and an "evil spirit from the Lord" tormenting him.
- Dr. Phillips suggests that the Spirit of the Lord manifested in Saul "specifically, powerfully, and temporarily... to get some purposes done," rather than being an indwelling presence.

- The presence of the evil spirit is posited as potentially "part of God's judgment against Saul" due to his ongoing disobedience and rebellion.
- She also notes David's experience, post-Bathsheba, that David's plea to not take away the Holy Spirit is informed by what David witnessed happening to Saul.

1. **David's Preparation and Character:**

- David is presented as the chosen one, from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10), anointed by Samuel.
- The lecture highlights the significance of David's anointing: "Samuel took the horn of oil, anointed him in the presence of his brothers. From that day on, the spirit of the Lord came upon David in power."
- The story of David and Goliath is used to illustrate how God prepares individuals through seemingly insignificant experiences. "Turns out that all the things that he's been doing up till that point, slinging rocks at lions and bears and shepherding sheep, have been precisely, precisely the preparation that he needed."
- David's character is further shown in his conviction that "the God of Israel will do what needs to be done to rescue Israel from the Pharisees" and his vexation at Goliath's derision of God.

1. **David's Rise and Complex Morality:**

- David's popularity as a warrior and his relationship with Jonathan are discussed.
- The lecture acknowledges David's deception at Nob, where he lies to Ahimelech.
- David's time with the Philistines under Achish is analyzed, highlighting his "scheme, or a ruse, or an outright lie" of raiding other groups and claiming to have attacked the Negev of Judah. This was politically astute because, "He's getting in good with Achish, so that Achish will trust him and not be suspicious anymore. And he's also storing up political capital for himself, for the future. Because what's going to be the first tribe that appoints David king? Judah."

1. **Saul's Demise and David's Response:**

- The lecture details Saul's desperation, his visit to the witch of Endor, and his death on Mount Gilboa.
- It emphasizes the devastating outcome for Israel as a result of Saul's death, with the Philistines occupying their towns.
- David's reaction to Saul's death is highlighted as a demonstration of his character. David does not rejoice in Saul's downfall, but rather, he composes a lament. "David isn't rejoicing over the fall of his enemies... Instead, he comes up with one of the most poignant songs there is."

1. **Theological Considerations and God's Sovereignty:**

- The lecture repeatedly emphasizes the difficulty in fully understanding God's actions and motivations.
- Dr. Phillips acknowledges that "we're not in the place of defining every aspect of what God decides to do," quoting Walter Brueggemann's assertion that "God is untameable."
- The lecture concludes by emphasizing the need for "confidence, faith, and trust in God and in his ultimate sovereignty and goodness," even when faced with difficult questions.

Important Quotes:

- "After all, God himself says he's going for a man after God's own heart, and David is indeed a man after God's own heart."
- "Samuel took the horn of oil, anointed him in the presence of his brothers. From that day on, the spirit of the Lord came upon David in power."
- "Turns out that all the things that he's been doing up till that point, slinging rocks at lions and bears and shepherding sheep, have been precisely, precisely the preparation that he needed."
- "We're not in the place of defining every aspect of what God decides to do. As Walter Brueggemann says, God is untameable."
- "David isn't rejoicing over the fall of his enemies... Instead, he comes up with one of the most poignant songs there is."

Conclusion:

Dr. Phillips' lecture offers a nuanced examination of the Saul-to-David transition, exploring the political, social, and theological complexities of the narrative. It emphasizes the importance of obedience, humility, and faith in understanding God's plans, even when those plans seem inscrutable. The lecture also serves as a reminder that God uses all things, both good and bad, for his ultimate purposes.

4. Study Guide: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 19, Transition to Monarchy

The Rise of David and the Fall of Saul: A Study Guide

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What are the two primary reasons given in scripture for God removing the kingship from Saul?
2. What is the significance of Genesis 49:10 regarding the tribe of Judah?
3. Why is Samuel hesitant to follow God's command to anoint David as king? How does God instruct him to proceed?
4. What is the pivotal event that occurs in 1 Samuel 16:14, and how does it affect both Saul and David?
5. What is the significance of David's victory over Goliath? How does David's attitude and conviction demonstrate his faith in God?
6. What does David do when he flees to Nob, and what are the consequences of his actions?
7. What does Abigail do to dissuade David from attacking her husband Nabal?
8. Where does Achish, the king of Gath, position David, and what deceptive strategy does David employ while stationed there?
9. Describe the events that lead Saul to seek out the witch of Endor.
10. How do the people of Jabesh-Gilead show their loyalty and respect towards Saul?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The two reasons are Saul's presumptuous sacrifice at Gilgal, where he didn't wait for Samuel and offered the sacrifice himself, and his failure to fully exterminate the Amalekites as commanded by God. He spared the best animals and King Agag.
2. Genesis 49:10 prophesies that the kings will come from the tribe of Judah. This highlights Judah as the divinely chosen lineage for future Israelite kings, setting the stage for David's rise.

3. Samuel fears Saul's reaction and potential retaliation. God instructs him to say that he is going to Bethlehem to offer a sacrifice, providing a partial truth to protect Samuel.
4. The spirit of the Lord departs from Saul, and an evil spirit torments him; concurrently, the spirit of the Lord comes upon David in power. This marks a significant shift in divine favor from Saul to David.
5. David's victory demonstrates his faith that the God of Israel would rescue the Israelites from the Philistines. David's attitude is one of complete confidence in God's ability to deliver Israel from its enemies and a deep sense of outrage that Goliath has derided the living God.
6. David lies to Ahimelech the priest, claiming to be on a secret mission for the king. As a result, he receives the consecrated bread and Goliath's sword, but his deception leads to Doeg the Edomite informing Saul, who then orders the execution of the priests at Nob.
7. Abigail brings provisions to David, and she speaks prophetically, recognizing his future kingship and urging him not to shed innocent blood. She appeals to his wisdom, preventing him from taking vengeance and committing a sinful act.
8. Achish positions David in Ziklag, a town located along important trade routes in the Western Negev. From there, David raids other people, but he deceives Achish by claiming to have attacked Israelite settlements, fostering trust while secretly protecting Judah's borders.
9. Saul is desperate for guidance because he receives no word from God and is facing the Philistine army. In his desperation, Saul seeks out the witch of Endor, hoping to receive a message from the deceased Samuel.
10. The people of Jabesh-Gilead remember that Saul helped them in the past, so they journey to Beit Shan, retrieve the bodies of Saul and his sons, and give them a proper burial.

Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast the leadership qualities of Saul and David. How do their actions and attitudes reflect their relationship with God and the people of Israel?
2. Discuss the role of the Spirit of the Lord in the lives of Saul and David. How does the presence or absence of the Spirit influence their actions and the course of their reigns?
3. Analyze the concept of obedience as it is presented in the narrative of Saul and David. How does their obedience or disobedience to God impact their destinies and the fate of Israel?
4. Explore the theme of covenant friendship in the relationship between David and Jonathan. How does their bond exemplify *hesed*, and what impact does it have on the unfolding events?
5. Examine the significance of David's refusal to kill Saul despite having multiple opportunities. What does this reveal about his character, his understanding of divine authority, and his political acumen?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Adumbration:** A foreshadowing or prefiguration of something to come.
- **Amalekites:** An ancient nomadic people who were enemies of the Israelites.
- **Anointing:** The act of pouring oil on someone's head as a sign of consecration or appointment to a special office, such as king or priest.
- **Bathsheba:** The wife of Uriah the Hittite, with whom King David committed adultery.
- **Bethlehem:** The city where David was born and where Samuel anointed him as the future king of Israel.
- **Doeg the Edomite:** An official in Saul's court who informed Saul that Ahimelech had assisted David, leading to the massacre of the priests at Nob.
- **Ephod:** A priestly garment worn by priests and containing the Urim and Thummim, used for seeking divine guidance.

- **Gilgal:** A location where Saul offered an unauthorized sacrifice, leading to the loss of his kingdom.
- **Hesed:** A Hebrew word that describes loyal love, kindness, and faithfulness, often used in the context of covenant relationships.
- **Jabesh-Gilead:** A city whose inhabitants rescued the bodies of Saul and his sons from the Philistines, repaying a debt of gratitude.
- **Jonathan:** Saul's son and David's close friend, known for his loyalty and self-sacrificing love for David.
- **Michal:** Saul's daughter, who loved David and became his wife.
- **Mount Gilboa:** The location where Saul and his sons were killed in battle against the Philistines.
- **Nob:** A city of priests where David sought refuge and received assistance from Ahimelech, leading to the city's destruction by Saul.
- **Philistines:** A powerful nation who were enemies of Israel and frequently engaged in warfare with them.
- **Psalms 51:** A penitential psalm attributed to David, expressing his remorse and plea for forgiveness after his sin with Bathsheba.
- **Shephelah:** The lowlands between the Judean mountains and the coastal plain, serving as a buffer zone.
- **Tribe of Judah:** The tribe from which David came and from which the kings of Israel were prophesied to descend.
- **Uriah:** Bathsheba's husband, who was a soldier in David's army. David arranged for Uriah to be killed in battle to cover up his adultery with Bathsheba.
- **Witch of Endor:** A medium whom Saul consulted in disguise to seek guidance from the deceased Samuel before his final battle.
- **Ziklag:** A town given to David by Achish, king of Gath, where David lived with his men while feigning allegiance to the Philistines.

5. FAQs on Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 19, Transition to Monarchy, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Old Testament: Saul and David - FAQ

1. Why are Saul's sins considered worse than David's, even though David committed adultery and murder?

The lecture suggests the difference lies in the heart and posture before God. While David committed serious sins, he eventually recognized his wrongdoing after being confronted by the prophet Nathan and repented. Saul, on the other hand, seems to have covered up his sins, made excuses, and focused on maintaining his own honor. God calls David "a man after his own heart," implying a deep-seated humility and willingness to acknowledge his failings, which is less evident in Saul's actions. The lecture also acknowledges that Saul was judged very quickly for his actions, whereas David had time to repent, suggesting some unease around the issue that needs to be raised.

2. Why did God allow Saul to remain king for so long after the kingdom was taken from him, and why did Saul suffer such torment?

Several possible reasons are presented. First, Saul's continued reign might have been a period of preparation for David, allowing him to mature and develop as a leader. Second, it may have been a lesson for the people of Israel, demonstrating that kings aren't always the answer to their problems. A third possibility is that it was an act of mercy toward Saul, giving him more time to repent, although Saul ultimately hardened his heart until his death. It is ultimately recognized that we do not know the reasons for sure.

3. How are we to understand the spirit of the Lord in relation to Saul, and how does it differ from the "evil spirit" that tormented him?

The lecture suggests that the spirit of the Lord manifested itself in Saul in a specific and temporary way to accomplish certain purposes, such as demonstrating that he was chosen to be king and to lead Israel to victory. However, it was not an indwelling spirit like what David would be after his anointing. The "evil spirit" is presented as a consequence of Saul's ongoing disobedience and rebellion, potentially as part of God's judgment against him. It's acknowledged that this is a difficult concept, but it highlights the consequences of rejecting God's will.

4. How did David become known to Saul and eventually enter his service?

David entered Saul's service through his musical abilities. When an evil spirit tormented Saul, David was called upon to play the harp and soothe Saul's spirit. David's presence in Saul's court was further solidified after his victory over Goliath.

5. What was the significance of David's victory over Goliath?

David's victory over Goliath was significant for several reasons. It demonstrated his faith in God and his conviction that God would deliver Israel from its enemies. It also revealed his character, as he was deeply offended by Goliath's defiance of God. Furthermore, it showcased the way God prepared him for the task. He had previously only been a shepherd, but his experience slinging rocks at lions and bears had prepared him for his confrontation with Goliath.

6. Why did David refrain from killing Saul on multiple occasions, even when he had the opportunity?

David's refusal to harm Saul stemmed from his respect for Saul as "the Lord's anointed." David believed it was wrong to take matters into his own hands and usurp the throne that God had given to Saul. It was also pragmatic since David did not want to be accused of usurping the throne.

7. How did David manage to deceive Achish, the Philistine king of Gath, while living in Ziklag?

While living in Ziklag, David told Achish that he was raiding Israelite territories (specifically, the Negev of Judah), leading Achish to believe that David had turned against his own people and was loyal to the Philistines. However, in reality, David was raiding semi-nomadic peoples like the Gesherites, the Gerzites, and the Amalekites, protecting the southern border of Judah.

8. What was the significance of the witch of Endor episode, and what does it reveal about Saul's state of mind at the end of his reign?

Saul's visit to the witch of Endor demonstrates his desperation and spiritual decline. Having lost God's favor and unable to receive guidance through traditional means, Saul resorted to seeking counsel from a medium, something he had previously outlawed. The appearance of Samuel through the witch's conjuring and the message of impending doom further highlight Saul's tragic state of mind and the consequences of his disobedience.