

# Dr. Elaine Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 20, The Rise of David 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 20, The Rise of David, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

**Dr. Phillips' lecture focuses on the transition from Saul's reign to David's rise in the Old Testament.** It examines the reasons for Saul's downfall, contrasting his actions and heart with David's, whom God considered a man after His own heart. **The lecture explores the roles of the Spirit of the Lord and an evil spirit in the lives of both kings, emphasizing the consequences of disobedience and the importance of humility.** Key events in David's early life are highlighted, including his anointing, the battle with Goliath, and his flight from Saul. **The lecture further explores the complicated relationship between Saul and David.** The narrative concludes with Saul's death and David's lament, setting the stage for David's future role in unifying and leading Israel.

**2. 28 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 20 – 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).**



**Phillips\_OTLit\_Sessi  
on20.mp3**

### **3. Briefing Document: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 20, The Rise of David**

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

#### **Briefing Document: Elaine Phillips Lecture 20 - Saul to David**

##### **Overview:**

This lecture explores the biblical narrative surrounding the end of Saul's reign and the rise of David, focusing on the reasons for Saul's downfall, the complexities of God's choices, the role of the Spirit of the Lord, and David's character as he navigates a tumultuous period of political and personal challenges. The lecture emphasizes that while we may not fully understand God's actions, we can trust in His sovereignty and goodness.

##### **Key Themes and Ideas:**

- **Saul's Disobedience and Rejection:**
  - The lecture reiterates the two primary reasons given in Scripture for God removing the kingship from Saul: "first of all, his presumptuous sacrifice at Gilgal...And then, secondly, God had commanded that he deal fully with the Amalekites by exterminating them."
  - Dr. Phillips poses the question: "Why are Saul's sins so much worse? How are Saul's sins so much worse than the ones that David engaged in?" This sets up a central tension that the lecture explores.
  - The lecture suggests that Saul's heart attitude was a critical factor: "Whereas Saul does cover up a little bit and Saul, as we said last time, is pretty busy trying to make monuments in his own honor and make sure that his honor is supported in the popular approach and so forth."
- **David as a Man After God's Own Heart:**
  - While acknowledging David's sins (adultery and murder with Bathsheba and Uriah), the lecture underscores David's humility and repentance: "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."

- David's character is further illustrated by his refusal to harm Saul, "David had lots of chances in that stuff you've read for today to wipe Saul out of existence, and he refrains from doing it because he will not be one who will touch the Lord's anointed."
- **The Spirit of the Lord and the Evil Spirit:**
  - The lecture explores the contrasting presence of the Spirit of the Lord in David's life and its departure from Saul: "From that day on, the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power...At the same time...the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord...actually fell upon him, terrified him, startled him."
  - Dr. Phillips suggests that the Spirit's manifestation in Saul was "specifically, powerfully, and temporarily manifesting himself in Saul or perhaps on Saul to get some purposes done...I'm not going to suggest this is an indwelling spirit."
  - David's awareness of the potential loss of the Spirit is highlighted through a reference to Psalm 51: "Take not your Holy Spirit from me."
- **God's Sovereignty and Untamable Nature:**
  - The lecture acknowledges the difficulty in fully understanding God's actions: "As Walter Brueggemann says, God is untamable. Sometimes in some of these circumstances we realize that."
  - It emphasizes faith and trust in God's ultimate goodness: "Of course, this is where our confidence and faith and trust in God and in his ultimate sovereignty and goodness need to come into play in our own hearts and minds."
- **David's Preparation and God's Providence:**
  - The David and Goliath story is used to illustrate how God prepares individuals through seemingly insignificant experiences: "All the things that he's been doing up till that point, you know, slinging rocks at lions and bears and shepherding sheep, have been precisely, precisely the preparation that he needed."
  - The Amalekite situation shows David's politically astute moves, protecting Judah's borders while deceiving Achish: "What he tells Achish is, hey, I'm on your side. Don't worry. I'm taking care of those Israelites down there. And yet in reality, what he's really doing is protecting those Israelite boundaries against the semi-nomadic sorts."

- **Saul's Desperation and Tragic End:**

- Saul's consultation with the witch of Endor is presented as an act of desperation born from his separation from God and lack of divine guidance: "Saul is so desperate for a word from the Lord that he goes behind enemy lines to get it."
- The lecture highlights the devastation resulting from Saul's death: "The Philistines have pretty much made a complete devastation of what was Israel at this point."
- David's mourning for Saul and Jonathan showcases his character and covenant loyalty: "Your glory lies slain on your heights, O Israel...I grieve for you, Jonathan, my brother...How the mighty have fallen."

### Key Figures and Events:

- **Saul:** King of Israel whose disobedience leads to the removal of his kingdom.
- **David:** Anointed by Samuel to be the next king, demonstrates humility and faithfulness.
- **Samuel:** Prophet who anoints both Saul and David.
- **Goliath:** Philistine giant killed by David.
- **Jonathan:** Saul's son and David's loyal friend.
- **Witch of Endor:** Consulted by Saul in desperation.
- **Amalekites:** Raided by David, and a source of conflict with Saul.
- **Nob:** City of priests where David receives provisions and Goliath's sword.
- **Ziklag:** City given to David by Achish.
- **Mount Gilboa:** Site of Saul's death in battle.

### Significance:

This lecture provides insight into a critical transition period in Israel's history, exploring themes of leadership, obedience, divine sovereignty, and the consequences of choices. It raises complex theological questions about God's character and actions while highlighting the importance of faith and trust. It sets the stage for understanding the challenges and triumphs that David will face as he establishes his kingdom.

## 4. Study Guide: Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 20, The Rise of David

### Saul to David: A Study Guide

#### Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. Why were the kingship rights removed from Saul?
2. How does the text portray the relationship between the spirit of the Lord and Saul?
3. What is significant about David being from the tribe of Judah?
4. How did Samuel's anointing of David take place, and why was it conducted in that manner?
5. Explain the contrasting roles that music plays in the lives of Saul and David.
6. What motivates David to fight Goliath, and what does this reveal about his character?
7. What is the significance of the ephod that Abiathar brings to David?
8. How does David deceive Achish, the king of Gath, while living in Ziklag, and what is his motivation?
9. What is the significance of the witch of Endor episode, and what does it reveal about Saul's state of mind?
10. Why do the people of Jabesh-Gilead risk their lives to retrieve and honor the bodies of Saul and his sons?

#### Quiz: Answer Key

1. The kingship was removed from Saul because of his presumptuous sacrifice at Gilgal, where he failed to wait for Samuel, and his disobedience in failing to completely destroy the Amalekites, keeping their king and best livestock alive.
2. The spirit of the Lord came upon Saul initially as a sign of his chosen status, enabling him to prophesy and lead Israel to victory. However, the spirit was later removed due to Saul's disobedience, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.

3. David being from the tribe of Judah fulfills the prophecy in Genesis 49:10, indicating that the king would come from this tribe, thus legitimizing David's kingship in the eyes of those who understand the prophecies.
4. Samuel anointed David in secret due to his fear of Saul's reaction. God instructed Samuel to say he was making a sacrifice in Bethlehem as a guise to conceal the true purpose of anointing a new king.
5. Music serves as a soothing presence for Saul, relieving his distress caused by the evil spirit, while for David, music and harp playing is how he comes to the attention of Saul to become his armor-bearer, later leading to many leadership opportunities.
6. David is motivated to fight Goliath primarily by Goliath's defiance and derision of the God of Israel; he feels that Goliath has disrespected his God and so has no fear in engaging with him. His conviction that God will deliver Israel reveals his confidence and faith.
7. The ephod is a priestly garment containing the Urim and Thummim, used for seeking divine guidance. Its presence with David, thanks to Abiathar's escape, enables him to inquire of the Lord and receive direct answers, which is a capability that Saul no longer possesses.
8. David deceives Achish by raiding other groups but reporting that he attacked the Negev of Judah, thus creating the impression that he is loyal to Achish and harming his own people, while, in truth, he is protecting the Israelites boundaries.
9. The witch of Endor episode illustrates Saul's desperation and spiritual decline, and reveals that Saul has cut himself off from God; he seeks guidance from forbidden sources, a stark contrast to David, who eventually receives his divine guidance from Abiathar and the ephod.
10. The people of Jabesh-Gilead honor Saul and his sons because Saul had previously rescued them from an attack by the Ammonites, as described in 1 Samuel 11. This act of kindness created a debt of gratitude that they repaid by risking their lives to retrieve and bury their bodies.

## Essay Format Questions

1. Compare and contrast the leadership styles and character traits of Saul and David, using specific examples from the text to support your analysis. How do their actions and decisions affect the nation of Israel?
2. Analyze the role of the "spirit of the Lord" and the "evil spirit" in the lives of Saul and David. How do these spiritual forces influence their actions, and what do they reveal about God's relationship with each man?
3. Discuss the significance of covenant relationships in the narrative of Saul and David, focusing on the covenants between David and Jonathan, and God and David. How do these relationships shape the events of the story and the destinies of the characters involved?
4. Explore the themes of obedience and disobedience in the context of Saul's kingship. How does Saul's failure to obey God's commands lead to his downfall, and what lessons can be learned from his example?
5. Examine the political and social context of David's rise to power, paying attention to the conflicts with the Philistines, the internal divisions within Israel, and David's strategic alliances. How does David navigate these challenges to establish his kingdom?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Anointing:** The ceremonial act of pouring oil on someone's head to signify divine favor and appointment to a specific office or role, such as king or priest.
- **Ephod:** A priestly garment, specifically a linen vest, worn by priests, which held the Urim and Thummim, used for seeking divine guidance through a kind of lot casting.
- **Hesed:** A Hebrew word that signifies steadfast love, loyalty, and faithfulness, often used in the context of covenant relationships and acts of kindness.
- **Philistines:** A group of people inhabiting the coastal plains of Canaan, who were frequent adversaries of the Israelites, known for their military strength and advanced technology.
- **Presumptuous Sacrifice:** The unauthorized offering of a sacrifice by someone who is not a priest or lacks the proper authority, considered an act of disobedience and disrespect toward God.
- **Prophecy:** Speaking or acting under divine inspiration, often conveying messages from God or foretelling future events; speaking the word of God.
- **Tribe of Judah:** One of the twelve tribes of Israel, known for its prominence and leadership, prophesied to be the lineage from which the kings of Israel would descend.
- **Urim and Thummim:** Objects kept in the breastplate of the high priest's ephod and used to discern God's will through a process of divination or lot casting.
- **Wadi:** A valley, ravine, or channel that is dry except in the rainy season.
- **Ziklag:** A town in the Negev region of southern Israel, given to David by Achish, king of Gath, where David resided while feigning loyalty to the Philistines.



## 5. FAQs on Phillips, Old Testament Literature, Session 20, The Rise of David, [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions: Saul and David

- **Why are Saul's sins considered worse than David's, even though David committed adultery and murder?**
- While David's sins of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah were grievous, the text suggests that Saul's sins were rooted in a deeper issue of the heart. Saul's actions reflected a lack of humility, a reluctance to truly repent, and a self-serving attitude, while David, though initially covering his tracks, eventually demonstrated genuine remorse and acknowledged his wrongdoing before God. God is described as seeking a man after his own heart, which is attributed to David's humility and recognition of his failings.
- **Why did God allow Saul to remain king and suffer for so long after the kingdom was taken from him?**
- Several reasons are suggested. First, it could be for the preparation of David, allowing him time to mature and develop leadership skills. Second, it could be a lesson for the people of Israel, demonstrating that a king is not necessarily the answer to all their problems. A third possibility raised is whether it was an act of mercy toward Saul, giving him time to repent, although Saul ultimately did not take advantage of this opportunity and hardened his heart until his death.
- **How should we understand the presence and removal of the Spirit of the Lord in relation to Saul, and the role of the "evil spirit"?**
- The Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul initially, indicating his chosen status and empowering him for specific tasks, such as leading Israel to victory. However, this appears to be a temporary manifestation rather than an abiding presence. The "evil spirit from the Lord" is understood as a form of judgment against Saul, resulting from his ongoing disobedience and rebellion. It's suggested that God used these events to work out his purposes, bringing David into the kingship and demonstrating God's ultimate sovereignty.

- **Why did God choose Saul as king, given the disastrous outcome of his reign?**
- This is a difficult question to answer definitively. The text doesn't fully explain God's reasoning. It is a reminder that we have only partial answers and must trust in God's ultimate sovereignty and goodness, even when his actions are difficult to understand.
- **What was the significance of David being anointed by Samuel in Bethlehem?**
- David's anointing by Samuel in Bethlehem was a pivotal moment, signifying God's clear choice of David as the future king. It occurred within the tribe of Judah which was prophesized to have a king come from it. The Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power from that day forward. This was in stark contrast to Saul, from whom the Spirit of the Lord had departed. Samuel even had to keep the real reason he was going to Bethlehem hidden from Saul to keep his mission safe.
- **How did the Philistine's location between Socoh and Azekah influence the David and Goliath story?**
- The Philistines being encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in the Elah Valley, placed them in a strategic position to advance into the Judean hill country, threatening settlements like Bethlehem. This location highlights the critical nature of David's victory over Goliath, as it prevented the Philistines from gaining a foothold and endangering the Israelite population. David's father was right to be concerned about the position of the armies, as things going badly meant the Philistines could continue marching and cause serious damage.
- **How did David's actions while residing in Ziklag with the Philistines contribute to his future kingship?**
- While living in Ziklag under the protection of Achish, David engaged in a politically astute but deceptive strategy. He raided nomadic groups but misled Achish into believing he was attacking Israelite territories. This secured Achish's trust while simultaneously protecting the southern border of Judah. This earned David political capital with the tribe of Judah, who later became the first to anoint him as their king, paying back their political debt.

- **Why was David so grieved by the deaths of Saul and Jonathan, despite Saul's relentless pursuit to kill him?**
- David's lament over Saul and Jonathan demonstrates his profound respect for the office of king ("the Lord's anointed") and his deep love for Jonathan. David refused to take matters into his own hands. Saul and Jonathan's deaths, while politically advantageous for David, caused him genuine sorrow. He did not rejoice over the fall of his enemies. He honored their memory in a moving song that celebrated their lives and mourned their loss, highlighting the covenant love he shared with Jonathan.