



## *A Secret Known; Only in the Minds of Kings!*

King Solomon wrote “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter” (Prov 25:2). This passage makes use of what I call a “flip-flop proverb” or a “play on words.” My mother often, would share proverbs such as these, which had been passed down for generations. One such flip-flop proverbs goes: “If . . . a person will talk to you about someone else, they will talk to someone else about you.”

Many proverbs commonly have some form of hidden message, which relates to royalty. A proverb which comes to mind in that category is: “In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is *king*.”

Proverbs generally convey a witty message; however, the fashion in which they are phrased and rhymed is usually as clever as the message itself. They are especially powerful when phrased in the original language. Here is a sample of a proverb which was originally Spanish, observe how translation into English takes away some of its rhyming qualities:

English: “Tell me who your friends are, and I will tell you who you are.”

Spanish: “Dime con quien andas, y te digo quien eres.”

You might notice how this proverb is more richly conveyed in the original language.

I wish I could pronounce the Hebrew properly, because there is a rhyme richly embedded in the passage; however, I am untrained in that dialect. Therefore, here is my best shot at Proverbs 25:2, as it might sound in the Hebrew:

*“K<sup>a</sup>bod 'Elohiym hac<sup>a</sup>teer daabaar; uwk<sup>a</sup>bod m<sup>a</sup>laakiym chaqor daabaar”*

I am sure that you can hear/see the dialectical sing-song-i-ness of that proverb. Solomon (*and, remember, he was the wisest man who ever lived beside Jesus Christ*) produced unknown numbers of these powerful proverbs in that sing-song-i-ness style which makes the proverb easy to remember and therefore all-the-more effective.

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 25:2, “It is the glory of **God** to conceal a thing: but the honour of **kings** is to search out a matter.” In this passage he reveals the existence of a special “concealing – revealing” relationship between God and Kings *'Elohiym* (God) and *m<sup>a</sup>laakiym* (Kings). In this Bible Study, I would like to pick-up and expand on that “concealing – revealing” “God – King” relationship! After all, the Bible reveals that Jesus, the King, will return to earth with other Kings as the King of Kings! If you plan to serve in the capacity of one of those returning kings at His Second Coming then hearken your ears, “Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes” (Judg 5:3).

In order to discover some of these “concealing – revealing” “God – King” relationships we will study the Bible’s greatest king. We will focus on some of the prophetic aspects of King David! However, before we investigate the story of David, let’s refresh our mind



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with the Bible's earliest messianic prophecy, "the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of

the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And **I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel**" (Gen 3:14-15). Here, God Almighty gives the first messianic prophecy as he proclaims that the "seed" of the woman (*In nature seed comes from the man; therefore, this has definite supernatural overtones.*) shall bruise the head of the devil! With that messianic prophecy in mind, along with the understanding that there exists a "concealing – revealing" "God – King" relationship as Prov 25:2 reveals, let's review the story of David and Goliath.

We will begin by setting-up the cast: David is special in the Bible, the prophet "Samuel took a horn of oil, and **anointed him** in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward" (1 Sam 16:13). He is prophetic of the Messiah (*which means the anointed one*) who will at some time in the near future sit upon the throne of David! David's insight into spiritual concepts appears to be transcendent; he actually conquered some things in the earth that gave him authority, which goes beyond his own time period and gave him status in the coming age of the Kingdom of God! We will closely observe David and his prophetic insight.

Next we see Goliath, "there went out **a champion** out of the camp of the Philistines, *named Goliath, of Gath*" (1 Sam 17:4). First, let's focus on the name, Goliath; it is probably of non-Hebrew origin; but, what is powerful is that in the Hebrew the root of the name 'galah' means "to denude" (*especially in a disgraceful stripping sense*); in a figurative sense it means "to reveal." We need to realize that this "champion of the Philistines" is prophetic of the devil; indeed, Goliath's armor as described in that same chapter has elements of 666. Notice the giant's words, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; **give me a man, that we may fight together**" (1 Sam 17:10). Of course the man that ultimately fought against the devil was, Jesus Christ (*the Messiah*), who became "the son of man!"

Now, this story features young David as he slew the giant, therefore, at first blush it seems to be merely a clever child's story. However, when viewed in a prophetic nature, the story comes to life with meaning! Let's investigate this David and Goliath story a little closer all the while maintaining the background concept, "It is the glory of **God** to conceal a thing: but the honour of **kings** is to search out a matter." Let's see if there really are "concealing – revealing" "God – King" relationships in this story.

When David slew Goliath notice what happened, "And David took the head of the Philistine, and brought it to Jerusalem" (1 Sam 17:54). Why? Why take the bloody head of the champion giant to Jerusalem? To get the answer, we first need to realize a few important factors; let's begin with the concept that Jerusalem did not even exist at the time! The Bible is relating to us that David actually took the head of Goliath to the city anciently known as Jebus. The name Jebus means "trodden down;" however, in the Hebrew of old we observe that Jebus has the meaning of a location where things are trodden (*to tread with the foot*).

Quite some time after he beheaded Goliath, possibly as long as a decade, we read about our hero-king as he went to Jebus, "And David and all Israel (*David did not consolodate all of*



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Israel for many years) went to Jerusalem, **which is Jebus**; where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land. 5 And the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, Thou shalt not

come hither” (1 Chron 11:4-5). This passage is part of the description of a period long after the incident with Goliath when David actually captured Jebus from the Jebusites. Only after that overthrow does he found the city named Jerusalem! According to the great historian Alfred Edershiem, David nailed the head of the Philistine to the gates of Jebus (later known as Jerusalem.) Again we ask, “Why?” Why take the bloody head of the champion giant to Jerusalem and nail it to the gate? It certainly must have caused quite a stir in that land of the Jebusites!

In John Chapter 19 we learn that Jesus had to go to a specific place to be crucified, “And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha” (John 19:17). Later we will study the story of David as he fled from his rebellious son Absalom; however for now let’s examine a small aspect of that story, “David went up by the ascent of mount Olivet” (2 Sam 15:30); a few verses later it is written, “it came to pass, that when David was come to the **top** of the mount, where he worshipped God” (2 Sam 15:32). The Hebrew word “*rosh*,” translated “top” in that verse means “head.” The Jewish holy day *Rosh Hashana* known in English as the Feast of Trumpets is the “head” of the Jewish year. We just read where John records that Jesus was crucified at the place of the skull (Greek: *kranion*, from which we get our word “cranium,” head, or skull). In the same fashion that David walked up to the summit, or “head” of the Mount of Olives during his hour of trial, so too, Jesus carried His cross to the same place where David worshiped God.

We have learned in a previous *Rivkah Ministries* Bible Study entitled, “Anointed, Son of the Blessed,” that the Mount of Olives was the ancient location of the sacrificial altar where the red heifers were burned “outside the camp.” The only place “outside the camp” where the curtain could be observed was on the *Mount of Olives*, which happens to be the same place where the red heifer was burned. Jesus, of course, fulfilled this burnt offering, as He did all the offerings. The place today in Jerusalem that is presumed to be the place of the skull is the hill that has the appearance of a skull. Archeologists tell us that this is the result of erosion of only the past thousand years.

If the story of David and Goliath is truly prophetic, David must have been given revelation that the Messiah (*Jesus*) would one day have to go to a specific place and somehow tread down the head of the Devil! Hardly any of modern scholars agree why that place is called the place of the skull! If as Edersheim claims, David took the head of Goliath (*the one that was worshipped as the hero-champion*) and nailed it to the gates of Jebus then this head of the man “Goliath of Gath” (1 Sam 17:4) would become a skull within a short period of time. Obviously the birds would naturally pick-at it. Notice David’s prophecy to Goliath on that day, “This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, **and take thine head from thee**; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day **unto the fowls of the air**” (1 Sam 17:46). This beheaded giant-hero skull nailed to the gate would certainly make this place become famous! In fact it is easy to recognize that the name the “place of the skull” or this threshing place as the name Jebus indicates, could easily have become known by the famous person “Goliath of Gath” or Gol-Gath-a! After all “Goliath of Gath” would have become even more famous because his skull was nailed



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to the gate! This is the exact location where the Messiah would one day bruise the head of the devil (*call to mind the original messianic prophecy from Genesis!*)

You see, David the King upon whose throne the Messiah will one day sit, physically acted out a prophetic battle which utterly proved his reliance upon God, “for the LORD **your God proveth you**, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul” (Deut 13:3). In proving himself, David demonstrated a complete reliance upon his God. David’s success in this and other trials of his faith gave him an open door to additional revelation! God revealed to him, **only after he defeated the giant**, that he was somehow supposed to nail the head of the “champion” to the Jebus gate! In the same fashion, Christians are given revelation only after they have defeated the foes that they encounter.

Don’t we all really want the anointing of God to come upon us as we have observed in the story of David after Samuel, “anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward” (1 Sam 16:13). We all want that same kind of spiritual power that goes well beyond the physical realm! However, like the faith of David, our faith must also be active! We must act on purpose to turn our faith on! We need to walk out those things that we have learned! There is a difference between knowing and acting out what you know! We must on purpose read the Word; we must on purpose daily declare our confessions and declarations.

It is only when pressure and stress shows up in our lives that we have the opportunity to cultivate growth through faith! Let me explain. There is a difference between growth and development. We all too often confuse the difference. For example, when we were children, how much effort did it take to grow into an adult? We didn’t need any assistance; we just automatically sought out milk! We naturally sought after the milk which was necessary for our growth. We grew up in the fashion that Peter describes, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). When we first became Christians we were naturally hungry for the “milk of the word.” But then something happened; we grew up! Now that we are grown-up we need to recognize that there is a major difference between growth and development! During the first part of our Christian experience, we just grew naturally; however, now that we are grown-up Christians we must develop; however, that development does not come natural like our growth did. This is exactly the problem; once we grew up we didn’t need the milk for growth any longer. On the contrary, instead of natural growth, one always needs an opposing force for the development process to work!



Permit me to use a personal story out of my youth as an example. I have a favorite story concerning development about a friend with whom I went to high school whose name was John Murray! When we were both freshmen, the upperclassmen or the varsity football squad regularly used the lower classmen for what was called the hamburger squad. The term hamburger is exactly what we all felt like after practice. I suppose the coaching staff encouraged this unbalanced type of practice for two reasons; it would naturally toughen up



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the younger members of the team for future years; and secondly, it would make the upper classmen or varsity team feel invincible as they practiced.

Anyway, I remember one autumn evening during football practice two or three varsity players had just crushed John Murray on a play designed to completely take out his corner position. Somebody on the coaching staff responded to the hit with the unpleasant epithet directed toward John, “you are going to have to toughen up son if you think that you can play on this holy field!” He responded by placing his hands on the sides of his loins and turning away; he looked up into the sky as if he were taking slow deep breaths. Athletes call that kind of a moment a, “gut-check;” you may or may not know what that is; it is when you check deep down within yourself, to know in your deepest gut, if you have the wherewithal to even continue.

Somehow, miraculously there was a break in the action. During the short break, I went over to see how John was doing; this happened a few minutes after that particularly powerful hit on him. As I started talking to him I felt apprehensive because I could see by the recent telltale watermarks on his dirty face along with red eyes that he had obviously been crying; however, by the time we talked he had composed himself and he expressed a little reservation about even staying on the field. I remember that all I could do was give him a dismal form of encouragement.

That season slowly ground to an end and during the winter I began to notice John spending more and more time in the weight training room. He bulked up muscle and he also competed on the wrestling team. Three years later, by the time that we were seniors he became one of the toughest players out on the football field; I remember that I regularly avoided any unnecessary contact with him whenever possible. Beyond his football development, he had participated with honor at the state-wrestling tournament where only the best wrestlers in the state were even qualified to compete. The reason that I shared this short story is that John Murray decided during a gut check one lonely fall afternoon out on the football practice field that he was going to develop himself! I think that I actually witnessed that enchanted moment in his life.

We cannot help but notice that the opposing force of the weight pulling in a downward direction is required in order to build up muscle. It took John over a year to develop his muscles; but his habitual discipline of visiting the weight training room and developing himself paid off. He turned around the opposing force of the down-pulling negative weight into an exercise designed to develop his physical strength.



In the same fashion, we Christians must continue to grow after we have reached our full height; we must become fully developed. When we realize that we are going through the same situation over and over, the problem is that we are not taking advantage of the pressure that shows up in our lives as a method for spiritual development. It is true that



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when we continue to fail at the same trial, God keeps allowing us to experience the same test until we develop in the spirit realm.

Some have come to the wrong conclusion that suffering makes us perfect in the spirit. That is not true! Suffering allows for the cultivation of development, “yet learned He obedience **by the things which he suffered**” (Heb 5:8). This verse teaches us that Jesus used the **opposing forces** in His life to make Him stronger! Like Jesus, we must make the decision when we are in pain that we are going to use that opportunity for development. We must build spiritual muscle.

We are blood warriors; that means that we never give up! We are soldiers in the army of God! In actual fact, when the devil encounters a situation where he is contending with the fully developed Christian type of warrior he’s in big trouble, “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper” (Isa 54:17). We will not be terrorized by the devil, “thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee” (Isa 54:14).

One of the things that we need to do is stop making God some kind of a “fairy godmother.” By that term I mean that so many Christians expect God to somehow miraculously and automatically take away every problem that they face! God does not “magically” take every problem that you face away from you! I will prove this to you in this study! That concept is a “fairy tale,” “But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and **exercise thyself rather unto godliness**” (1 Tim 4:7). Did you notice how we are supposed reject “fairy tales” and rather we are to exercise our spirit? We exercise our spirit unto godliness. Are you a spiritually developed Christian, “For ***bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things*** (*Obviously, growing in godliness is a form of spiritual exercise; Paul brought up the whole concept of bodily exercise as a contrast!*)” (1 Tim 4:8). Have you ever given any thought to spiritual development? You should! These verses about “**godliness**” are full of the concept of spiritual exercise. You see physically when you get tired or weary because you are out of shape, you feel faint and in need of assistance from others. Likewise, in the spiritual realm we also feel faint when we are out of shape, “consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, ***lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds***” (Heb 12:3). Did you notice that the place that we spiritually feel faint is in the mind? The battlefield against satan is soulish, meaning that warfare takes place in our minds!

In the natural, when we are physically out of shape it is usually a sign of being overweight. This same concept is evident in the spiritual realm. Notice the verses just prior to where we have been reading as it describes the Christian in a gut-check process, “***let us lay aside every weight***, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and ***let us run with patience*** the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him ***endured*** the cross” (Heb 12:1-2). There is an association between spiritual fat and sinning, “let us lay aside every **weight**, and ***the sin . . .***” Do you recognize the Biblical call for spiritual fitness in our minds?

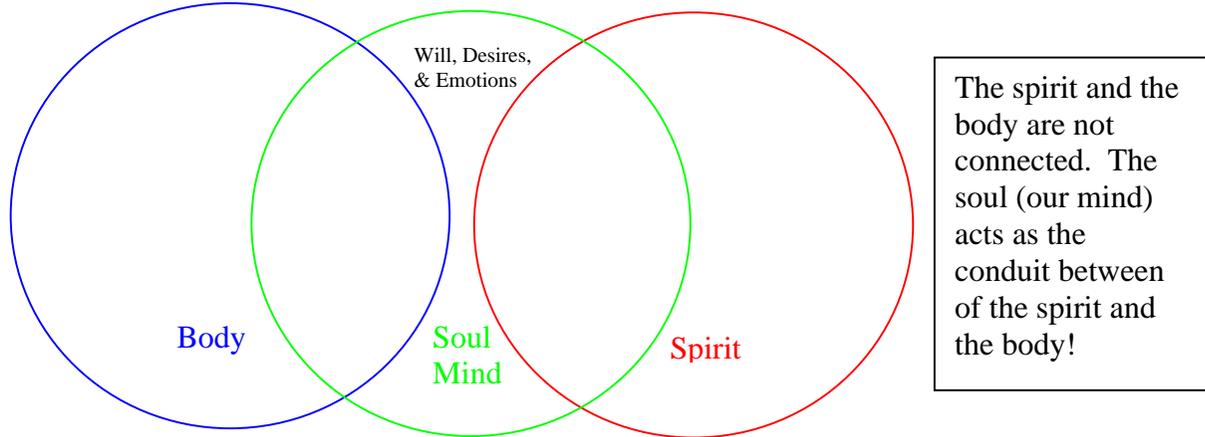
Now, how can we know the relative condition of our spirit? We humans are composed of three elements, (1) The Flesh, (2) The Mind (*which is the Soul*), and (3) The Spirit. If you are unfamiliar with this concept, you may obtain a copy of the **Rivkah Ministries Bible**



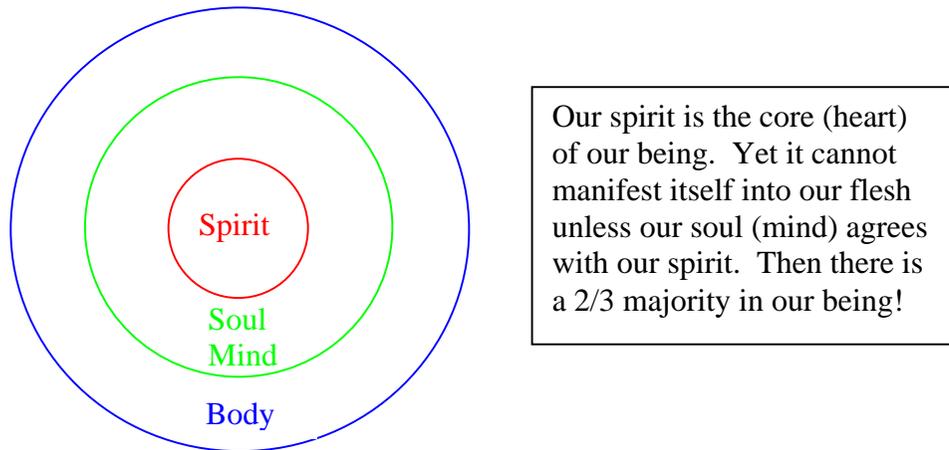
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Study entitled, "Spirit, Soul and Body" from the World Wide Web at: <http://www.rivkah.org>. In essence, your mind is the seat of your will, desires, and emotions as the

following diagram illustrates:



Now remember, our question is, "How can we know the relative condition of our spirit?" The answer is simple. Where do the decisions which manage your human system originate? If they come out of the Body or the Soul/Mind then our spirit's domination is too weak! A person who is led by the Body or the Soul/Mind is living an unrestrained lifestyle.



The spirit should always manage the affairs of the body, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (Gal 5:16). Therefore the spirit is at its weakest condition when the body or the soul dominates decision-making in the human system. In actual fact the Holy Spirit is the component which was born again. This spirit component from God is completely healthy therefore it is never weak. The weakness actually exists in our soulish realm. Jesus said to his disciples concerning prayer on the night of his arrest, "the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt 26:41). Therefore, many use that phrase as an excuse for sinning, "the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." However, we cannot misuse that scripture as an excuse. Actually, Jesus was teaching that the flesh dominated the actions of the disciples that night! His words may seem as if the spirit was strong component and the flesh was the weak link; in reality, their soul was the weak link since it did not agree with the spirit and therefore rule over their flesh. Through this entire



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story we must realize that the Holy Spirit had not yet been given; therefore, the result was rather predictable.

However, we now have the Holy Spirit of God, as John wrote, “But ye have an unction (*anointing*) from the Holy One” (1 John 2:20).

If your spirit is weak then you will experience forms of treachery or faithlessness in your life, “therefore **take heed to your spirit**, that ye deal not treacherously” (Mal 2:16). In the context, the prophet is talking about breaking covenant with one’s wife. However, breaking any covenant transpires when the spirit is not leading the human system!

Let’s put a human face on where we are trying to go as we continue to investigate the life of King David. Have you ever been wronged? Godliness can directly result from how we react when being wronged by others. Let’s observe how an evil spirit came upon King Saul, “But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him” (1 Sam 16:14). Next we discover how Saul was relieved from his evil spirit, “And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: **so Saul was refreshed**, and was well, and **the evil spirit departed from him**” (1 Sam 16:23). Relief from the evil spirit greatly pleased the king, “And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he **hath found favour in my sight**” (1 Sam 16:22). David’s musical skill gave him favor in the sight of the King. At this point in the story the king had been relieved of the evil spirit and he no longer needed David’s services, “But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father’s sheep at Bethlehem” (1 Sam 17:15). So we find David (*the youngest*) at home with the flock.

Now after some time David’s father wanted to send provisions to his elder sons who were in the army with King Saul, “Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren” (1 Sam 17:17). David’s father continued, “carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare” (1 Sam 17:18).

So we observe that the curious upstart David showed up on the same battlefield with his brothers, “David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren. 23 And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them. 24 And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid. 25 And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father’s house free in Israel. 26 And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, **What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine**, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? **for who is this uncircumcised Philistine**, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” (1 Sam 17:22-26).

However, David’s brothers were unhappy with his curiosity and daring words. One brother actually became angry, “And Eliab (*whose name means, “God is my father”*) his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab’s anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come



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down that thou mightest see the battle” (1 Sam 17:28). Here David is chided by his older brother and certainly put in his place for the moment.

We earlier reviewed the events of the day how David ultimately challenged and then slew Goliath! This obviously made the king and the army very happy and certainly it made a great name for David. At this point everything is going great for David; he even became great friends with the king’s son Jonathan, “the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul” (1 Sam 18:1). You see, everything was wonderful for David: earlier he had ministered his music to the king; lately he had made a name for himself in the battle with Goliath, “**Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants**” (1 Sam 18:5). Even the king’s servants began to show David great deference.

We all know how success feels; there are those times when we feel that we have the world on a downhill pull! At this point in the story, you might think to yourself; “Hey I want my Christian life to be just like David’s life. I can win victories through faith and I can become friends with other sons of the king, maybe I can even become the right hand man of someone with real authority. This Christian life is really pretty wonderful!” Yea, who wouldn’t want to be just like David?

But notice, this period of absolute success did not last too long, “it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing . . . as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and **David his ten thousands**” (1 Sam 18:6-7). Obviously, the king is not happy at being overshadowed by the upstart, David, “And Saul was **very wroth, and the saying displeased him**; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and **what can he have more but the kingdom?** (*Jealousy and false evil intentions are here wrongly ascribed to David. However, in Saul’s defense, by this time David’s brothers had surely been telling everyone around the camp that the prophet Samuel had earlier anointed David to be the King over Israel; this could not have made Saul feel too secure!*) 9 And **Saul eyed David** (*The Spanish and Italian peoples call this the evil eye as it is something akin to a curse.*) from that day and forward.” However, notice how David had done nothing to have all of this evil come upon him! David was completely innocent. Haven’t you ever been innocently accused?

Have you ever been completely innocent in a given situation and yet you had false motives or gossip attributed to you? I think that we all have. But notice how David’s troubles were just beginning, “And it came to pass on the morrow, that **the evil spirit from God came upon Saul**, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul’s hand. 11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, **I will smite David even to the wall with it**. And David avoided out of his presence twice” (1 Sam 18:10-11). Now the king is openly threatening David’s very life; the Bible is even pretty clear why, “**Saul was afraid of David**, because the LORD was **with** him, and was **departed from Saul**” (1 Sam 18:12).

Saul was unable to dispose of David quietly, so what did he do? Notice the narrative, “Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand” (1 Sam 18:13) (*David was actually demoted in rank (an earlier allusion indicates that he had*



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commanded 10,000; now he was merely over 1,000 – the reduction in rank would be like going from a Major to a Captain). Further, David was removed from the king's presence). So David's bubble had burst, the King was trying to kill him; he had been demoted, and ultimately removed from the presence of the king. All of this was happening just because of that stupid song in the mouths of the women. Now David's life is beginning to sound more like an actual life of a Christian.

The question is, "How did David react to all of this adversity? Let's put this question in the context of dealing with that "opposing force" which we studied earlier?" Do you remember a question that we asked? "Have you ever been wronged?" We noted that godliness can result directly from how one reacts when being wronged by others. Now understand, every single one of us will be wronged by others at some time or another! Do you think that satan is just going to roll over because you have decided to become a Christian; do you think that without any resistance, he will just let you become a king in the earth? You are part of the force, which is absolutely destroying his worldwide authoritative structure! This alone will cause him and/or his minions to bring a lying attack against you!

Now remember that David had all of this evil brought against him; but notice his response, "And David **behaved himself wisely in all his ways**; and the LORD was with him" (1 Sam 18:14). David did not react in an ordinary fashion in which the world would expect. He did not treat others according to the same manner that they had treated him, "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good" (1 Thess 5:15). David's reaction made him something very special in the sight of God!

The manner in which we behave when being wronged, maligned, demoted, and mistreated is directly related to how God will deal with us! Your life can even become a prophecy of the future! Under circumstances such as these, when you are wronged; and yet, you allow God to work in you, God can perform mighty wonderful works! On the other hand, if you act foolishly or brutish, God will still be with you, but he cannot work powerfully through your witness!

Let's notice David's reaction, "David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam" (1 sam 22:1). David fled from Saul; it would have been permissible under the circumstances for him to at least try "to set things straight"; however he ran because he did not want to cause any form of a rebellion against God's anointed! As he fled, David did fall among a noteworthy company of men. Notice those who chose to follow after David, "every one that was **in distress**, and every one that was **in debt**, and every one that was **discontented**, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men" (1 Sam 22:2). Now doesn't this exiled band of downtrodden commoners who are with David sound more like a Christian group that we might recognize?

We have only scratched the surface of the troubles David would encounter. Much later in his life, he experienced a rebellious son who rose up against him. Once again David refused to stand up for his rights; he refused to fight against his adversary-son, Absalom. Instead, David meekly departed Jerusalem, trusting in God and knowing that it was only He who would establish the throne, "And David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went, and his head was covered and he walked barefoot. Then all the people



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who were with him each covered his head and went up weeping as they went” (2 Sam. 15:30-31). David continually displayed the same meek and humble attitude

that was in Jesus Christ, who likewise refused to fight for His rightful throne. Yet again, David’s reaction in response to the rebellion became a picture of the Messiah to come. We have observed in an earlier Bible Study how the path that David took that night as he left Jerusalem was the same path that Jesus took when He bore the cross to the place of crucifixion. We should begin to see in David’s experience a prophetic pattern of the crucifixion? Just as in the life of every Christian, David’s troubles continued to manifest.

Now let’s come back to our first premise in the Bible Study, “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter” (Prov 25:2). David has certainly become fully persuaded that God is indeed working in his life! Surely by this point he recognizes that there are never any coincidences! Notice David’s reaction to the rebellion when he learned that his close friend and advisor was involved, “Now someone told David, saying, Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom. And David said, O LORD, I pray, make the counsel of Ahithophel foolishness” (2 Sam 15:31). Unless we are knowledgeable of the Hebrew we miss something here; these words of David are actually a play on words in the Hebrew language. The name Ahithophel means “my brother is foolish” therefore David would have actually said in Hebrew something like, “make foolish the counsel of my brother who is foolish.”

We discover David’s betrayer-counselor Ahithophel (*the grandfather of Bathsheba*) is prophetic of Judas in the New Testament! Judas’ attitude toward Jesus was that his “brother” Jesus was foolish not to use his supernatural powers to authenticate his calling as the Messiah and thereby establish a new government of God. Aside from the fact that God’s plan was different, Judas didn’t realize that if Jesus had forced his authority, it would have ultimately resulted in violence. This would have led to rebellion against Rome; Jesus clearly resisted any and all forms of taking the kingdom by force, “When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and **take him by force, to make him a king**, he departed again into a mountain himself alone” (John 6:15). Jesus would have nothing of the kind!

During the story of Absalom's rebellion we gained an opportunity to identify the path that David took during his ascent to the top of the Mount of Olives. This is no coincidence; rather it identifies clearly and conclusively that the story of Absalom's rebellion in conjunction with Ahithophel's betrayal is a prophetic pattern of Jesus' crucifixion and Judas' betrayal.

Ahithophel advised Absalom to pursue and destroy David, but Absalom did not take that advice. As a result, Ahithophel realized that Absalom would not succeed and that David would eventually hold the throne. Ahithophel further realized that he would then have to face David’s justice as a result of his betrayal, “Now when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and arose and went to his home, to his city, and set his house in order, and strangled (*hanged*) himself; thus he died and was buried in the grave of his father” (2 Sam. 17:23). David’s betrayer hanged himself even as the betrayer of Jesus did the same, “Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. But they said, What is that to



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us? See to that yourself! 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself” (Matt. 27:3-5).

Judas Iscariot (Ish-Kerioth) was from a town called Kerioth, or Kerjath. Iscariot thus means the “Man of Kerioth.” What we must realize is that the hometown of Judas was Keriath-arba, which is Hebron, “And Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre of Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron)” (Gen. 35:27). Ahithophel was a type of Judas, “Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor” (2 Sam 15:12). Here we find that one of David's close friends and counselors takes up with the revolt. It is interesting that the conspiracy against David, and the advice of Ahithophel also began in Hebron, Judas's hometown.

In order for Judas to betray Jesus, he had to be a “friend” of Jesus, “And one will say to him, What are these wounds between your arms [hands]? Then he will say, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my FRIENDS.” (Zech. 13:6). Hebron means “friendship.” Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss of friendship, and Jesus called him “friend,” “And immediately he [Judas] went to Jesus and said, Hail, Rabbi! and kissed Him. 50 And Jesus said to him, *Friend*, do what you have come for. Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him” (Matthew 26:49-50). Anyone can treat another person unjustly, but it requires a real friend to be betrayed.

Another interesting “play on words” can be found in David's story. The “play on words” is related to the concept of “peace” and its association with the princes or sons of the king. Absalom's name is Ab-salom meaning the “father of peace;” therefore since he was a son of the king, he was a “prince of peace.” Secondly, David's son named Solomon (Shalom) also stands for “peace.” Both of these sons of David were princes. However, Absalom proved that he was a prince of violence, betrayal, and rebellion. Therefore, his name the “father of peace” is certainly misleading; on the other hand, Solomon was a type of Christ, the true “Prince of Peace;” during his administration real peace in Israel was established.

“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter” (Prov 25:2). We Christians are destined to rule with Christ! We will be kings and rule with David. However, a king needs to be strong in the spirit. As we have learned, strength in the spiritual realm comes only through resistance against an external pressure or opposing force, “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind” (1 Peter 1:13). David's example for us is one of an individual that continually renewed his mind, “be renewed in the spirit of your mind” (Eph 4:23). This is a secret known only in the minds of kings!

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