

THE CHARACTER OF
KING DAVID

a man after God's own heart



Varn Brown

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David The Warrior

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward... —1 Samuel 16:13

The Philistines got ready for war and brought their troops together to attack the town of Socoh in Judah. They set up camp at Ephes-Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah. King Saul and the Israelite army set up camp on a hill overlooking Elah Valley, and they got ready to fight the Philistine army that was on a hill on the other side of the valley.

The Philistine army had a hero named Goliath who was from the town of Gath and was over nine feet tall. He wore a bronze helmet and had bronze armor to protect his chest and legs. The chest armor alone weighed about one hundred twenty-five pounds. He carried a bronze sword strapped on his back, and his spear was so big that the iron spearhead alone weighed more than fifteen pounds. A soldier always walked in front of Goliath to carry his shield.

Goliath went out and shouted to the army of Israel:

Why are you lining up for battle? I'm the best soldier in our army, and all of you are in Saul's army. Choose your best soldier to come out and fight me! If he can kill me, our people will be your slaves. But if I kill him, your people will be our slaves. Here and now I challenge Israel's whole army! Choose someone to fight me!

Saul and his men heard what Goliath said, but they were so frightened of Goliath that they couldn't do a thing.

A FAMILY OF GIANTS DEFEATED

King David is the first of a few to come that would be raised up to defeat the giants from Gath. These family of giants were birthed out of the enemy's plan to defeat the armies of the Israelites. David was the first, so to speak 'Giant Slayer.' As we now know, it would take an anointing to defeat this stronghold of Gath and he had it!

This Goliath spirit would be the first to fall by the sword of David and his mighty men to come. If you notice before the battle, David was sent to deliver his brothers' supplies and food from their father. The word of God says that, we should be ready in and out of season. David was and when he heard the enemies' blasphemous chants, he responded.

He went to his brothers and said to them, "What did they say the reward would be, if you kill the giant? David said, 'I thought that I heard them say something about being tax free for life and marrying the king's daughter...'"

He asked around so much the King heard it and had David brought to him. Saul says to David, "Don't you know that this warrior has been fighting since he was a child? He is a champion warrior. Saul gave David his armor and David tried to put it on but he ended saying to Saul, "I can't move in this armor."

So David takes the armor off and tells King Saul of his fight with the lion and bear. David says to him, as I was watching my father's sheep *a lion and a bear* came and took my father's sheep. I picked a stick and clubbed the lion and took the sheep out of his mouth. The Lord has delivered me from the lion and the bear. He will deliver this uncircumcised giant into my hands and I will kill him, because he has defied the armies of the living God.

Now don't forget, David is a teenager, young boy and there is a whole army that is scared spitless. To top it off, none of them are willing to muster up their faith to defeat the giant. To their credit, the reason David faith is so ready is because he is anointed. His faith had already been tested by the lion and the bear, and he won. The faith that he used then, he used it against the uncovenanted giant Goliath.

GOLIATH'S THREATS

The giant thundered to David, "Who are you, a boy, to come out here against me with a stick?" He roared, "I will give your body to the birds of the air and the beast of the field!" David hollered back, "You come against me with a sword and a spear. But I come against you in the name of the God of Israel. And I'm the one that will feed you to the birds!"

Now you must see this picture in your mind. Here is this teenager boy that doesn't even have hair on his chest yet. He's calling the bluff on a giant that is twelve feet tall and throws a spear the size of a weavers beam, and have shield bearers that go before him, that protect him.

Just think about, what person in a normal circumstance, would have a chance against a giant like that, it would be a very bleak one. But don't forget,

David is anointed with the spirit of might and the Lord is with him, he's a warrior and a conqueror.

DAVID'S CHANT COMES TRUE

David says to the giant, today I will deliver the Philistine's carcass over to the birds of the air and the beast of the field. David picks up his sling and a stone, slings it, hits the giant right between the eyes, and he falls face down. David has no sword, so he takes Goliath's sword and cuts his head off.

Now the most powerful thing about this was, David's faith and action gains him a promotion. Everybody else saw the giant and said 'No', now I'm talking about the whole Israeli army. David's faith in his God caused him to see a promotion in killing the giant instead. It would be one of the first of many steps that would come to him. He took them one by one, gaining victory each time.

It seemed like the great prophet of God had just said to Jesse, "Are these all your sons?" Jesse said, "There is one more son and he is watching the sheep. The man of God said to him, have someone go get him, for we shall not sit down until he comes. When David got there, the Spirit of the Lord said to the prophet, "He is the one, anoint him, he shall be king." From that day forward, the God of Abraham put David on a fast track to becoming King.

On one day David was a shepherd boy and the very next he was serving the king. The king's son Jonathan became good friends with David. Jonathan had heard the stories of David, how he killed the lion and the bear.

And not only that, how he rescued the lamb from its mouth. He saw David slay Goliath with a sling and five stones. He was at the table when his father complained about the proclamation of the women, "Saul has killed his thousands but David his tens of thousands!" Jonathan was convinced of his soon-to-be-covenant- brother, there was something special.

Signs of David's Character

One of the truest stories of servanthood is the story of David. Here are some highlights of his story. This kind of beginning will give you a good start in the ministry called servant leadership.

The life of David displays powerful examples of character that's needed to start operating in the ministry of Helps, servant leadership, armorbearers and even into the fivefold ministry in these last days of the Church. Here are some of those acts of his life, which we can pattern our lives today.

The first time we notice David, he shows up as a young shepherd boy watching his father's sheep.

1. *The first signs of character* that are shown in his life are his acts of (obedience) toward his father. True obedience should begin at home. If you can't show respect toward your parents, who can it be shown to.

2. *David was faithful as a young shepherd boy*, he protected his father's sheep against the lion and the bear that came to steal the sheep. The lion came and took one of his sheep and David fought the lion and took it back. That took (bravery) as a shepherd and David had it for sure. I Samuel 16 - I Samuel 17:35

3. *King Saul was tormented by devils* because he was disobedient to the laws of his God. He could find no rest or relief from his tormenting spirits. So, the king's son goes out and looks for this young man that he's heard of that is (talented, brave, with an ability to worship, the spirit of the Lord is with him) and his name was David.

David was taken to the king and as he played his instrument in worship, the tormenting spirits left and the king was able to rest. He commissioned David to stay and serve him as an (Armorbearer).

4. *By this time, David was still caring for his father's sheep part-time* and serving King Saul as an armorbearer with harp worshipping God until the devils assigned to him would run off. David's father tells him to go and check on his brothers in the army and see how they are faring.

While there he hears the proclamations of the giant Goliath. Goliath is saying to the Israelites, "Today, you choose a valiant soldier and have him fight me and whoever wins his country will be the masters."

5. *David even though he was just a young boy, took the giant up on his rant* and fought him. You know the story, David slays the giant with a sling and a rock to the forehead and knocks him to the ground. Then David cuts Goliath's head off. David is aware of his (Covenant with Jehovah God). —I Samuel 17:50- 54.

Now this is what happens when you are anointed and the Lord is with you. I Samuel 17: 56 The king says, "Find out whose son this young man is." You

will be brought before kings! And he was. Read more about David's start as a warrior, later in this chapter.

6. After the giant is killed, David stayed and served his king full time. Saul and the Lord gave him (favor). He became his chief body guard and best friends with the king's son, Jonathan. It is believed that David and Jonathan had a covenant between one another and that their love was greater for one another than a love for a woman. I believe that and understand it.

In these days, I know that people have such a perverted perception of godly love they can't understand. But, when God is in the factor it takes it to another level. We must remember, God was creating a great legacy through David. The birth of the Christ would one day come forth through the seed of David. And Jonathan, his best friend, would help keep him and the legacy alive.

The Field Of Dreams

A Warrior With A Covenant

"Saul has slain his thousands but David his tens of thousands!" chanted the women of the Israelis community. Soon after that Saul became enraged with jealousy against David. Once David and Jonathan were sitting at Saul's table eating at different occasions and a spirit of jealousy came upon Saul so great that he said to himself, "I will pin them both to the wall with my spear." And he tried and they both alluded him.

This is where the story of a surreal covenant began. David and Jonathan are in a field having a heated discussion. It went something like this: Jonathan looking at David, with a confused look asking, "Why are you out here in the field?" He wants to kill me! Jonathan looks at his friend and says, "Who wants to kill you? David says to him again, "He wants to kill me and he threw his spear at me, trying to pin me to the wall.

Jonathan looks at him like he was distracted and hadn't heard what he said. David said to him louder and with more emotion, "Your father wants me dead! I assure you that, a few more steps, had I not ran away, I would've been a dead man. Jonathan says to him with almost equal emotion, "No! This can't be, my father doesn't do anything without me knowing about it. If he truly felt this way I would know it."

David said, I believe you feel that way but in this case you are wrong. Jonathan said to him, "Well, tomorrow I will go and see him and I swear to you, if he shows me even a little sign, surely I will tell you."

THE SECRET PACT

So they made an agreement (Covenant) and said, we will meet here tomorrow in this field. You see, they knew that King Saul would have spies everywhere, so they came up with a plan.

Jonathan said to David, when I come to the field tomorrow I will have my servant boy with me. I will shoot an arrow. If I say to him after I shoot an arrow, "Come back this way, you have passed the arrow. You have gone too far." It is okay, there is no trouble to worry about with my father.

But after I have shot the arrow and I say to him, "Keep going, you must go farther!" You will know that you were right and he is planning to do you harm. So David agreed and hid in the field until the next day.

Jonathan went to his father's table. This is the third time that David wasn't there in the place that he normally ate. Saul says to his son Jonathan, "Where is the son of Jesse, he has not come and eaten in his place in three days?"

Jonathan gave the story, he and his friend had agreed upon. "Father, David asked for permission to go to an important family meeting. He asked me if it would be okay.

I told him that I would tell you." King Saul became enraged, like before and screamed at Jonathan, "You son of a perverse woman! I know that you love the son of Jesse. He must die! And, as long as the son of Jesse lives, your kingdom will be at peril." Jonathan said to his father, "You know that is not true.

David is no threat to your kingdom." King Saul became more furious and hurled his spear at him to pin Jonathan to the wall but he eluded him. Jonathan left in fierce anger.

A FRIEND'S LOYALTY AND A COVENANT

The next day Jonathan went to the field with his servant. He had his bow and arrow with him. As he entered the field, he shot an arrow and said to his servant, "Go get it." As the servant ran to get the arrow, he saw it and went to retrieve it.

Jonathan said in a louder voice, "Go farther, much farther, keep going and you will see it." The servant picked up the arrow and brought it back to Jonathan. He took the arrow from him and told him to take the bow and arrow back to the palace.

After the servant left, David came out from hiding and bowed down to the ground three times before Jonathan. They both hugged each other and began to weep. David wept the most.

Jonathan reminded David of the covenant that they had made and the promise. He said to him, when the Lord has cut off all your enemies and you have become king, don't forget me and my family. They left and went their separate ways. -I Samuel 20:1-42

HONORING THE GIFTED MAN

In conclusion, I would like to present to you my perspective on this whole thing and how this should be applied to our own lives. Now look at the character of both of the men, in this case, observe Jonathan the most. You do know that Jonathan is a prince and the next one in line to be King, after his father.

Have you ever seen a prince, next in line to become king, just hand his kingship over to someone else? Well, I haven't either. That's exactly what Jonathan did, and willingly, I might add. I had to think on that one for a while, then it came to me. I said to myself, that's it! Jonathan, as a prince was there from the beginning, since he was sent out to look for someone to bring relief to his father.

As you may remember, his father was tormented by devils, because of his disobedience. After the search, David was recommended. Someone told them they knew of a young man, the son of Jesse that was brave, strong, a man of war and the spirit of the Lord was with him. So they went and got him.

Then he heard of the stories of the Lion and Bear. He actually saw the bout with Goliath, and of course, the infamous cutting off of Goliath's head. After which, David brought to King Saul, in front of God and everybody. This giant actually had held the whole army of Israel at bay, because they were all afraid of him.

But David, a shepherd boy back then, represented the God of Israel and defeated the giant. At the dinner table, how many times did Jonathan hear his father's complaint of hearing the women of Israel say, Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands.

Jonathan was convinced that his new friend was a gifted man, he had multiple talents and an anointing like no other. Jonathan knew that he only had maybe one or two of them. The most impressive thing about the whole situation was, Jonathan was secure enough to honor him for his anointing and not have him assassinated.

Instead, with the kind of attitude Jonathan had, they became covenant brothers and would love one another more than they loved themselves. Now you tell me, have you ever seen a love like that ever before, other than our Christ. I think not!

Historians recorded, Jonathan actually said to David, "When you become king, don't forget about me and my family..." This is a pure principle that we must hold true to ourselves and each other in Christ. It is a great example of a covenant relationship between two friends and a great example for us to live by.

The Battle At Ziklag

And A Praying Warrior

They arrived at camp and found everyone gone. Not a soul was left in the camp. It was obvious they were taken by force. The camp was a wreck and burned to the ground. The men began to weep, including David. All of his wives and his men's wives and family were taken by the enemy, the Amalekites.

The Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag, they burned it and took captives. The women were all in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way. When David and his men came to Ziklag and found it destroyed by fire, and their sons and wives were taken captive. They wept aloud until they could weep no more.

David was greatly distressed himself about his wives and children but the men were talking about stoning him. This part always gets me because it shows us how flaky people can be.

One moment the people want to make him King. And the very next they are wanting to stone him, like he was the ultimate cause of their families being taken.

DAVID SOUGHT THE LORD

Have you ever been in a situation that you had to make yourself praise the Lord? Were you able to choose praise instead of panic? Your flesh was screaming so loud that you could hear it screaming yourself. Well David said to himself, he said, self you will praise the Lord?

Even though his men were wanting to take his head off, he took the time to ask the Lord. Do you think you can do that? Ask God and then praise him until you see the victory.

That's just what David did. He said to Abiathar the priest, bring me the Ephod. Abiathar brought him the Ephod and David inquired of the Lord and said to him, if I pursue them will I overtake them? And the Lord said, you will most certainly pursue them and over take them and retrieve all.

GOD'S SAVING GRACE

They found an Egyptian boy. The lord was faithful to leave them bread crumbs. We do have a God that leaves conformations to help his faithful. He made sure that Elisha didn't miss his mantle by sending conformations to him daily from the school of prophets.

They told Elisha so much that his master would be taken, that He became embarrassed and would say to them. Be quiet and speak not of it, but Elisha didn't miss his mantle.

In the same way, God made sure the little Egyptian boy was treated bad enough, so that when he was left behind he would give away the whole enchilada and he did.

He said to them, I am a slave of the Amalekites. They left me here when I became sick. David said unto him, can you lead me to them? The Amalekite said unto him, "If you promise not to harm me or hand me back unto my master. Yes, I will show you where they are."

They caught up with the Amalekites, David fought them until dusk that day. David defeated them and recovered all of his people and belongings, all but 400 young men that got away on some camels and fled into the mountains.

Just as God said, David recovered all of their wives and children, none were harmed. We must see the signature of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whom David served.

There is no other God like him. You have this young king that has just come into office. All the people and soldiers are excited about him. And low and behold, everybody had vanished and was gone. The tracks in the sand say that a rebel army has taken them all away. The men plus David are so overwhelmed that they weep until they can weep no more.

And to make all worst, they all began to speak of stoning him to death. Another point that can be taken from this is. When you lead a bunch of rebels, at the first sign of a trouble situation, they may string you up out of desperation. They are only following you because you are meeting a need for them, at that moment.

But David encouraged himself in the Lord and he had the Ephod brought before him and he inquired of the Lord. He said Lord if I go after them will I overtake them? The Lord answered him and said, go after them and you shall overtake them and retrieve all, and he did.

This is one of the great signatures of King David. He goes from complete desperation to victory in one act of God in his life. We should all want to be like him, King David, the praying warrior.

God's Plan For Us

In David's life as a warrior, I see a pattern that God used to elevate his life to take him where he wanted him to go. And they are: obedience, bravery, talent, spirit of might, ability to worship, and the spirit of the Lord upon him.

As an armorbearer, he still honored his covenant with Jehovah God, we saw the favor of God increase as he was promoted from an armorbearer to chief bodyguard to leader in the army (warrior) to eventually king. He set a godly example that rings throughout the centuries.

These are ingredients that the Lord will use to elevate your life when you choose to serve him and serve him well. He did it for David and he will do it for us as well. Now, let's explore more of David's character that we can pattern our life after.



To receive updates, about the release of Varn's latest book: *The Character Of King David* sign up here: book@nasaministries.com

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Varn Brown, three book Christian Author, is co-founder of Grace Covenant Church, Nasa Ministries and Armorbearers International. A dynamic speaker, he frequently presents, on the topic of servant leadership and the father wound healing at conferences and public events. Visit his popular blog to learn more at www.varnbrown.com