

BIBLE MYSTERY AND BIBLE MEANING OLD TESTAMENT
LESSON 10
THE UNITED MONARCHY

READING ASSIGNMENT

Enjoy the reading assignment, lengthy as it is you will find many fantastic lessons held within these stories.

I Samuel 8---II Samuel---I Kings 1-11

We can see that there was concern for the Hebrew people and their desires. *"In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes."* -Judges 21:25 "In their own eyes"-this statement gives a complete understanding of their limited level of consciousness. Our instruction should always come from God. Yet the people continue, *"We are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles."* -I Samuel 8:19-20. The Hebrew people continue to seek leadership and guidance from without. Our true guidance always comes when we turn within.

SAUL

Now this has nothing to do with metaphysics, but learning to pay attention to the way the Bible is written. We all recognize type scenes in literature, well the Bible has its fair share as well. We have the barren woman that eventually conceives; brothers with the younger being chosen over the older; the man who meets his wife at the well. Saul's story has a slight variation of the well scene. He is looking for his father's donkeys, when a woman, on her way to the well, directs him to Samuel. Our author is telling us that Saul doesn't get it, he doesn't fit into the type scene, he will fail.

Saul, the son of Kish of the tribe of Benjamin, became the first king of United Israel. His qualifications seem to be that he was very tall, extremely handsome, and came from a wealthy family. Saul was modest in demeanor, yet a man of unquestioned courage. The name Saul signifies *personal will*.

Saul was originally anointed by Samuel in private. On the day the Israelites were told that Saul would lead them, Saul did not immediately come forth. Like so many who are chosen, he is not sure of himself; a lesson a good many deal with in life. We are one in God and as such should never question when asked to step forward for God's work.

Samuel said to the people, God has spoken, *"I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you: and ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us."* -I

Samuel 10:13-19. Although a king is a ruling state of consciousness, it does not mean that the consciousness is of a positive nature. Furthermore, the Hebrew people asked for something without God's guidance; be careful what you ask for, what we hold in mind we will receive.

As we become familiar with the meanings of the various tribes, it will be easy to understand why the Hebrews continually fought with these foreign forces. Why we continue to struggle. A more complete listing of tribes of the Bible is located at the end of this lesson.

Although the people did not initially support Saul, he won a decisive victory over the Ammonites, (uncultivated states of consciousness, and thoughts of sensuality). Saul, with his valiant son, Jonathan, fought the Philistines, (forces foreign to Spirit). The victory over the Philistines, however, was not conclusive.

We are speaking of a consciousness here, the (personal will or Saul), who has by his side, his son Jonathan, (soul love of higher, more spiritual things). When we are in the Saul consciousness; not all is lost, we try to maintain our connection to God. It is when we choose to act out of self only, the ego, without Divine Guidance, that our path becomes one of great difficulty.

We read in Chapter 15 that Samuel, calls on King Saul to send an army to destroy the Amalakites; to destroy every man, woman and child as well as their animals. He is to annihilate everything related to them. How can a spiritual man require something so gruesome? Let us look at the metaphysical implications. The Amalakites represent a gathering of all the negativity in our lives such as hate, anger, jealousy, resentment, selfishness and greed. Samuel, our high priest, is saying that these enemies, the negative qualities of mind, must be eliminated. We are to return to the wholeness in which we were created, and to do so we must totally destroy any thoughts that we hold that are not in complete harmony with our True Nature.

Saul, however brings King Agag back with him. There is no such thing as one Truth for a head cold and another for employment and another Truth for healing cancer. Samuel completely destroys King Agag; he hacked Agag in pieces. In the realization of one Truth the whole of God is in that Truth. God can't be divided into bits and pieces. It is always possible that an individual is only capable of realizing a fraction of the wholeness of God, and yet in that fraction, God is whole.

You can see that we are beginning to shift gears from a totally mental approach to life to a Spiritual approach. This is a not only a new approach to life but a very basic lesson in spiritual healing. God is whole, we are whole.

Saul and David are intertwined for in Chapter 16 David is anointed king, and yet Saul is king. Which level of consciousness will rule? *"But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him."* -I Samuel 16:14. Saul sends for David for he plays the harp, and when he plays for him, *"Saul would become refreshed and well and the distressing spirit would depart from him."* -I Samuel 16:23. David's (divine love) harp music soothed Saul (individual will). This is what happens when we allow divine love to influence our individual will.

DAVID

“And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. And he had a helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver’s beam; and his spears head weighted six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? Am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? Choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me.”

-I Samuel 17:4-8

There is no doubt when we look at this passage that this is one tough dude, Goliath is by all means a formidable opponent. When we look at this Bible story, just the description of his armor, of his spear is cause for concern. A shekel weighs roughly ½ oz. and so his mail alone would be around 156 lbs. Are we getting the magnitude of this belief? This erroneous belief is so massive, and yet we have held in mind for so long that we don’t see how we can overcome it. We have put so much energy into it, can we take it down? How much attention have we given to allergies, or migraines, the colleague at work, or a lack of financial security? We can clearly see that this giant has overwhelmed Saul; he is simply no match. David represents divine love individualized in human consciousness. David did not waver in his approach to Goliath.

King Saul offered David his armor (his consciousness) and David refused, it did not fit. This is a very important lesson, for no matter how many classes we attend, how many books we read, if we do not make it a part of our consciousness, it will not fit. Teachers may guide us, but it is the individual’s choice whether to take the Truths that are offered and make them a part of his awareness. In this story, Saul, personal will, is saying to David, love, here take my awareness and use it this way. What is will offering to love, ways to cheat, or ways to manipulate? David knows the answer and it is Love.

David selected five stones from the river for his sling-shot, five truths, one for each of the senses. Goliath, well you could call him King Agag. Goliath is any obstacle in life that is preventing us from moving forward. It could be a disease, a shame or fear, possibly a sense of incompetence. You name it. Only you know what it is. The bottom line is this, when you strike error with Truth you silence it. It takes only one acceptance of Truth to silence any obstacle.

David says to Goliath, “You come to me with a sword and a spear and a shield. *But I come to thee in the name of the Lord....*” - I Samuel 17:45. The importance of this statement is that we don’t need to speculate as to why we’re not moving forward. We don’t need to identify, to name what is happening, we need only turn within, and leave all. Take no thought, thought is of the world, not of spirit. *“Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace.”* - Job 22:21.

David took a Truth and he contemplated it. Take a Truth, one that speaks to you, and touches you deeply. Examples: “I will never leave you nor forsake you,” or “Be still and know that I

am God,” or “Our Father which art in heaven.” These statements are not about what is happening in your life at the present time. It’s not about your job loss, or the end of a relationship. Take the statement that moves you, and take no other thought. Contemplate it. As the statement begins to lift you from your immediate environment, do what Samuel did and say, *“Speak Lord, your servant hears.”* - I Samuel 3:10. This is a time for patience, however remain open and continue to listen until something begins to reveal itself in you. The realization that comes when we choose to give of ourselves to God is a sufficiency unto all things. It is the activity of that which is holy and sacred as an activity of your own consciousness that heals the sick, forgives all sins, and multiplies the loaves and fish. Every fear, every hurt is dissolved.

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.”

-Zechariah 4:6.

This story is one of the most recognized and loved stories of our Bible. David brought down that giant with a single Truth. He became a national hero. The people all loved David and King Saul's daughter, Michal, became David's wife. Saul's son

“Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.”

- I Samuel 18:3

Our story takes a turn when Saul becomes jealous of David's victory. Remember that it was Samuel, not Saul, who destroyed the King Agag's awareness. We cannot allow any semblance of negative thinking to remain; we must dwell In Truth.

SOLOMON

Solomon was the son of David and Bathsheba. He represents a state of mind that is established in consciousness when the soul is unified with wisdom and love.

Solomon was given a kingdom, and showed at once his determination to take charge. Executions and banishments marked the beginning of his reign. Thus serving notice to all that Solomon would tolerate no interference.

He showed a far humbler attitude toward Jahveh, when the Lord appear to him in a dream and said, *“Ask what I should give you.”* - I Kings 3:5. He chose to ask for an understanding heart. He was granted his request, and was given riches and honor as well. *“If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandment, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.”* - I Kings 3:14

The story of the two harlots (I Kings 3:16-28) shows the depth of Solomon's wisdom. We learn in this story not to rush to judgment; to listen with our heart; the truth will make itself known.

During the early years of his reign, Solomon tried to live up to his highest ideals, but the power and wealth at his command proved too great a temptation. He was determined to have a court which would rival in magnificence the courts of other Oriental rulers.

Solomon's building projects were a great achievement. He built fortresses at strategic points to protect the kingdom from invasion. He built a royal palace with magnificent halls and private apartments. He not only built separate palaces and suitable places of worship for his foreign queens, but worshipped with them.

The building of the temple was Solomon's crowning achievement, and gave Israel's religion an adequate setting. Yet, Solomon, like so many chose to build a physical temple. The Temple is built within each of us. Our Temple is built through our devotion to God. Through our devotion our consciousness is raised. We see peace and harmony; we see the Truth of ourselves and others. We see the Christ in every person.

While Solomon asked for and demonstrated wisdom in the beginning of his reign, he chose not to continue to grow in spirit. We were given all love, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, power, life, and joy; let us continue to build our Temple using these building blocks.

SUMMARY

There are many lessons contained within the stories of Saul, David, and Solomon, and yet within these stories one of the most important lessons is that we continue to grow spiritually. We must always honor God by living in a respectful way. We must honor God by living in love. We are to turn within, and build our Temple through our enduring devotion.

ASSIGNMENT

1. With King Agag representing our lower nature in thought, how does being cut into pieces represent returning to the whole?
2. Choose from the Bible another story about David and Saul and write an metaphysical interpretation on it.
3. Discuss the warning signs of Saul's failed reign as king of the Israelites.
4. What does Goliath represent?
5. Why did David reject Saul's offer of his armor to meet Goliath?
6. Discuss David's victory over Goliath.
7. Discuss Solomon's temple and how it relates to us today.

TRIBES OF THE BIBLE

Amalekites= Base desires of the individual. Animal forces, appetites and passion that dwell in the vale [valley dweller] or subconscious. They are warlike and are destructive in their nature.
Descendants of Amalek, grandson of Esau.