2Thess #101

The enemy of truth is an enemy of God.

Open today where we left off in the OT 1Samuel chapter 18 RF.

Keep in mind this is the last message until after the 4th of July. I’ll be back on track Tuesday July 9th.

To recap where we have been studying, we are looking at the deluding spirit that will be allowed to open up in the Tribulation period, as noted in 2Thessalonians chapter 2:7-12.

Also, the deluding spirit a Believer invites into their life once they push far enough away from the plan of GOD.

/God is not the one who promotes sin or evil – the fact is darkness happens when light is removed. Just as anything or anyone outside a relationship with GOD opens themselves up toward sin and evil. The Triune God is pure and true, everything outside of that realm of that divine essence, is darkness or contaminated. Rebellion toward the truth of GOD in any form opens the avenue of darkness.\

This doesn’t matter if it is human good or immorality – everything outside of God’s divine essence is flawed.

We left off looking at the victory of young David as a warrior and champion for Israel.

King Saul was already sliding backward in the plan of GOD, it became painful apparent when Goliath challenged Israel.

Saul could have prayed and stood strong and went out to face Goliath. Instead of allowing a young shepherd to go out there alone. King Saul as the leader showed no strength, or faith in the GOD of Israel.

To the one GOD gives greater authority too - that one is also given greater responsibility in the plan of GOD.

(Luke 12:48, Rom 2:13)

We must apply and live in that which GOD has given us.

King Saul became enamored with his own power and his own agenda not the plan of GOD.

/[1Sa 18:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/9/s_254009) And **Saul eyed** (ʿ*āôn*) **David with suspicion** (*ʿāôn*) from that day on.

Saul was now suspicious and bitter toward David, who had done nothing but stand in the gap. As he fell backward from the challenge of the Philistines, David stood strong. \

AHH-VOWN, AHH-VOWN - used twice gives it greater meaning, it means perversion or sin. It comes from a Hebrew root word for a perverted thought.

Saul turns against David, yet he does so first, deep within his soul, which is also a sign of weakness.

/Negative and bitter thoughts towards others who may appear more intelligent, strong, attractive or more qualified than you, are an invitation into self-induced misery. There is always someone better or worse than we are at any given moment. Competition outside the arena of sports can become a dangerous ground to tread upon. It almost always leads to insecurity, arrogance or unhappiness.\

It doesn’t matter if you are a president, a general, a pastor or a parent - there will always be people popping up in your periphery who may be smarter, stronger or much better off that you are.

Welcome to the human race. The never-ending pursuit for equality in every situation is a journey into frustration.

What is worse than that, is the consistent pursuit of being better than everyone all the time!

David being a poor shepherd boy, never received such great accolades and really any type of public attention and yet he never allows it to go to his head.

Whereas King Saul was frustrated he did not get the proper amount of attention.

/[1Sa 18:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/10/s_254010) Now it came about on the next day **that an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul**, and he raved in the midst of the house while David was playing *the harp* with his hand, as usual; and a spear *was* in Saul’s hand.

God allowed the insecurities and weakness of Saul to become self-induced misery. Without repentance and humility GOD opens the flood gate for Satan’s system to begin its work – very similar to 2Thes 2:7 – the restraining ministry of the SPIRIT is pulled back.\

[1Sa 18:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/11/s_254011) Then Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David escaped from his presence, twice.

Saul had no idea if that spear would pin David or perhaps pierce and kill David.

This is a great example of where mental attitude sins can lead us. Jealousy and bitterness are extremely toxic in our soul.
Never feed off the praise of man, it is very inconsistent. They love you one day and hate you the next – look to glorify GOD not self or mankind.

/Certainly, in a role of leadership, never seek the approval of the mob, seek to do what is right in the sight of GOD and let the chips fall where they may. Tough decisions my be the right ones and they may be decisions, that spark outrage among those under your authority. Popularity is the poison pill weak leaders strive for.\

[1Sa 18:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/12/s_254012) Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him but had left Saul.

This would have been the point that King Saul not only should have repented but also accepted that David was the future leader of Israel.

Had Saul repented and began to train David for the throne, I believe his life would have been vastly different.

Ultimately God is in control and when HE reveals a change in leadership or a shift in what direction you are going, the best attitude to have would be one of compliance, not defiance. REPEAT

[1Sa 18:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/13/s_254013) So Saul removed him from his presence and appointed him as his commander of a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

[1Sa 18:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/14/s_254014) David was successful in all his ways, for the LORD *was* with him.

The mental attitude (motivation) is what God looks at;

/1Sam 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “**Do not look at his appearance**or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for **God does not *see* as man sees,** since man looks at the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks at the heart.**”\

King Saul then begins a series of subtle deceptions to offer his own daughters to David, not because he cared about David, but because he wanted to cause David to stumble.

His oldest daughter Merab was promised to the man who defeated Goliath – that should have happened immediately after the battle – it did not. David even hesitated about the marriage, and so Saul works a new angle with the younger daughter.

/1Sam 18:21 For Saul thought, “**I will give her to him so that she may become a trap for him,** and that **the hand of the Philistines may be against him**.” Therefore Saul said to David, “For a second time you may become my son-in-law, today.”

There was always a dowery (price/favor) attached to marrying into a prestigious family. David had no wealth and so the trap was set.\

This was designed as a way to get rid of David not lift him up in honor.

1Sam 18:22 Then Saul commanded his servants, “Speak to David in secret, saying, ‘Behold, the king delights in you, and all his servants love you; now then, become the king’s son-in-law.’”

[1Sa 18:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/23/s_254023) So Saul’s servants spoke these words to David. But David said, “Is it trivial in your sight to become the king’s son-in-law, since I am *only* a poor man and insignificant?”

[1Sa 18:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/24/s_254024) Then Saul’s servants reported to him, saying, “These are the words David spoke.”

/[1Sa 18:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/25/s_254025) Saul then said, “This is what you shall say to David: ‘The king does not desire any dowry **except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines**, to take vengeance on the king’s enemies.’” But Saul plotted to have David fall by the hand of the Philistines.\

Truly honorable men never manipulate others and their word is like the strongest bond you can never break.

David had done enough to earn the hand of either daughter and yet Saul is manipulating the circumstances.

David remained very humble and in fact did not even request what was due to him as the champion of Israel.

[1Sa 18:26](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/26/s_254026) When his servants told David these words, it pleased David to become the king’s son-in-law. So before the time had expired,

/Notice the manipulative attitude of King Saul contrasted with the humility of David’s attitude who was actually due the hand of one of the daughters. The offer of one hundred foreskins was designed to put David in incredible danger. Saul was plotting to send David to his death, while David was planning to honor the King’s request.\

[1Sa 18:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/27/s_254027) David set out and went, he and his men, and fatally struck two hundred men among the Philistines. Then David brought their foreskins, and they presented all *two hundred* of them to the king, so that he might become the king’s son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal as a wife.

David brought 200 – above and beyond! Because when GOD is working in your favor and HE has his hand on your life no weapon formed against you will prosper.

If you stay humble and keep your relationship with GOD as your priority no evil will overtake you. There is blessings and rewards in time, when a Bel goes above and beyond toward SM.

[1Sa 18:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/28/s_254028) When Saul saw and realized that the LORD was with David, and *that* Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved him,

/[1Sa 18:29](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/18/29/s_254029) then Saul was even more afraid of David. **So Saul was David’s enemy continually**.

David never considered Saul a true enemy, it was the king who declared David an enemy. For 7 years the King pursued David and GOD kept David just out of his reach.\

Even when David had the opportunity to kill King Saul in the dark cave of the sheepfolds, David refused to do so, in honor of the throne.

David knew better than to kill the king of Israel, it was not God’s timing.

Jump over to 1Samuel chapter 28 RF.

/1Sam 24:10 “Behold, this day your eyes have seen that **the LORD had handed you over to me today in the cave,** and *someone* said to kill you, but I spared you; and I said, ‘**I will not reach out with my hand against my lord, because he is the LORD’S anointed**.’

David knew God’s plan and God’s timing cannot be superseded by man’s desires or any form of manipulation. \

The reason David was called a man after God’s own heart - was because he had great faith and he understood that his life was in the hands of GOD. David had true humility and a compassionate heart.

Even when David failed he accepted responsibility and always turned back toward the justice of GOD.

Saul began to stumble in leadership right from the very beginning – (1Sam 13) when he was faced with the first battle against the Philistine army. He had no faith and did not wait on the timing of GOD.

As a Believer, as soon as it becomes apparent you are struggling with some issues get right with GOD, make the adjustments. Get in prayer, get in fellowship and get deep into the WORD.

 REPEAT

As we close today take a look at how far a Bel can get from truth when a deluding spirit is allowed into their life;

1Sam 28:6 So Saul inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him, either in dreams, or by the Urim, or by the prophets.

The more in tune with GOD you are; the greater the communication will flow between your decisions and GOD guiding and speaking to you.

/1Sam 28:7 Then Saul said to his servants, **“Find for me a woman who is a medium** (*'ôḇ*), so that I may go to her and inquire of her.” And his servants said to him, “Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at En-dor.”

All those who practiced the occult were banned by Saul prior to this. Which coincides with the commands of GOD from Leviticus.\

OO-VE, one who practices the occult art of speaking with the dead and dabbles in dark arts. (necromancy)

[1Sa 28:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/28/8/s_264008) Then Saul disguised himself by putting on different clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, “Consult the spirit for me, please, and bring up for me *the one* whom I shall name for you.”

This gives us a view to the depths of depravity and deception King Saul was willing to endure to get what he wanted.

[1Sa 28:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/28/9/s_264009) But the woman said to him, “Behold, you know what Saul has done, that he has eliminated the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why are you then setting a trap for my life, to bring about my death?”

**/**[1Sa 28:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/28/10/s_264010) So **Saul swore an oath to her by the LORD, saying, “As the LORD lives**, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.”

Saul is already in reversionism and now he is going deeper against the commands of GOD and using the LORD’s name in vain on top of that.\

Instead of calling upon GOD for repentance and getting himself in a position of strength – he doubles down upon his weakness and arrogance.

We do not see any other point where King Saul calls out to the LORD seeking repentance, yet we see him making vows to a witch who practices dark arts.

This is a Believer who is now stepping over onto a very dark pathway.

[1Sa 28:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/28/11/s_264011) Then the woman said, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” And he said, “Bring up Samuel for me.”

[1Sa 28:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/28/12/s_264012) When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, “Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!”

The witch cries out because she has never truly witnessed a dead spirit come to life.

This is the hand of GOD.

Samuel is called up and GOD allows this to remind King Saul where he stands.

/[1Sa 28:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1sa/28/16/s_264016) Samuel said, “But why ask me, since **the LORD has abandoned you and has become your enemy?** 17 “And the LORD has done **just as He spoke through me**; for **the LORD has torn the kingdom from your hand**and given it to your neighbor, to David.\

The worse thing a Believer can do is continue to kick against the plan of God once it is apparent your decisions have led you astray.

/Prov 13:13 One who despises the word will do badly, But one who fears the commandment will be rewarded. 14 The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn aside from the snares of death. 15 Good understanding produces favor, But the way of the treacherous is their own disaster.\

/Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.\