

## Handout 1: 1 Samuel Lesson 7

Notice the repetition of “threes” in chapters 19-21:

1. The narrative revolves around the relationship of three men: Saul, Jonathan, and David.
2. Saul attempts to kill David three times in 19:10, 11 and 20 (an attempt was also made in 18:11).
3. Jonathan refers to Saul as his “father” three times in 19:2-3.
4. Jonathan’s use of the word “sin” referring to Saul three times in 19:4-5.
5. The three sets of Saul’s agents sent to arrest David at Ramah in 19:20-21.
6. David asks Jonathan three rhetorical questions in 20:1.
7. The “third day” mentioned in 20:19 and 20.
8. The three arrows in Jonathan’s plan in 20:20.
9. Saul refers to David as “son of Jesse” three times in 20:28, 30 and 31.
10. David prostrates himself before Jonathan three times in 20:41.

The number three in Scripture usually symbolizes something important in God’s plan for man’s salvation. David’s change in status from honored hero and son-in-law in the royal family to outcast is part of God’s Divine Plan.

The free-will choices Saul, Jonathan and David will have to make that will impact their lives, their relationships with each other and with God:

1. Saul has the choice of giving in to his jealousy and fear to bring about David’s death or to suppress those feelings and to not give in to the sin of killing an innocent man.
2. Jonathan has to choose between loyalty to his father and loyalty to his friend. He can either become an accomplice to his father’s evil plan to kill David (a plan which is to his advantage and serves his self-interest in succeeding his father as king), or he can protect David and in essence forfeit his future kingship.
3. David has the choice of either protecting himself by assassinating Saul, or he can avoid harming Saul by fleeing to become an outcast.

Notice the repetition of the forms of the word “to prophesy” that appears six times in chapter 20 in the episode at Ramah: in verse 20 twice, 21 twice, 23 and 24 in the Hebrew text.

In the emotionally intense exchange between David and Jonathan in 20:1-17, David asks three rhetorical questions in verse 1:

1. “What have I done?”
2. “What is my guilt?”
3. “How have I wronged your father ...?”

Look for the equally emotional echo of these questions repeated by Jonathan to Saul in 20:32 “*Why should he die? What has he done?*”

Handout 2: 1 Samuel Lesson 7

SAUL CONTRASTED WITH DAVID

SAUL	DAVID
Saul is the son of a wealthy man of the tribe of Benjamin.	David is born in Bethlehem into the humble family of Jesse a descendant of Ruth and Boaz of the tribe of Judah.
Saul is his father's heir.	David is Jesse's eighth son and a shepherd.
Saul's destiny is changed while looking for his father's lost donkeys with a servant.	David's destiny is changed when he is called in from herding his father's sheep.
Samuel anoints Saul king of Israel as an adult.	Samuel anoints David king of Israel when still a boy.
Saul's first campaigns against Israel's enemies are successful.	Young David becomes a musician at Saul's court.
Saul disobeys Samuel and makes a presumptuous sacrifice resulting in the judgment of the loss of his dynasty.	David kills Goliath and becomes a commander in Saul's army. God is with David.
Saul makes a foolish vow and attempts to kill his son Jonathan.	David makes a covenant of friendship with Saul's son Jonathan.
Saul disobeys God's command concerning the Amalekites and loses his fellowship with God.	David marries Saul's daughter.
Saul becomes mentally unstable and tries to kill David.	David escapes Saul and becomes an outlaw.
Saul massacres the priests at Nob.	The priests of Nob help David and his men.
Saul seeks help from a medium and receives a prediction of doom.	David has the opportunity to kill Saul but refuses to kill one who is the anointed of God and king of Israel.
Saul is defeated in battle with the Philistines, his sons are all killed, and he commits suicide. He probably reigned 20 years.	David becomes King of Judah and 7 years later King of Israel. He reigns 40 years. David unites the political and religious center of Israel by moving the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.
Saul's dynasty ends with the death of his remaining son Ishbaal.	David's dynasty is eternal and continues through his heir Jesus Christ.