

Psalm 73, I Samuel 8-13 (#53) Revised 2022

Psalm 73 — The psalmist envies the prosperity of the wicked until he realizes their ultimate end. *1. Are the comments about the wicked that are found in verses 4, 5, 12 and 13 true? 2. What remedy does the Psalmist find for his envy? See verse 17.*

I Samuel 8— As Samuel grew older, he allowed his two sons to be judges, but they perverted justice. The elders of Israel used this as an excuse to ask Samuel to petition God to give them a king, but their real motive was that they wanted be like all the other nations. Samuel is personally offended by their request, but God assures him that they really are rejecting His rule over them. The people would not listen to Samuel even though he clearly told them of the consequences. God tells Samuel to go ahead and anoint a king of God's own choosing. *Was it wrong for Israel to ask Samuel for a king?*

I Samuel 9— This chapter introduces the man God chooses to be king, who is Saul, the son of Kish, a Benjaminite. His father sent Saul off to find donkeys that had wandered off. Not being able to find them, his servant suggested they ask the seer (prophet) Samuel who lived nearby. Coming to the city, Saul meets Samuel, and before Saul asks, Samuel lets him know that his father's donkeys have been found and then invites him to a feast. Saul is very surprised that Samuel honors him at the feast. Before Saul left Samuel in the morning, Samuel detains him so he can give him a special message. *After reading this chapter, what is your impression of Saul? See verses 2, 22-23. See also 10:21-22, 26.*

I Samuel 10— Samuel anointed Saul with oil to be the king of Israel and ruler over the Lord's inheritance. Samuel gave to Saul instructions on how to proceed, telling him that God was with him and would give him a new heart. When the day of the public coronation of Saul at Mizpah arrived, he was hiding among the baggage. Saul then was quickly brought out and presented as king. The people

shouted, "Long live the king!" Israel asked for a king so God gave them one. *Why did God give them Saul since He knew that Saul would ultimately be disobedient and rejected by Him? What implications does this story have on our own lives and the way we ask God for things?*

I Samuel 11— Saul solidifies his kingship by answering the call for help from Jabesh-gilead and brings an army of 330,000 to fight and then defeat Nahash and the Ammonites. Saul did not respond with vengeance on the wicked men who despised him and wouldn't recognize his kingship. Samuel had all Israel come to Gilgal to renew Saul's kingship in presence of the Lord, sacrificing fellowship offerings with great rejoicing. *Why did Nahash allow the city of Jabesh-gilead seven days to seek help? #3 p. 416. EXTRA: In this first test as king, how did Saul show himself as an effective leader?*

I Samuel 12— This chapter gives Samuel's farewell address as judge and calls the nation of Israel as a witness to the type of life he lived before the people (vv. 1-5). He reviewed the faithfulness of the Lord who ruled as their King and sent judges to lead them to victory as long as they repented of their sins and abandoned their idolatry (vv. 6-12). As a proof of their sin for asking for a king, God sent thunder and a rainstorm (vv. 13-18). After their repentant attitude about asking for a king, Samuel promises that the Lord will not abandon His people and that he would not cease to pray for them (vv. 19-25). *Samuel said, "Isn't the wheat harvest today?" What did that question have to do with the thunder and rain God sent, and why were the people fearful? EXTRA: Why is failing to pray for others a sin (v. 23)?*

I Samuel 13— Now we begin to see the true character of Saul as he finds himself under great pressure from the Philistines. Instead of waiting for Samuel to come and offer the burnt offering and receive from him the instructions for the battle, Saul acts on his own and offers the sacrifice. When Samuel comes, he rebukes Saul and tells him that he will not have a permanent kingdom. *Verse 14 says “the Lord has sought out a man after His own heart.” What disqualified Saul from being this type of man? How can we show ourselves as men after God’s heart?*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups- c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible, c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible, c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion, c. 2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc., Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible, c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Halley’s Bible Handbook, c. 2000, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Understanding the Bible c. 2000 Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Homan Bible Handbook, c. 1992 Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 13. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014 Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL.

Psalm 74, I Samuel 14-19 (#54) Revised 2022

Psalm 74 — Written shortly after the Babylonian captivity, this prayer describes the destruction of the temple and pleads for God to defend His honor. *As you read this Psalm, what two things are absent in Asaph's request?*

I Samuel 14— This chapter shows the faith of Jonathan and the foolishness of King Saul. Jonathan and his armor-bearer go against the Philistine garrison and strike down twenty men (vv. 1-14). God sends an earthquake and terror spreads throughout the Philistine camp. Saul and his troops see the confusion among the Philistine soldiers and join in the fight as the Lord saved Israel that day (vv. 15-23). Saul's hasty command not to eat until the victory is won restricted the extent of the victory. Jonathan is found to be guilty of eating of food under the ban, even though done in ignorance. Saul wanted to kill Jonathan to fulfill his foolish vow, but his friends saved Jonathan's life (vv. 24-46). In spite of his sin, God used Saul to defeat their enemies and deliver Israel (vv. 47-52). *What good character traits do we see in Jonathan, and what foolish actions do we observe in Saul in this chapter? EXTRA: Why was it a sin to eat food that still had blood in it? See verses 32-34, Leviticus 7:26-27, Genesis 9:4, Acts 15:27-29.*

I Samuel 15— God gives Saul his final test to see if he will fully obey His instructions. King Saul and his army return from the battle with the Amalekites with such a seemingly triumphant victory that Saul set up a monument in his own honor. Hearing from God that Saul had not fully obeyed His clear commands, Samuel spends the night in mourning and crying out to the Lord. The next day Samuel confronts Saul with his disobedience, but Saul justifies himself, makes excuses, and blames others. Samuel reveals to Saul that the Lord has rejected him as king and has chosen another better than him. Saul insists that Samuel return with him to Gilgal to offer sacrifices and honor him before the people. *Explain what Samuel meant when he said to Saul, "to obey is better than sacrifice." Is there any area in your life that you are not completely obedient to the Lord? EXTRA: How was Saul disobedient to the command he was given to completely destroy the Amalekites?*

I Samuel 16— After a period of mourning by Samuel because of Saul's disobedience and rejection, God sends him to Bethlehem to anoint one of the sons of Jesse to be king. Samuel was enamored with the kingly aura of Jesse's firstborn son Eliab, but God made it clear that He does not look on the outward

appearance but rather on the inward person (heart). After reviewing the seven sons of Jesse, David is finally called from tending the sheep and is anointed with oil as the king of Israel. As the Spirit of God came upon David with power, the Holy Spirit left Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. David was called from Bethlehem to play the lyre for Saul in order to soothe him when he was tormented by the evil spirit. *What does God know about us (v. 7)? How must we respond to this knowledge?*

I Samuel 17— This chapter tells us of the famous story in which young David comes onto the public stage to face the nine-foot, nine-inch Goliath of Gath. Goliath challenged anyone in Israel to personal combat, with the consequence being that the loser's nation would serve the winner's nation. King Saul and all Israel were terrified by Goliath's words (vv. 1-11). Jesse sent David to the scene of the battle to take provisions for his sons and to find out about their welfare. Upon hearing the defiant words of Goliath, David is outraged that this uncircumcised Philistine should insult the armies of the living God (vv. 12-30). Meeting Saul, David volunteers to fight Goliath citing the times he killed lions and bears while guarding the sheep. Saul tries to dissuade David from fighting Goliath but finally commends him with the Lord's blessing (vv. 31-37). David advanced toward Goliath with just five stones, a sling shot, and the power of God, and killed Goliath causing the Philistines to scatter and Israel to win the battle (vv. 37-58). *What accounts for David's victory over Goliath when Saul and the rest of Israel were terrified by the giant? Are you facing any giants in your life right now?*

I Samuel 18— David and Jonathan become friends and make a covenant with each other. David marches out to battle and is successful in everything Saul sends him to do. Saul becomes jealous and furious when the women sing, "Saul has killed his thousands and David his tens of thousands." Because of this jealousy, Saul tried to kill David twice with a spear. Since the Lord was with David and he was successful in leading his troops into battle, Saul became even more jealous and fearful. Since Saul's daughter Michal loved David, Saul said that David could marry her if he would kill 100 Philistines. After killing 200 Philistines, Michal was given to David as a wife, but Saul became even more afraid of David. *In this chapter Saul becomes jealous of David. Why are jealousy and envy wrong, and what are the consequences of allowing it to control you? EXTRA: Why did David and Jonathan have a great friendship? What do you think are the elements of a good friendship?*

I Samuel 19— Jonathan tried to reason with his father saying that he should not be angry with David since he has been good to Saul, and has brought victory to Israel. At this time Saul listened to Jonathan, and David served with Saul as before. When David led his troops against the Philistines, he and his men rejoiced in a resounding victory as the enemy fled before them. Then, an evil spirit again controls Saul and he throws a spear at David. Saul sends agents to David's house but his wife Michal helps him escape. David finds refuge with Samuel in Ramah. Saul sends three different sets of his agents to seize David, but each time they end up prophesying, as Saul also does when he tries to go and find out why they are not bringing David back. *Saul and his messengers go to Ramah and prophesy. Are special religious manifestations always a sign that a person is saved? See Matthew 7:21-23.*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups- c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible, c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible, c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion, c. 2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc., Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible, c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Halley's Bible Handbook, c. 2000, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Understanding the Bible c. 2000 Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Homan Bible Handbook, c. 1992 Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 13. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014 Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL.

Psalm 75, I Samuel 20-25 (#55) Revised 2022

Psalm 75 — Our Righteous Judge and our proper response are seen in this psalm. *What actions does God warn us against?*

I Samuel 20— David flees from Ramah and returns to Jonathan in order to convince him that his father wants to kill him. Jonathan and David renew their covenant of everlasting friendship to each other and a commitment to care for each other's descendants if one dies (vv. 1-17). They devise a plan to test and see if Saul really wants to kill David. After David was missing for two days during the feast of the New Moon, Saul becomes enraged with Jonathan for letting David get away and throws a spear at him (vv. 18-34). Jonathan and David meet in the field with the realization that David must flee to save his life. Before they depart, they once again pledge themselves to mutual friendship and to care for the surviving person's offspring (vv. 35-42). *Why do you think Jonathan was so slow to catch on to Saul's real intent with regard to David? How good are you at reading the real motives in the actions of other people? How does this fit with I Corinthians 13:7, "Love...believes all things, hopes all things" and Matthew 7:1, "Judge not lest you be judged"?*

I Samuel 21— David flees from Saul and first goes to Ahimelech, the high priest to get help. David deceives Ahimelech and receives the bread of the presence to eat and Goliath's sword, but Doeg the Edomite saw and heard everything which would latter cost the lives of many innocent people (vv. 1-9). David now decides to flee Israel and finds refuge in Gath, which is in Philistine territory. When King Achish discovers David's true identity, David feigns madness to escape (vv. 10-15). *Was David justified in lying to Ahimelech, and was Ahimelech justified in giving the consecrated bread to David? See also Exodus 1:19-20 and Luke 6:3-4*

I Samuel 22— David flees to the cave of Adullam, being joined by his family and 400 other men and leaving his parents with the king of Moab for safe keeping. As Saul grows more paranoid, he finds out that Ahimelech the priest gave help to David and accuses him of conspiring with David. Saul orders the death of all the priests, but only Doeg the Edomite is willing to put them to death. The only priest to escape is Abiathar, the son of Ahimelech, who finds David and is encouraged to stay with him. *Contrast the leadership of David and Saul in this chapter? How did they motivate their men? See verse 1-3 and 7-8.*

I Samuel 23— David inquires of the Lord three times to make sure he was in the center of God's will. David and his men save the city of Keilah, and then flee from there to keep from being attacked by Saul (vv. 1-14). Jonathan comes to David in order to encourage him, and then they reestablish their covenant with each other (vv. 15-18). The Ziphites betray David and tell Saul that he is hiding among the strongholds in Horesh. Saul was closing in on David when word came that the Philistines were invading Israel, thus causing Saul to break off his pursuit of David (vv. 19-29). *Read the verses in which David inquired of the Lord. See 23:1-6, 9-12. What do these verses say about David and his relationship with the Lord? What do they say about God? See verses 10-12.*

I Samuel 24— Saul and 3000 choice men pursue David in the wilderness of En-gedi. While searching for David and his men, Saul makes a stop at a cave to relieve himself. This is the very cave that David and his men are hiding. David cuts off a corner of Saul's robe while he is resting but doesn't kill him, because he was the Lord's anointed king. After the king left the cave, David called out to Saul showing him the part of the robe he had cut off, thus making it clear he had no intent to harm him. Saul then wept aloud, and admitted his sin against David, and thanked him for not paying him back for the evil he tried to do to him. *1. Was David's decision not to kill Saul a wise decision? Why or why not? See Psalm 37:5-7.*

I Samuel 25— Samuel dies and all Israel mourns for their loss remembering his godly leadership and example. David and his 600 men are in Carmel helping to protect the sheep and goats of Nabal, who was very rich. When David's ten young men ask Nabal for provisions to celebrate a feast day, they are rebuffed with contempt, and David is put down as a mere runaway slave from his master. David reacts with extreme anger at the unjust treatment and takes up his sword, and rounds up his men to take vengeance on Nabal and all the men that work with him. Upon hearing from her men about what Nabal said and knowing of the trouble that was coming, Abigail hurriedly prepares food for David and his men, and then with her servants, runs off to meet David. After showing appreciation to David for what he had done for them and presenting food to them, Abigail pleaded with David not to take vengeance into his own hands and shed innocent blood. David thanks her for showing discernment and keeping him from avenging himself, realizing he would have shed blood for no just reason. After the Lord slays Nabal, David asks Abigail to become his wife and she agrees. *What scriptural principle did David follow by not killing Saul or Nabal? See Romans 12:17-21.*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups- c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible, c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible, c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion, c. 2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc., Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible, c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Halley's Bible Handbook, c. 2000, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Understanding the Bible c. 2000 Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Homan Bible Handbook, c. 1992 Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 13. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014 Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL.

Psalm 76, I Samuel 26-31 (#56) Revised 2022

Psalm 76 — Commonly considered a psalm of gratitude for protection from Assyria, Psalm 76 praises God for His victory, magnificence, and sovereignty. *Consider 2 Kings 19:14-19 & 32-35. In their shoes, how would this victory make you feel?*

I Samuel 26— Saul again is told by the Ziphites that David and his men are in the wilderness of Ziph, and so he takes his 3000 men to look for him. Upon finding out where Saul is through his spies, David and Abishai go at night to the camp of Saul where they find them sleeping, because the Lord caused them to fall into a deep sleep. Abishai interpreted the event as an opportunity from God to once and for all get rid of Saul, but again David would not touch the Lord's anointed. David took Saul's spear and water jug and crossed to the other side of the mountain to confront Saul from a distance. David scolds Abner for not protecting the king and reveals to Saul that he has his spear and water jug. Saul admits his sin, thanking David for once again sparing his life and then admitting that David will do great things and prevail. *What relationship was Abishai to David, and how did he rank as a warrior in David's army? See I Chronicles 2:12-15 and II Samuel 23.18-19. EXTRA: During all the years of fleeing from Saul, God protected David and did not allow Saul to touch him. If we are obedient children of the Most High King, can we also claim protection and safety from the Lord? What promises from scripture can you cite to show this?*

I Samuel 27— After God's magnificent protection of David, he is overcome with fear and flees to the land of the Philistines. First living in Gath, David asks Achish for a place in an outlying town and is given Ziklag. From Ziklag he and his men attacked the people that the Israelites had failed to exterminate which were south of Judah toward the land of Egypt. When David returned from a raid, he would lie to Achish and say he had attacked the south country of Judah, making Achish think that David would become detestable to the people of Judah. *Was David out of God's will by moving to the land of the Philistines? Why or why not? Was he justified in lying and deceiving Achish?*

I Samuel 28— The Philistines bring all their military units together at Shunem to fight against Saul and his army, and Achish expects David and his men to go with him. Now the scene shifts from David to Saul who had previously removed the mediums and spiritists from Israel. Saul is very afraid and inquired of the Lord in every way possible, but the Lord was silent. Saul asks his men to find a medium to bring up Samuel from the dead to consult with him about this battle. The witch of En-dor is wary of a trap, but Saul assures her by name of Yahweh that nothing bad will happen to her. The woman is shocked when Samuel actually appears, and Samuel tells Saul that he and sons would die in the battle the next day. Saul is terrified and weak, but the woman and Saul's men urge him to eat. *Why did Saul decide go to a medium/spiritist to find out God's will? In what ways did God speak to Israel at that time? EXTRA: Did the witch of En-dor actually bring up Samuel from the dead?*

I Samuel 29— As the Philistine's military units gather together at Aphek, their leaders pass in review all the soldiers, including Achish with David and his men behind him. The Philistine commanders were enraged with Achish for bringing David, and so David and his men were sent back to Ziklag. *How did God protect David and his men in this chapter?*

I Samuel 30— Upon being rejected by the Philistine commanders, David and his men return to Ziklag to find the city burned and all their families and possessions taken by the Amalekites. In great agony, David's men threaten to stone him, but he gets his strength from the Lord. David seeks the Lord's direction through the priest Abiathar and is told that if he pursues the Amalekites he will be successful. Through the help an Egyptian slave, David finds the Amalekite camp and slaughters them, recovering all their family members, possessions, and then some. David shares part of the booty with the 200 men who stayed behind, as well as friends and elders in Judah. *What are the wise and godly actions we see in David that also serve us an example in this chapter? EXTRA: What policy did David establish in verses 21-25? How does this apply today to the local church and Christian work?*

I Samuel 31— As we come to the end of King Saul’s life, his own words about himself ring in our ears, “I have played the fool and erred exceedingly (NKJV-26:21b).” Three of Saul’s sons (including Jonathan) are killed by the Philistines in battle. Fearful of torture, the wounded Saul fell on his own sword and died. Remembering how Saul had rescued them from the Ammonites, the men of Jabesh-gilead traveled all night, and retrieved the bodies of Saul and his sons, and gave them a proper burial. *Saul and his armor-bearer committed suicide. Is suicide the “unpardonable sin”? Why is mercy killing or euthanasia of human beings wrong?*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups- c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible, c. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible, c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion, c. 2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc., Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible, c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Halley’s Bible Handbook, c. 2000, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Understanding the Bible c. 2000 Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Homan Bible Handbook, c. 1992 Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 13. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014 Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL.