



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Greatness – Trusting God (1 Samuel 16-18)

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*Life reveals many spectators, seemingly few bold participants. Helen Keller rose from life as a deaf and blind child to fame as an international speaker and author. She said, “Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.” You are reading these notes as a participant in life. How are you stepping out?*

### INTRODUCTION

A teen-aged woman in Judea, named Mary, was surprised when the angel Gabriel greeted her (Luke 1:28). The angel commended Mary for growing in favor with God and announced that she would be used mightily in God’s plan of salvation.

An orphan girl in Persia, named Esther, was mentored by her uncle Mordecai, an official in the royal court. She grew in favor with the King (Ahasuerus) and his staff, showed courage, and was later chosen as queen.

A teen-aged shepherd boy in Bethlehem, named David, was faithful in tending his fathers’ sheep. The prophet Samuel was sent by God to call David out of the field and anoint him as the next King of Israel. **How are you gaining favor of God and of the people?**

### ANOINTED

*1 Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. (NKJV)*

God had set David apart for leadership in Israel. He was given a boost in faith and understanding, then left in the field another five years to mature. **Might God be leaving you in place to grow a little more?**

### PREPARED

*Samuel 16:14 Then the Spirit of the LORD departed Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. (NKJV)*

God added His Spirit to young David and subtracted it from King Saul due to his disobedience. Satan was allowed to give Saul fits of depression, anger, and delusion. Saul’s servants suggested he find a musician to soothe his spirit, one who had the Spirit of God. David was called and attended to Saul, learning the ways of royalty. **Has God set you up for what’s next?**

### GIANTS

*1 Samuel 17:4-5 Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor. (NASB)*

The armies of Israel and Philistine were camped outside of Bethlehem on the edge of two mountains with a valley between them. A ten-foot-tall warrior was stepping out two times a day to challenge any Israeli soldier to a hand-to-hand contest for control over their nations. Young David was taunted for stepping up, but he counted on the Lord’s provision. David said to King Saul, **“Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its hair, and struck and killed it”** (1 Samuel 17:34-35). He took down the Giant with a shepherd’s slingshot. **What giants are you facing in your own strength?**

### SOULMATES

*1 Samuel 18:2-4 Saul took him that day and would not let him go home to his father’s house anymore. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt. (NKJV)*

Jonathan was Saul’s oldest son and heir to the throne. Yet he befriended David, giving him the robe, a symbol of royalty, and his weapons, symbols of power. Later David came to Jonathan and reported that King Saul, in a jealous rage, attempted to kill him. Jonathan told David, **“Whatever you say, I will do for you”** (1 Samuel 20:4). **Do you have one or more close friends who are committed to you, perhaps for life?**

### A PRAYER

Almighty God: Please help me to step out in faith. Give me courage and direction. Please continue to open doors of opportunity. Strengthen me for the walk. Bring one more precious friend into my life and help me to be a friend. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen!