



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Greatness – Knowing God's Will (1 Samuel 21:2)

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Leaders have a heavy responsibility. Decisions often must be made with little lead time or opportunity to collect input. Poor choices can ruin careers as well as wreaking havoc on the lives of many others. The Holy Bible reveals five thousand years of experience where selected leaders' decisions were evaluated by God. This study reviews the acts of a few of those leaders and God's subtle or profound hand in the results. How often do you study God's rule book?

INTRODUCTION

God directed the Prophet Samuel to anoint a teen-aged shepherd boy named David as the next King (1 Samuel 16:11-13). Over the next fifteen years, God shaped the boy as he grew in stature and gained the experience, he would need to rule a great nation. Israel's King David, though flawed, was acclaimed by God as a favored leader (1 Kings 14:8). **How is God shaping you to be great?**

A FOLLOWING

1 Samuel 22:1-2 So David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam; and his brothers and all his father's household heard of it, they went down there to him. Everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him; and he became captain over them. Now there were about four hundred men with him. (NASB)

Our previous study highlighted young David's victory over Goliath, his invitation to be an aid to King Saul, his leadership in the army of Israel, and his need to flee from the jealous king. David and his band of rebels learned to trust God as they moved throughout the wilderness evading King Saul and his army of over 3,000 skilled warriors. **Do you have faithful followers?**

TEMPTATIONS

Samuel 26:12-13 So David took the spear and the water jug by Saul's head, and they went their way. No one saw them, no one knew, and no one woke up; they all remained asleep because a deep sleep from the LORD came over them. David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the mountain at a distance. (CSB)

The LORD had enabled David and his band to evade Saul over the years. Saul heard that David was then hiding in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul came and his army was camped at the foot of the hill of Hachilah. David and one of his warriors, Abishai, crept into the camp and found Saul asleep in the circle of soldiers. Abishai tried to convince David that this was his opportunity to end the threat and take the throne of Israel. David insisted that Saul's life was in God's hands. At daybreak, David called out to Saul from the hilltop and displayed the spear and water jug taken from Saul's campsite. Saul pleaded with David for forgiveness and left with his army. **Have you passed or failed the tests of shortcuts or impulsive action?**

ACCOUNTABILITY

1 Samuel 25:30-31 When the LORD your God does for my lord all the good, He promised and appoints you ruler over Israel, there will not be remorse or a troubled conscience for my lord because of needless bloodshed or my lord's revenge. And when the LORD does good things for my lord, may you remember (me) your servant. (CSB)

David and his army, now numbering over 600, had been a shield of protection in the region against roving bands and military units of neighboring Philistia. David's camp was in Carmel, near the large herds of Nabal, a wealthy rancher. At harvest time, David sent ten of his young men to ask Nabal for some of his surplus in recognition of their yearlong protection. Nabal responded with curses and slander of David. When this was reported to David, he gathered his men and marched to the rancher's estate. Nabal's wife, Abigail, heard of this and met the army, bringing them several donkey-loads of food supplies. Abigail's passionate apology touched the heart of David. Nabal heard of this near disaster and died of a stroke. David later asked Abigail to marry him. **Have you profited from listening to advice from others?**

A PRAYER

Almighty God: Please help me to understand Your word and Your ways so that I will have more discernment and wisdom in life. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen!