

# GOD'S WORK FOR DAVID

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David the son of Jesses was a man after God's own heart, who fulfilled all of God's will (1 Sam 13:14; Acts 13:22). In fact, God testified that "David did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite" (1 Kgs 15:5). He became a servant of King Saul, and the most righteous and faithful servant that Saul had. In 1 Samuel 22:14, Ahimelech the high priest said to Saul concerning David, "And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?" Ahimelech asked Saul this question in an attempt to cause Saul to examine why he was determined to destroy David. Saul's problem was envy. But God was going to work all of Saul's evil for the good of righteous David.

## **Who can stand before envy?**

Saul was moved with envy against David because of the honor David gained from the people. Saul loved and desired the honor of the people above all things. This was the weakness in his heart that caused him to fall into sin by offering a sacrifice that he was not authorized by God to make (1 Sam 13:8-12). It also caused him to disobey God's command to utterly destroy the Amalekites (1 Sam 15:13-30). Envy is one of Satan's most powerful and destructive weapons (Prov 27:4; Rom 1:29-32; 13:13-14; 1 Cor 3:3; 2 Cor 12:20-21; Gal 5:19-21,26; 1 Tim 6:3-5; Titus 3:3-5; Jas 3:13-18; 1 Pet 2:1-3). Envy moved Joseph's brothers against him (Gen 37:11; Acts 7:9). Envy moved the men of Ephraim against Jephthah (Judg 12:1-3). Envy was Satan's tool behind the betrayal and crucifixion of God's Son Jesus Christ (Matt 27:18; Mark 15:10). Paul was persecuted because of envy (Acts 13:45; 14:19; Acts 17:5-10). "And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten

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(continued)

thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice. And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul" (1 Sam 18:6-12).

## **If God be for us, who can be against us?**

God never forsakes His faithful children (Deut 31:6; 1 Chr 28:9; 2 Chr 15:2; Heb 13:5-6). God promises "that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom 8:28), and God is the one who does all that working (Eph 1:11). It was God's purpose to make David the king of Israel (1 Sam 13:14; 15:28; 16:1-13). When Saul turned against David, Saul "removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand" (1 Sam 18:13), but David walked wisely and faithfully served the one who had become his enemy. David "went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely" (1 Sam 18:5). "David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him" (1 Sam 18:14). God was with David, working this situation for David's good. When Saul removed David from before him and made him a captain, then David "went out and came in before the people" (1 Sam 18:13). The result of this was that "all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them" (1 Sam 18:16), and David "was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants" (1 Sam 18:5). "David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by" (1 Sam 18:30). This made Saul fear David: "Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him" (1 Sam 18:15). God worked Saul's turning against David to pave the way for David to be known and loved by the whole nation of Israel, which eventually led to their accepting him and following him as their king (2 Sam 5:1-4; 1 Chr 11:1-3).