

# Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

## David Spares Saul Again

- The Ziphites decided once again to approach Saul and rat out David [1 Sam 26:1].
- Even after having legitimate regret for pursuing David [1 Sam 24:16-17], Saul decided to go after David again [1 Sam 26:2].
- As he had done before, David sent out spies to verify that Saul was after him [1 Sam 26:3-4].
- Even though he had good intel that Saul was the one pursuing him, David decided to go observe him personally [1 Sam 26:5].
  - Saul was sleeping in the camp next to Abner.
  - Abner was Saul's commanding general and was also his uncle [1 Sam 14:50].
  - Abner had been beside Saul at the battle of Elah [1 Sam 17:55-57].
  - Abner was an honored participant at Saul's table [1 Sam 20:25].
  - In our study we shall see that when Abner dies David shows him great respect [2 Sam 3:37-38].
- David and one of his men (Abishai) went down into Saul's camp and took his spear and water jug [1 Sam 26:6-12].
  - David offered two of his men the opportunity to go with him into Saul's camp.
    - ✦ Ahimelech the Hittite – only mentioned here.
    - ✦ Abishai – mentioned many more times [2 Sam 16:9; 19:21; 21:17; 23:18; 1 Chr 18:12-13].
  - Saul and his men did not awaken because the Lord had put them under supernatural sleep.
  - Abishai gave into temptation and asked David for permission to kill Saul.
  - David taught Abishai a Bible lesson.
- After moving away from the camp David rebuked Abner [1 Sam 26:13-16].
  - The air/terrain in this area allowed for people to speak to one another from quite a distance away.
  - David did not speak directly to Saul here, but did once Saul addressed him [vv. 17-20].
  - David displayed the spear and jug to show his innocence (as well as Abner's negligence).
- Once Saul addressed David he confronted Saul and defended himself [1 Sam 26:17-20].
  - David started by asking what offense had led Saul to pursue him.
  - David continued his argument by asking if it was men or the Lord behind Saul's actions.
  - David was self-deprecating as he concluded by stating his claim to be unworthy of Saul's pursuit.
- As before, Saul responded with sincere grief and sorrow [1 Sam 26:21-25].
  - Saul admitted that he had made a serious error.
  - David responded by proclaiming his innocence, stating that the Lord will be the judge, and putting his life and success in the hands of the Lord.
  - Saul acknowledged that David was blessed and that he would accomplish much in his life.