

## David In His Rejection and Failing Faith - Part Three

by Charles E. Wigg

### David In His Rejection

As a result of Saul's unjust hatred and jealousy, David had to flee for his life. He was to be disappointed with Jonathan. His professed love was not equal to the test, he was not prepared to stand for righteousness and justice, he was not willing to share David's rejection. From then on to the end of his life, he was to be torn apart, torn between two loyalties. His love for Saul his father, and his love for David. This is a warning to us because it is "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him" (2 Tim. 2:12.)

We are called to share the reproaches and the rejection of Christ. We are not to marvel if the world hates us (Jn. 15:18) "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you" (Jn. 15:18); "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you" (1 Jn. 3:13). How often like Jonathan we prefer the comfort and security the friendship with the world offers, to the danger, the risk of sharing the Lord's rejection by this world. Let us be warned, lest we too be denied a place in the coming kingdom of our rejected Master. The reward of faithfulness is not a place in heaven, we could never earn or deserve such a place. But it is a place of prominence in the Millennial kingdom of Christ.

As he fled from Saul, David first fled to Naioth in Ramah to Samuel (1 Sam. 19:18). It is obvious that he could not understand Saul's actions, or why things had turned out like this. So he consulted the wisdom and counsel of the Man of God. God intervened, when it seemed that Saul would take David, and put an end to his life. The Spirit of God came upon Saul, and he prophesied. Under this compulsion he removed his clothes and laid down all night. Such behavior was grossly improper for the King of Israel. We are not to think that this action of the Spirit of God was normal. It was to prevent Saul from succeeding in his murderous intent.

This intervention of God, made the opportunity for David to escape so he went to Jonathan.

He could not understand Saul's actions, there was no cause for him to be seized with jealousy. He was hated without a cause. Finally it was made clear beyond any doubt, what Saul's intentions were. If Jonathan was not willing to share David's rejection, then they must part. Their parting was so sad, they wept on each other, but David exceeded, because his love was the greater. Jonathan went back into the city, and David went away into rejection.

David called on the High Priest at the tabernacle, which was then at Nob. Though David resorted to untruths, yet God provided for him and his great immediate need. The High Priest gave him two things. The show-bread, which spoke of the saints as God saw them in their beauty and divine order. What better food could there be than this for a desperate man who was unjustly driven out from his inheritance? Perhaps this view of God's people would keep him from entertaining feelings of bitterness towards them. The second thing Ahimelech gave him was the sword of Goliath. David said of that sword "There is none like it". He had used it once before, to remove the head of Goliath. It would remind him of God's enabling and protection, in answer to David's simple faith. God had not changed, David could safely trust Him still, whatever lay before him.

### David's Faith Fails

Because of his inexperience David lost sight for the moment of what God had done, and hence promised to him in anointing king over Israel. He went down to the Philistines, to Achish king of Gath, to the very place that Goliath had come from. He had walked into a trap, and his action was madness. However he was humble enough to realise this, and acted like a madman, this was to mean salvation to him, and he was able to escape. As the result of this experience he wrote Psalm 34, which has been a comfort to the people of God in trying circumstances, for about three millenniums. He realised that he had made a great mistake, and must cast himself on the mercy of God.

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He escaped from there to the cave of Adullam, the place of rejection. The first to come to him were his brethren and all his father's house. Because of their relationship to David, their lives were under threat also. David took them to Moab, and God inclined the heart of the king to give them shelter.

The news of David's rejection, and the murderous intentions of Saul, must have spread amongst the people. As the result David became a centre of attraction, four hundred men gathered to him. These were willing to share his rejection, but they were a strange company, and are a clear picture of those who come to Christ today, that are willing to share His rejection.

Those in distress: there are many such today, but deliverance from distress, comes to all who commit their lives to Jesus Christ. He gives comfort to the distressed, rest to those that are weary and heavy laden. Those in debt: We gladly admit that we were all bankrupt sinners. We owed a great debt to God, a debt which we were unable to pay. But when we admitted our debt and our guilt, the Lord Jesus freely forgave us our debt. (Lu. 7:41-42). Blessed be His holy name!

He became a captain over them: he became their leader and their lord. David was able to unite that rag tag bunch of malcontents into mighty fighting force. Our blessed Lord Jesus has accepted us from all kinds of backgrounds, and united His people together, so that they have been able to cover the world with the message of the gospel. Daily there are many who repent of their sins, put their faith in Christ, and are then added to the band of those who own the Lordship of Christ, and become soldiers in His band.