

## Episode 5: God of Swords

The episode starts one year after the fall of Goliath. The Philistines are attacking the outer territories of Israel. Over that year David has become a fierce warrior which is shown when he defends the Israel camp that is ambushed. The Israelites notice that the Philistines swords are stronger and superior to theirs. They take the swords of the fallen Philistines. David realizes they are just like Goliath's sword, made of iron.

Abner and Jonathan discuss retrieving Goliath's sword from Nob so they can find someone to replicate it for them. However, while in Nob, Abner notices that Goliath's sword says "God of Swords" which is the creator of the sword's name; so, they decide to look for him.

Meanwhile, David and the soldiers head back to the kingdom and Saul hears the people cheering. Read the scripture below and circle the numbers in this passage.

**1 Samuel 18:7 (ESV)** – *And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands."*

Saul doesn't seem too happy to hear the people chanting this. He was a very successful warrior too, but David overshadowed him. Have you ever been in a situation where someone did something better than you? How did it make you feel? How did you get past it and eventually become happy for that person?

Another difficult situation is Merab and David's wedding. Merab talks to David about wanting to plan the wedding and set a date. He agrees to set a date, which Merab then

## Bible Reference

In the beginning of the episode, David is writing poetry. He states scripture from two different psalms that end up in the Old Testament bible. See below:

**Psalm 92: 12-13 (ESV)** – <sup>12</sup> *The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.* <sup>13</sup> *They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.*

**Psalm 41:11 (ESV)** – *By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout triumph over me.*

### DID YOU KNOW??

David wrote many of the Psalms in the bible. He enjoyed poetry and music. He not only was a warrior but was very in tune with the arts and in touch with his emotions.

flaunts in Michal's face at the dinner table. The drama between these two is never-ending!

David finds Michal in the night and shares a poem he wrote with her. The poem is Psalm 23.

**Psalm 23:1-6 (ESV)** – <sup>1</sup> *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.* <sup>2</sup> *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.* <sup>3</sup> *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.* <sup>4</sup> *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.* <sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.* <sup>6</sup> *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

This is a well-known Psalm, probably one of the most popular. Given what we know about David through the show, read Psalm 23 and answer the following questions. You will see characteristics of David in the Psalm.

1. In verse 1, circle what David's responsibility/job was before he was anointed?
2. In verse 5, underline who is at the table with David. Who does this remind you of?
3. In verse 5, put a star next to what Samuel did to David's head.
4. In verse 6, circle the attributes David has displayed in the show?

Have you noticed how calm David is in the show? He trusts in the Lord and is at peace. The verses in Psalm 23 are great to memorize or say in times of feeling a lot of anxiety or anxiousness.

**Psalm 23:1 (ESV)** - <sup>1</sup> *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.* All that you need is God. He will provide for you, so you want for nothing. The next time you are anxious because you are not sure of something, know all you need is Jesus.

**Psalm 23:2-3 (ESV)** - <sup>2</sup> *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.* <sup>3</sup> *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.* Jesus brings us peace. What can you do to bring more peace into your life?

**Psalm 23:4 (ESV)** - <sup>4</sup> *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.* You don't have to fear because God is with you. How does knowing that God is with you bring you comfort?

**Psalm 23:5 (ESV)** - <sup>5</sup> *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.* We don't need to fear when we are in the presence of our enemies either. God is with us.

**Psalm 23:5 (ESV)** - <sup>6</sup> *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.* Where is the house of the Lord? How does knowing you will dwell with the Lord forever give you comfort as you tackle the daily struggles of life?

On the journey to find the God of Swords, Abner, Jonathan, David, Eliab, Uriah, Oaz and others head to Ender. Ender is a city of criminals, gambling, evil and magic. They find the man known as God of Swords, but in the process get themselves captured by a witch. None of this is in scripture, but the fact that the witch is scared of David shows that God is with him. The witch tells Jonathan that he will have a short life and not grow into his inheritance as king. She also tells Eliab that he is battling guilt over the family he killed. By the time the witch gets to David, she knows he is special. He has God with him, which scares her, so she lets them all go. However, this encounter has affected them.

Jonathan, knowing that David is anointed and he will not be king and now the knowledge he will live a short life, decides to embrace love. He goes right to Sara and professes his love for her. He wants to be with her and takes her into his arms and kisses her. If you knew your life was going to end soon, what would you do?

In reality, no one knows when they will die, but we should live our lives to the fullest and as if it is our last day. King Solomon said in **Ecclesiastes 9:9 (ESV)** – *Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.* So, live each day of your life as if it is your last!

Eliab talks to his brother, Abinadab, because Eliab has been treating David so poorly. Abinadab is also shocked to hear what the witch said about Eliab. They end up discussing how Eliab was always the hero of the family. Now David is the hero because God made him the hero. Has there been a

time that you needed to step aside and let others shine? (This could even be a time when you had to let your children do things on their own so they could learn a lesson/ independence.) What steps do you need to take to let others shine?

At the end of the episode, David goes to Saul and has another conversation with him about his upcoming marriage to Merab. Part of what he says is from scripture (see below). But the part that is not stated in scripture is when David tells Saul that he will not marry Merab. He tells Saul to do what he must, but he will not marry her.

**1 Samuel 18:17-18 (ESV)** – <sup>17</sup> Then Saul said to David, “Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the Lord’s battles.” For Saul thought, “Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him.” <sup>18</sup> And David said to Saul, “Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father’s clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?”

As the episode closes, we aren’t sure how Saul is going to take David’s directness. Will he force David to marry Merab? Will he finally respect David and Michal’s wishes to be married? Or will he create some sort of impossible obstacle so David cannot get his wish? Let’s find out next week!

---

*Did you catch the name of the God of Swords’ daughter? It is Bathsheba. Although this relationship is not in scripture, I have a feeling we are going to be introduced to Bathsheba soon. She is mentioned in 2 Samuel 11:2-5.*

---