



How To See God's Works In Difficult Times
King David (Part 4) - Adversity
Sunday Sermon, September 27, 2026

We focus on the third phase of the life of David, as recorded for us in 1 Samuel chapters 19-31.

This is approximately a 10-year period in David's life when he must have been 20-30 years of age.

Last Sunday, we looked at this phase of his life, from the GROWTH perspective. How David continued to grow as a person, during this very difficult 10 years.

Today we look at the adversity – the challenges David had to go through and point out to us that God was at work even during this very difficult time of David's life.

We want to encourage our faith – to know that God is at work even during the difficult times of our lives. We must look to see how God is at work during the challenging times.

ADVERSITY

AN ENEMY FOR THE WRONG REASONS

King Saul became extremely jealous and fearful of David. He engaged in pursuit of David, sending soldiers out to find David and to kill him. Saul repeatedly tried to kill David, who fled and lived as a fugitive for these 10 years. He became David's enemy for all the wrong reasons.

Saul disobeyed God and he opened the door to a distressing (troubling) spirit that drove him to rage, anger and murder. (1 Samuel 18:8-16, 1 Samuel chapters 19-27).

Saul went to the extent of killing all the priests of the Lord, simply because Ahimelech the priest, helped David with food and a sword. (1 Samuel 21).

Saul was so far gone from God, that God refused to speak to him (1 Samuel 28:6) and Saul resorted to consulting a medium (1 Samuel 28:7-25).

Yet as we look at what was happening in David's life during these 10 years we see that God was working wonderfully in his life. Here are some highlights – and things we could look for in our own lives when we go through challenging times.

#1, RECOGNIZE THE PEOPLE GOD IS POSITIONING AROUND YOU

Jonathan, son of king Saul becomes a covenant friend to David and helps David run for his life and even helps David while he is living as a fugitive in the wilderness of Ziph (1 Samuel 19, 20; 23:14-18). Jonathan reminded David that God has spoken that David would be king: "Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God." (1 Samuel 23:16)



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Develop meaningful relationships even during challenging times.

The loyalty of true friendships is worth more than anything else. True friends stay with you, when all else fails. (Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 18:24; Proverbs 27:10).

Abiathar the priest went to David to be in safety. David assured to protect him. The important thing was Abiathar brought with him the priest's ephod. The ephod was a priestly garment worn by the high priest. Exodus 28 describes the ephod and, importantly, the breastpiece of judgment attached to it. The breastpiece contained the Urim and Thummim, through which the priest could make inquiries of God. So, each time David needed direction from God and wanted to inquire from God, he called for Abiathar the priest who then would have used the ephod in order to inquire of the LORD on David's behalf. (1 Samuel 23:9; 1 Samuel 30:7)

People whom God sends into your life during difficult times could be instrumental in helping you discern God's direction for your life.

#2, RECOGNIZE REMINDERS OF PAST VICTORIES

Goliath's sword **1 Samuel 21:8-9** – when David was running for his life and went to Ahimelech, the priest, at Nob, David has no weapons. At this time, the priest handed him Goliath's sword. Try to imagine what David must have experienced at that moment...running for his life, yet reminded of what the Lord had helped him do, in killing Goliath!

Reminders of the prophetic word through Abigail, Nabal's wife **1 Samuel 25:28-31**. At another occasion, Abigail reminds David of what the Lord did through David in the past when he fought the Lord's battles, and how all Israel respected David. This again must have been a powerful encouragement to David, to be reminded of what the Lord had done.

Recognize reminders of what God has done in your life. These are God's divine assurances that He is still at work in your life.

#3, RECOGNIZE HOW GOD IS BUILDING YOUR FUTURE EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING IS BEING STRIPPED AWAY

The 400 men who came to David at the cave of Adullam when they were discouraged, discontented and in debt, eventually became David's mighty men. (1 Samuel 22:1-2; 2 Samuel 23:8-22). God was setting things up for David and these men – even while David was on the run as a fugitive!



Recognize that God is putting things in place for a great future, even in the midst of adversity.

#4, RECOGNIZE GOD'S PROTECTION FROM HASTY ACTION

In **1 Samuel 25** we read about an incident where David was ready to kill a rich man Nabal simply because he felt that Nabal did not appreciate David and his men for protecting Nabal's shepherds while they kept their sheep. David was close to doing this when Abigail, Nabal's wife intervened. This was indeed, God protecting David from hasty action, something he would have regretted later on.

Recognize how God is guiding you, protecting and establishing your steps and keeping you from mistakes, as you journey through difficult times.

#5, RECOGNIZE GOD HELPING YOU RECOVER ALL AND MORE!

The story of David recovering all that has been taken away by the Amalekites from Ziklag is inspiring. **1 Samuel 30:1-8,18-19**

Just as David recovered everything, You will recover all and more

Strengthen yourself in God.

Seek strategies from God.

Success will be given by God.

Recognize the victories and success God gives you during your season of adversity.

THE CORE "ADVERSITY" PSALMS OF DAVID:

David's years as a fugitive under Saul, the formation of his mighty men, his refusal to kill Saul, and his strengthening himself in God. This is the phase for which we have the strongest historical evidence. These historical connections are especially well established in the Psalm superscriptions and are summarized in historical-Psalm studies. Several Psalms actually have superscriptions identifying the circumstances.

Psalm 7: This Psalm is often connected with David's persecution during Saul's reign.

Psalm 34: David's deliverance after pretending madness before Abimelech/king of Gath. (1 Samuel 21:10–15)

Psalm 52: Doeg the Edomite informing Saul about David's visit to Ahimelech. (1 Samuel 22:9–19)

Psalm 54: The Ziphites informing Saul about David. (1 Samuel 23:19)



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Psalm 56: David in Gath when the Philistines seized him. (1 Samuel 21:10–11)

Psalm 57: David fleeing from Saul into the cave. (1 Samuel 22:1 / 24:3)

Psalm 59: Saul sending men to watch David's house and kill him. (1 Samuel 19:11)

Psalm 63: David in the wilderness of Judah. This is commonly associated with David's wilderness experience, although the exact period is debated.

Psalm 142: David's prayer while in the cave. Often associated with the Adullam period.

OTHER PROBABLE ADVERSITY PSALMS OF DAVID:

Psalm 31, 64, 69, 70, 86, 109, 140, 141, 143

SUMMARY

In our seasons of adversity/challenges/difficulties we must remember that God is still on our side and is at work in our lives. Learn to recognize what God is doing.

#1, RECOGNIZE THE PEOPLE GOD IS POSITIONING AROUND YOU. People whom God sends into your life during difficult times could be instrumental in helping you discern God's direction for your life.

#2, RECOGNIZE REMINDERS OF PAST VICTORIES. Recognize reminders of what God has done in your life. These are God's divine assurances that He is still at work in your life.

#3, RECOGNIZE HOW GOD IS BUILDING YOUR FUTURE EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING IS BEING STRIPPED AWAY. Recognize that God is putting things in place for a great future, even in the midst of adversity.

#4, RECOGNIZE GOD'S PROTECTION FROM HASTY ACTION. Recognize how God is guiding you, protecting and establishing your steps and keeping you from mistakes, as you journey through difficult times.

#5, RECOGNIZE GOD HELPING YOU RECOVER ALL AND MORE! Recognize the victories and success God gives you during your season of adversity.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads





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LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE



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There is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *1 Samuel 30*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Q1, Reflect on how God was at work in David's life even during this season of adversity. Consider what was highlighted in the sermon. What else can you add to this from David's life:

#1, RECOGNIZE THE PEOPLE GOD IS POSITIONING AROUND YOU. People whom God sends into your life during difficult times could be instrumental in helping you discern God's direction for your life.



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#2, RECOGNIZE REMINDERS OF PAST VICTORIES. Recognize reminders of what God has done in your life. These are God's divine assurances that He is still at work in your life.

#3, RECOGNIZE HOW GOD IS BUILDING YOUR FUTURE EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING IS BEING STRIPPED AWAY. Recognize that God is putting things in place for a great future, even in the midst of adversity.

#4, RECOGNIZE GOD'S PROTECTION FROM HASTY ACTION. Recognize how God is guiding you, protecting and establishing your steps and keeping you from mistakes, as you journey through difficult times.

#5, RECOGNIZE GOD HELPING YOU RECOVER ALL AND MORE! Recognize the victories and success God gives you during your season of adversity.

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



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Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

BELIEVERS BIBLE COMMENTARY: <https://believersbiblecommentary.com>

SERMON OUTLINE

In our seasons of adversity/challenges/difficulties we must remember that God is still on our side and is at work in our lives. Learn to recognize what God is doing. Examining the life of David as recorded in 1 Samuel chapters 19-31, we highlight:

1, Recognize the people God is positioning around you. People whom God sends into your life during difficult times could be instrumental in helping you discern God's direction for your life.

2, Recognize reminders of past victories. Recognize reminders of what God has done in your life. These are God's divine assurances that He is still at work in your life.

3, Recognize how God is building your future even when everything is being stripped away. Recognize that God is putting things in place for a great future, even in the midst of adversity.

4, Recognize God's protection from hasty action. Recognize how God is guiding you, protecting and establishing your steps and keeping you from mistakes, as you journey through difficult times.

5, Recognize God helping you recover all and more! Recognize the victories and success God gives you during your season of adversity.

This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon presentation) are free for use in personal



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study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.

KEYWORDS

adversity, life's challenges, difficult times, king david, biographical sketch, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886).

Free Bible software and AI tools are also used as Bible study aids, from time to time.