

David's Heir: Saul's Depression Is Due to Reversionism but Today's Psychotherapists Call It "Bi-Polar Disorder"; Mankind Must Serve One of Two Masters: God or Lucifer; Paul's Retrospective of Saul's Decline & David's Ascendency, Acts 13:21-23; David Was Required to Face Tests to Validate His Anointment; Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Available for \$130/hour; David Performed the Same Service for Free; Biblical Applications of the Word 'Ahav: Love, 1 Sam 16:21

31. The person that suffers from this malady can have rapid mood shifts. There are varying levels of intensity among those who demonstrate these symptoms.
32. 1 Samuel 16 is the passage in which we find Saul exhibiting this condition.
33. In verses 15 and 16 a member of his staff points out that he is suffering from an "evil spirit." This is the depression stage. Then, when David played the lyre, Saul "would become refreshed and be well" (v. 23).
34. The word "refreshed" is the Qal perfect of the verb רָוַחַ (rawach): "to be revived from a troubled mind."
35. The source of Saul's troubled mind is said to be an evil spirit. This is demon influence. Saul is in reversionism and due to poor decisions has bouts of depression.
36. David has been anointed as the next king of Israel while the enduement of the Holy Spirit has been withdrawn from Saul.
37. Saul made a critical mistake that had permanent impact on his life. He was anointed king over Israel. His power was plenipotentiary. He was delegated power from God but God still called the shots.
38. When a person is placed in a position of authority, humility must maintain orientation to that authority.
39. In all things, Jesus Christ is the ultimate authority in life for believers:
Hebrews 2:8 - "All things You [the Father] have subordinated underneath his feet [**Psalm 8:6b**]." For in subordinating all things to Christ, He [the Father] omitted not one thing insubordinate to Him [during the millennial reign]. But now [during the Church Age] we see not yet all things having been subordinated to him [because of the intensified stage of the angelic conflict].
40. The author of Hebrews is writing from the perspective of the dispensation of the Church, but mankind has been subjected to an ongoing battle between two masters.
41. This is a fact Elijah brought to the attention of the prophets of Baal in:
1 Kings 18:21 - "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word.
42. Saul entered into the cosmic system through mental attitude sins that led to overt sins. He disobeyed God's direct orders and in so doing he unwittingly handed over rulership of the Israelites to David.
43. In chapter 10, Samuel anointed Saul king of Israel. To him was delegated the authority to rule but under the guidance of the Lord.
44. With authority comes responsibility. The Israelites wanted a king and God gave them Saul. He then put Saul to the test knowing he would not rule the people with integrity.

45. The anointing included responsibilities toward the spiritual life of Israel and the protection of the people. In 1 Samuel 13:9, Saul performed a sacrifice to the Lord that can only be offered by the Levitical priests.
46. Saul has failed in his duty before the Lord by arrogating to himself the duties of the priesthood. This is a demonstration of disobedience to God's system of worship.
47. Further proof that Saul is not qualified to lead occurred in his assignment to attack the Amalekites in:
1 Samuel 15:3 - "Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."
48. The Amalekites had attacked Israel for years. The behavior patterns of each generation had deteriorated to such a point that the only way to protect Israel was to remove that bloodline from history.
49. Saul did not carry out the entire order. He did destroy all the people, but he allowed their king Agag to live as well as the "best" of the animals (vv. 8-9).
50. These and other failures by Saul demonstrated that he did not have the leadership qualities required to responsibly govern the Israeli people.
51. When the Lord fired him, Samuel delivered the news in:
1 Samuel 13:14 - "But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you."
52. This evaluation did not just dawn on the Lord. He had known from eternity past that Saul would fail. The people wanted to replace God as their Leader so He gave them a man who would be tested under pressure and be found wanting.
53. The divinely ordained replacement for Saul was a young shepherd boy, the only one of Jesse's eight sons qualified to lead Israel. What the Lord saw in David is mentioned by Paul in his exhortation at the synagogue in Antioch in:
Acts 13:21 - "(The people) asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years."
Acts 13:21 - "After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.'
v. 23 - "From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior Jesus."
54. To demonstrate that David was capable of converting the content of his "heart," i.e., the wheel-tracks of righteousness, into action, the Lord required him to meet and succeed against three challenges.
55. In these challenges, David will be required to deal with behavior patterns typical of Saul's bipolar disorder. The first will be as court musician, the second as military hero, and the latter as a fugitive under assault by the king.
56. In each case David maintains complete loyalty to Saul under the principle that he is "the Lord's anointed."
57. David was a multitalented man. In the field of music he was so accomplished on the lyre that his performances moved Saul out of depression so that the "evil spirit would depart from him" (1 Samuel 16:23).

58. There are numerous Web sites that provide information on bipolar disorder. It involves mood swings that vacillate between mania and depression. Those who are diagnosed with this disorder are sometimes enrolled in “Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy,” defined as follows:
- In cognitive-behavioral therapy, you examine how your thoughts affect your emotions. You also learn how to change negative thinking patterns and behaviors into more positive ways of responding. For bipolar disorder, the focus is on managing symptoms, avoiding triggers for relapse, and problem-solving.**¹
59. The average cost per hour of therapy by a psychologist with a PhD is around one hundred thirty dollars per hour. David administered successful musical therapy to Saul without charge.
60. Saul sent a messenger requesting that Jesse send his son to the king (v. 19). At the audience, Saul was very impressed with David. In fact, the literal translation indicates that Saul “loved” David. (v. 21)
61. The word for love is the Qal imperfect of the verb אָהַב ('ahav) and it is correctly translated. Some pseudo theologians impute a homosexual meaning to this verse, but that is sloppy exegesis if any at all. Here's the scoop:
- The Scope of the Concept of Love in the Old Testament.* The scope in the Old Testament idiom is very broad. It extends from the affection of members of the opposite sex for one other (Isaac and Rebekah, Genesis 24:67; Jacob and Rachel, 29:18,30); Leah and Jacob, 29:32; to intimate bonds between father and (favorite) son (Genesis 22:2; 25:28; 37:3; 44:20; Proverbs 13:24) or between mother and her favorite child (Genesis 25:28) or between daughter-in-law and mother-in-law (Ruth 4:15); to friendly relationships between men, like Saul and David (1 Samuel 16:21, Jonathan and David (18:1-3); even to the intimate relationship between a people and their military leader (18:16,22).²**

¹ “Bipolar Disorder Treatment,” www.helpguide.org, http://www.helpguide.org/mental/bipolar_disorder_diagnosis_treatment.htm (accessed April 17, 2013).

² Gerhard Wallis, “אָהַב,” in *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, rev. ed. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977), 1:104.