DAVID

AND THE

PRIESTLY BREAD

DAN DUKE

COPYRIGHT

DAVID AND THE PRIESTLY BREAD

All rights to this edition reserved by Shubert Publishing

Proofreading: Lucimara Zanini Soares; Rita Moura

Layout: Rita Moura

Cover: Luciano do Nascimento

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Almeida Revised and Updated Version (ARA) of the Bible, © Sociedade Bíblica do Brasil.

CONTENTS

David and the Priestly Bread 2

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Almeida Revised and Updated Version (ARA) of the Bible, © Sociedade Bíblica do Brasil. 2

Introduction 5

Chapter 1 6

The House of Saul and the House of David 6

Chapter 2 9

David's Rejection and Expulsion 9

Chapter 3 12

David and Nob 12

Chapter 4 14

David and Goliath's Sword 14

FOREWORD

This book is the result of a message preached by the missionary Dan Duke.

You will see how relevant God's Word is as you read in the life of King David what we see before our very eyes today, in what Dan Duke describes as a religious system that rejects those who desire Jesus above everything else.

Dan Duke describes, eloquently yet simply, the difference between divine and human anointing; between the man who pursues his own ambitions and the man who seeks and loves Jesus above all things. He encourages us to look at the benefits we receive from this rejection rather than lament our losses.

Shubert Publishing

INTRODUCTION

Let us open our Bibles and our hearts to learn what Jesus has to teach us.

I want to begin by declaring that I love my Bible. It has been my constant companion. In truth, I owe my entire life to Jesus. But I was very fortunate to have found Jesus through the Bible.

I met the Lord Jesus when I was twenty-seven years old. Before that, I had never heard the Gospel. I knew nothing about God or His Son Jesus. I had no Christian background and had never known a Christian before, which I consider an enormous advantage in my life, because I also knew no theology, knew no doctrines, and had no denominational perspective on things.

So when I began reading the Bible, I thought it meant exactly what it said. I had no theological conflicts; I just saw Jesus. I only saw Him healing people; I only saw Him loving people. And I read that He is the same every day. To me, it was very simple. There was nothing complicated about it.

My wife and I had been rather radical in the years before our conversion, and some of that radical lifestyle stayed with us as Christians. It took time for us to be set free. However, because of our radical ways, because of our fire, we did not get along well with some churches. It was not that we did not try, because we did. But if we had a question, we asked. If we saw something wrong, we said so. Often, however, this was taken as disrespect. Yet I admit it: what I read in the Bible and what I saw in many churches were quite different, and I could not understand it.

But God is very good, and He has led us to study the Scriptures through the years, just as I believe He has led you. And we are grateful and blessed by God's presence and anointing.

Now I would like to talk a little about King David and show you a great scriptural principle found in this king's life. In 2 Samuel 3:1, the Bible says: “There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.” In fact, this war still exists today. There was a great difference between Saul and David, and it is this difference that I want to discuss.

CHAPTER 1

The House of Saul and the House of David

> *"There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker."*
>
> 2 Samuel 3:1

There was, then, a difference between the house of David and the house of Saul, and that difference truly brought about a war, a division, a separation, and brought great rejection into David's life. But we will see that this rejection and this very painful experience in David's life actually turned into something good.

The same war continues today. It is a war of perspectives, a war of levels of understanding. It is a war waged by church systems against those who simply have a heart that desires God.

We see this same conflict when Jesus came into the world. Jesus came to establish a Kingdom. Not a kingdom of this world, not a political kingdom, but a Kingdom of the Spirit. Yet He was not accepted. He was rejected because the leaders wanted a political kingdom. They wanted a king; they wanted a sovereign nation. They wanted Jesus to lead the nation, drive out the Romans, and bring independence to Israel. He made it clear, however: "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Thus, His perspective was different.

The Bible records that David came onto the scene when Samuel went to his home and anointed him king over Israel. At that time, Saul was already king, but God had rejected Saul because he did not have a heart willing to obey; he did not have the heart of a worshiper.

There is another detail to highlight as well: God told Samuel to fill his flask with oil and anoint Saul as king (1 Samuel 10:1), but concerning David, God told Samuel: "Fill a horn with oil" (1 Samuel 16:1) to anoint David as king.

This is an important difference: Saul was anointed with something made by human hands, a flask. David was anointed with something made by God, a horn. Only God can make a horn. So that was the difference between their anointings. Saul was the people's choice. David was God's choice. And there are many today who are anointed by men, while others are anointed by God.

When Jesus entered the synagogue after forty days in the wilderness, He said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me" (Luke 4:18). We may read this without realizing its depth, because in that culture the only way someone could be anointed was for the high priest to pour oil over his head. In other words, it was the anointing of the system. But Jesus came, and it was as though He were saying: "It was God who anointed Me. I am not being anointed by any system." And they rejected Him because of it.

There is another difference we can see between Saul and David. The Bible says that during the forty years of Saul's reign, he never sought the ark of the Covenant. In other words, he never went to God. Saul's reign represented a political perspective on things. David, however, was always seeking God's presence. When David finally became king of Israel and Judah, the first thing he wanted to do was bring the ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. But he did not bring it to the tabernacle of Moses; he brought it to a tent on Mount Zion, where God could be worshiped twenty-four hours a day. What most people do not understand, however, is that while David's tabernacle was on Mount Zion (2 Samuel 6:17; 1 Chronicles 16:1), Moses' tabernacle was still in Gibeon (1 Chronicles 21:29).

Therefore, two religious systems were operating at the same time: there was the old order, which had been established by God, and there was a new order, also established by God, and both functioned simultaneously.

I believe this same situation applies today. There are still very traditional ways of approaching God, but obviously there is something new that God is doing. And, of course, you can choose how you wish to approach God, how you wish to live your life of worship. And whether we like it or not, the two ways cannot coexist.

The Bible says that David's heart was right toward Saul. God's Word says that David loved Saul, but Saul hated David because everything in

David's life was a threat to Saul's system. David's anointing was a threat. His purity was a threat. His popularity was a threat. But none of these things was David's fault. He was simply a man. He had the heart of a worshiper, a heart passionate for Jesus.

When we read the Psalms David wrote, we can see that he was an ordinary man. When we look at his testimony, we notice that he was not a perfect man. David had moral failings; he made mistakes. Yet what justified him was his heart. He was a man after God's own heart.

CHAPTER 2

David's Rejection and Expulsion

The conflict began, however. When we look at 1 Samuel 21, we find the situation in which David was sent away from Saul's house, and he had done nothing wrong except be a man of God.

His problem was his heart. David's problem was that he loved God. His problem was that he did not want to be a politician, but simply a worshiper and a man of God.

There are many like that today. But this started a conflict.

David tried in every possible way to remain in Saul's house. He never wanted to be expelled from there, and when he was rejected, I am certain his heart was broken. Nevertheless, through this experience, David found something he could never have found in Saul's house.

Let us look more deeply at a few things in 1 Samuel 21. These are some of those verses we understand only if we can see something deeper than mere words on paper.

The picture is this: David had a heart after God; Saul, meanwhile, was obsessed with the idea of killing him. David tried to remain faithful in Saul's house, but he was rejected and sent away.

In 1 Samuel 21:1-6, we read:

1 Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech came trembling to meet David and said to him: "Why are you alone, with no one accompanying you?"

2 David answered Ahimelech the priest: "The king gave me an order and said to me: 'Let no one know why I am sending you or what I have commissioned you to do.' As for my men, I have arranged to meet them at a certain place."

3 "Now, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever there is."

4 The priest answered David: "I have no ordinary bread on hand, but there is holy bread, provided your men have at least kept themselves from women."

5 David answered the priest: "Yes, women have been kept from us, as always when I go on a campaign, and the men's bodies are not unclean. If this is so on an ordinary journey, how much more will they be pure today!"

6 So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD and replaced with hot bread on the appointed day.

1 Samuel 21:1-6

Now let us return to verse 1 and look at the prophetic picture in the text and the message God wants to give us through these verses.

Remember that David had been sent away from Saul's house. The house of Saul represents a religious system that never sought the ark of God. In other words, it is a system that has no heart for worship, sees no need for the anointing, and does not value intimacy with God. It is merely a religious system.

Understand that as I say this, I have no particular group in mind. I am not speaking specifically about any denomination. I am speaking of a religious system that functions without God's presence. In other words, if the Holy Spirit is not there, it makes no difference, because they already have their system; they already have their programs.

That is certainly not my preference. If the Holy Spirit is not in something, I see no purpose in it. It is nothing more than singing and

talking, nothing more than a social event. Offerings are collected, and everyone goes off to live as they please.

I have no interest in that. What about you?

As someone has said: "Their system is so rigid that if the Holy Spirit were removed from the church, they would not even notice."

Again, I am not speaking about anyone specifically; I am speaking about a system. And this is a system David tried to fit into. He tried to adapt to it because it was what he knew. David knew nothing better.

There are people reading this book right now who have tried to fit in. You tried to flow with the system, but for some reason you could not. You did nothing except hunger for God and want to worship Him, yet your passion became a threat. Your anointing became a threat. You did nothing but love Jesus, desire to worship Him, fall to the floor, and have all the intimacy you could have with Jesus. And you are not interested in a religious system; you are interested only in Jesus.

Is there any difference in that? Yes, there is a great difference.

It was the religious system that hated Jesus. They killed Him. Why? Because He went about doing good, healing all who were oppressed by the devil (Acts 10:38). They hated Him because He was anointed, because He said that God was His Father.

Now, who is your Father? Are you doing everything Jesus did, and yet the system makes no room for you?

That was David's story. When he came from Saul's house, rejected, disappointed, perhaps with a broken heart, he went to a town called Nob.

CHAPTER 3

David and Nob

That is a strange name for a town: Nob! “Hey, where are you from? I'm from Nob!” What a strange name! But the name Nob in Hebrew means “High Place.” So when David was expelled from Saul's house, he went to a higher place. Hallelujah!

He did not understand everything that was happening. That is why it is written in the Bible. It is written for our sake, as the Scriptures say: “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through patience and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

So David came to Nob. From Saul's house to a high place. He would never have come to this higher place unless he had been sent away from Saul's house.

And David went to Ahimelech's house. Ahimelech is a Hebrew name that means “My brother is king.” Hallelujah! Do you see it? David left the religious system and was brought to a higher place, where his Brother, the Lord Jesus Christ, is King. Hallelujah! So things were not so bad after all.

It took rejection; it took being sent away for him to be able to rise to a higher place.

Have you ever been rejected? Have you ever been “thrown out”? That is an important question! If you have never been thrown out of somewhere, you have not done very well. If you have never been thrown out of somewhere, you do not have enough fire. It is part of your qualification.

Are you saved? Yes. Have you received the baptism in the Holy Spirit? Yes. Have you ever been “thrown out”? Yes. Well, then you are qualified! You were thrown out of the system, hallelujah! It was the best thing that could have happened to you, but it was painful! It was the best thing, yet it hurt so much!

In this way, David went to a higher place, where his brother was king. Then he asked Ahimelech the priest: “Do you have any bread?” Ahimelech replied: “I have no ordinary bread. I have only the priestly bread.”

Now the problem is that this bread was only for the priest; it was not for ordinary people, even a king. But when Ahimelech told him, to paraphrase: “I have no ordinary bread, only the priests' bread, but it is not right for you to eat it because you are not a priest,” David said to him: “Give me the bread.”

And for the first time in Israel's history and for the first time in David's life, he was in a high place, where his brother is King, and he was about to experience something he had never experienced before. All his life he had eaten only ordinary bread, but now he would taste the priestly bread, the showbread, which in Hebrew means the bread of the Faces, the bread of the Face of God.

This is a fundamental lesson for us.

CHAPTER 4

David and Goliath's Sword

So what happened to David? We saw that he came to a high place, where his brother is King, and asked whether there was any bread there. He was told there was only priestly bread. When the priest ate this bread, he ate it at the table of the showbread, and that was a place where the priests had fellowship with one another, but it was also when they stood before the Face of God. That, in itself, is another important message.

David asked Ahimelech: "Do you not have a spear or a sword here at hand?" (1 Samuel 21:8). Ahimelech replied that he had only one sword there, Goliath's sword (1 Samuel 21:9). It was the greatest sword on earth, a giant's sword.

So this was a tremendously prophetic picture of those who do not fit into a religious system and who have come to a high place.

I am not speaking about special or privileged people, people who are better than others. But we know that people have different passions, desires, and motivations.

Therefore, the message here is simple, and it is this: David could not fit into Saul's system and was rejected by it. And that rejection took him to a higher place, where his Brother is King, and for the first time in his life he tasted the priestly bread. Before that, he had tasted only ordinary bread.

There are millions of Christians who have lived their entire lives eating ordinary bread, bread that has been reheated over and over again. Nothing more than a sermon on Sundays.

Yet there is something higher: the priestly bread. I can tell you that when David tasted that bread, he lost his appetite for ordinary bread. Once you taste the priestly bread, once you taste that the Lord is good, you can never return to the ordinary bread of religion. Once you have been marked by the priestly bread, by the bread of the Faces, once you stand before the Face of God, you cannot go back to the religious system. The system itself

will reject you. You will have no place there. And that was the situation David faced.

Some time ago, I spoke with a pastor who had been "thrown out" of his church, and this was what he was grieving over: he had been the youth pastor, and revival had broken out among those young people. They were worshiping, evangelizing, full of the fire of God, and the church leaders did not approve because they could not control what was happening. They "threw him out"; the system "threw him out." But what was really happening? He was being called to a higher place to eat the bread of the Face of God.

Therefore, if today you have been rejected by the system, if you realize that you do not fit in, do not blame yourself. Perhaps you have been part of a denomination or a religious system for many years, and you have done everything you could to be faithful, but no matter how hard you try, you have come to the conclusion that you no longer fit there. If the system pushes you out, leave with a happy heart. Do not be angry or criticize anyone. Just let God take you to a higher place. Let Him take you to where your Brother is King. Let God give you bread you have never tasted.

God put a sword in David's hand. Notice that David had earned that sword when he killed Goliath. He deserved that sword, but he was not ready to have it, because he could not have a great sword in a low place. God kept Goliath's sword for the time when David would reach that high place.

I believe you can see what happened in this example and how it applies to your life: one day David was rejected, lost his friends, was criticized, was labeled a rebel, lived as a fugitive, and had to hide to save his life. But all of this was from the human perspective.

From God's perspective, however, David had an encounter in a high place, ate the priest's bread, and received a sword. Before that time, however, he was not ready to possess that sword.

So God is preparing you. He is going to put a sword in your hand, the very sword that belonged to the giant you killed in your life. And you could never have this sword while remaining part of a religious system. Therefore, be encouraged today. If you are being put out, it is only so that

you can enter into something, taste something, so that you can savor something you have never experienced before, something many people have never experienced: the bread of the Face of God, the sword of the Spirit, and life in a higher place.

Therefore, take heart. Do not curse the system; do not kill Saul. Just go to a high place and eat the priest's bread. Remain before the Face of God until He gives you the sword.

And it was David, not Saul, who delivered Israel from the Philistines. It was David, not Saul, who brought the ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. And it was David, not Saul, who united the people of Judah and Israel. To this day, David's reign is called "the golden years" of Israel's history. They were the golden years of that nation's history, but it all began when a young man, passionate for God, without any spiritual ambition or political ambition, was "thrown out" of the house and suffered rejection, just as Jesus did.

Jesus was rejected so that you could be accepted; He was rejected so that you could be qualified. There is a Priest in the New Testament who leads you to eat the bread of the Face, the priestly bread. He leads you to have the Priest's Sword and to live in a higher place.

Therefore, take heart today, because Jesus is touching your life.

Welcome to the town of Nob. Welcome to Ahimelech's house. We invite you to join us at the table and eat all the priestly bread you desire. And I assure you that when you taste the priestly bread, you will lose your appetite for ordinary bread. You will not want to go back.

May God bless you!

OTHER TITLES PUBLISHED BY SHUBERT PUBLISHING

Bringing Light to the Law - Mark Shubert

In Christianity today, much has been said about returning to our "Jewish roots." Those who desire to please the Lord are often confused about the subject. Exactly how many of the Mosaic customs should we really keep? Should we observe the Sabbath? What about tithing? Is it for today? To rightly divide the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15), today's Christian needs a clear understanding of the differences between the Old and New Testaments.

Complete Salvation - Mark Shubert

Biblical salvation goes far beyond simply receiving Jesus as Savior. The salvation of spirit, soul, and body constitutes complete salvation. Initial conversion is followed by a continuing process of conversion, the purpose of which is our complete salvation: to transform us fully until we bear the image and likeness of the Son of God.

Authority in the Kingdom of God - Mark Shubert

Through the sacrifice of Jesus, the Kingdom of God is being established on the earth once again. For those who accept God's rule, His order, and His authority, righteousness, peace, and joy are once again available. God reigns and has chosen to reveal His authority to us through authorities He has established. Submitting to God, to His Kingdom, and to His Government involves submission to God-appointed authorities. It is essential that every Christian know how to identify the sphere of authority God has delegated to him.

Names and Numbers - Dan Duke

The names of people and places have a very special meaning, as do the numbers described in biblical accounts. This book leads us to plunge into God's Word and enjoy the deep riches hidden in the meaning of names and in the revelations brought to light in episodes where certain numbers appear.

Anointing the Profane - Mark Hanby

Questions such as: What is the anointing, and where does it come from? How can I obtain it? How can I break the yokes over my life? What is sanctification? How can I experience revival? These are answered in this book as Mark Hanby helps us remove the veil so that we can understand spiritual authority and the anointing.

Developing Your Priesthood - Dr. Sam Sasser & Dr. Judson Cornwall

A profound and engaging book, Developing Your Priesthood makes us reexamine our understanding of praise and worship and, even more, of our place in worship, whether you are the pastor of a large or small church, a worship leader, a member of the congregation, a busy homemaker, a successful businessperson, or a student.

Every Christian is called to offer his sacrifice of praise to the Lord. This is our high and holy calling.

Shubert Publishing is a partner of the Christian ministry Up Church - www.upchurch.com.br.

Find this and other products in our online store at www.shubert.com.br.