

# TESTS, TRAGEDIES, AND TRIUMPHS

---

*Finding Hope in David's Story*



# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	9
1. WHAT'S WRONG WITH SAUL? .....	11
2. GOD KNOWS .....	29
3. GOD EMPOWERS .....	45
4. WHEN THE BATTLE FINDS YOU .....	59
5. THERE IS A FRIEND .....	75
6. SONGS FROM A CAVE .....	89
7. WHEN GOD PUTS US ON HOLD .....	103
8. TAKE THE SHOT .....	115
9. LETTERS TO MYSELF .....	129
10. LETTERS TO MY KIDS .....	141
11. TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN .....	157
12. DAVID AT HIS BEST .....	173



## INTRODUCTION

**S**amuel grieved the fall of King Saul. When Israel demanded a king, Samuel had anointed and installed Saul to fill that role. Initially, Samuel had significant reservations about a king. He took it personally that Israel even wanted a king. Yet, after consulting the Lord, he agreed to establish a monarchy; and, following divine direction, Samuel had personally anointed Saul. But Saul was a “train wreck.” It wasn’t long after being made king that God rejected Saul as king. Samuel grieved the fall of Saul.

Yet, amid Samuel’s grief, the Lord spoke to him these words of hope:

“Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons” (1 Samuel 16:1).

Hope during tragedy is the story of David. That describes David’s ascent to the throne and his reign. Some of David’s tragedies came from the hands of

## TESTS, TRAGEDIES, AND TRIUMPHS

others. At other times, David's tragedies were his own doing. Yet in each, David found hope!

May the discussion of the stories in this book offer you the same—*hope*.

I have tried to leave nothing hidden about David. He was “a man after [God's] own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14), but he was far from perfect. Finding myself often far from perfection, I am so thankful for my God, who continually offers hope. I pray you will find the same hope in Him as you read this book.