

Spiraling: Escaping the Downward Spiral

Part 5 - Transitions

August 7, 2022

Now your kingdom must end, for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart. The LORD has already appointed him to be the leader of his people.

(1 Samuel 13:14, New Living Translation)

HOW DO YOU TRANSITION WELL?

1. Work to replace yourself.

The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is better than you.

(1 Samuel 15:28, NLT)

You are a better man than I am And now I realize that you are surely going to be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will flourish under your rule.

(1 Samuel 24:17, 20, NLT)

2. Surrender control to God.

When Saul saw the vast Philistine army, he became frantic with fear. He asked the Lord what he should do, but the LORD refused to answer him, either by dreams or by sacred lots or by the prophets. Saul then said to his advisers, “Find a woman who is a medium, so I can go and ask her what to do.”

(1 Samuel 28:5–7, NLT)

Saul had banned from the land of Israel all mediums and those who consult the spirits of the dead.

(1 Samuel 28:3, NLT)

The Lord will hand you and the army of Israel over to the Philistines tomorrow, and you and your sons will be here with me. The Lord will bring down the entire army of Israel in defeat.

(1 Samuel 28:19, NLT)

3. Honor the past.

Your pride and joy, O Israel, lies dead on the hills! Oh, how the mighty heroes have fallen! How beloved and gracious were Saul and Jonathan! They were together in life and in death. They were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions.

(2 Samuel 1:19, 23, NLT - read the whole song in verses 19–27)

“You have condemned yourself,” David said, “for you yourself confessed that you killed the Lord’s anointed one.”

(2 Samuel 1:16, NLT)

4. Move towards the future with confidence.

May the Lord bless you for being so loyal to your master Saul... May the Lord be loyal to you in return and reward you with his unfailing love! Now that Saul is dead, I ask you to be my strong and loyal subjects like the people of Judah, who have anointed me as their new king.

(2 Samuel 2:5–7, NLT)

The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.”

(Psalm 32:8, NLT)