

## Questions for A Tale of Three Kings by Gene Edwards

(Study Guide written by Jerry Nelson)

From the Prologue: If the first element given to a “destiny” was God’s power, what was the second element granted to another?

Why did God have David anointed king and then put him in the “castle of a mad king?”

Who is/has throwing/thrown spears at you?

What forms can “spear throwing” take?

What is your “flesh” response?

What do you think God desires for a response?

What can keep you from responding as God desires?

What, to you, were the most compelling ideas from this part of the book?

With what ideas in this book did you most disagree? Why?

Divine establishment of authority?

No justice demanded or meted?

Do you agree that God uses “Sauls” to accomplish God’s purposes in us?

Is this fair?

David and his men saw the opportunity to be rid of Saul differently? Who was right and why?

Part 2

A Tale of Three Kings part 2

Describe a time when you witnessed an Absalom at work.

How does an Absalom work his will?

Describe an Absalom in YOUR life.

How is an Absalom different from a Saul?

Describe the Absalom in you!

What did David learn from hearing the story of Moses and Korah again?

## Quotations from Part One:

“Kin cannot always tell when a man is grown, even when looking straight at him.” 5

“The king was mad and, therefore, he was jealous. Or was it the other way around?” 9

Everyone knows kings always have the right to throw spears. “How do they know? Because the king has told them so, many, many times.” 11

“In God’s sacred school of submission and brokenness, why are there so few students? Because all who are in this school must suffer much pain.” 13

When someone throws a spear at you, you throw it back! And in doing this small feat of returning thrown spears you will prove many things: you are courageous; you stand for the right; you boldly stand against wrong; you will not stand for injustice; you are a defender of the faith; you will not be wronged AND you are obviously a candidate for kingship – after the order of Saul! 15

When a spear is thrown you what must you do?  
Pretend you cannot see spears.  
Duck very quickly.  
Pretend nothing at all happened. 17

“You can easily tell when someone has been hit by a spear. He turns a deep shade of bitter.” 17

“(David) discovered three things that prevented him from ever being hit: One, never learn anything about the fashionable, easily-mastered art of spear throwing. Two, stay out of the company of all spear throwers. And three, keep your mouth tightly closed.” 17-18

“Recognize this immutable fact: You cannot tell (none of us can) who is the Lord’s anointed and who is not.” 19

“Just what does a man do in the middle of a knife-throwing contest? The answer is , ‘You get stabbed to death.’” 21

“As long as you look at your king, you will blame him and him alone for your present hell. Be careful, for God has His eyes fastened sharply on another King Saul...God is looking at the King Saul in you.” 21

“There is only one way to get rid of the King Saul in you – He must be annihilated.” 22

“How does a man know when it finally time to leave the Lord’s anointed (especially the Lord’s anointed after the order of King Saul? David never made that decision. The Lord’s anointed made it for him... David never split the kingdom... He did not take part of the population with him. He left alone.” 25

David “never spoke to them of authority; He never spoke of submission; but, to a man, they submitted. He laid down no rules.” 32

“My king never threatened me as does yours. Your new king has begun his reign with laws, rules, regulations and fear... David showed me submission, not authority... Men who harp on authority only prove they have none. And kings who make speeches about submission only betray twin fears in their hearts: They are not certain they are really truly leaders, sent of God. And they live in mortal fear of a rebellion.” “My king didn’t fear rebellion because he did not mind if he was dethroned.” “David had authority but I don’t think that fact ever occurred to him!” 47-49

David say, “Better he kill me than I learn his ways. Better he kill me than I become as he is.” 34

“What does this world need: Gifted men, outwardly empowered? Or broken men inwardly transformed?” 41

How can I know with certainty that the man I sit under is a King Saul? “It is not given to us to know. And remember even Sauls are the Lord’s anointed.” 43

“And the passing of time and the way you react to that leader – be he David or Saul – reveals a great deal about you.” 44

What if you become certain that your leader is a Saul; what will you do with that information? Will you share it with a few friends? And as you do are so certain that you have not become a Saul? 51-52