

Assignment Title: Book Report 5

“A Tale of Three Kings” By Gene Edwards

Name: Annika Tilly  
Campus Location: ATS/NY City

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## Summary

Gene Edward's, "A Tale of Three Kings" retells the story of Saul, David, and Absalom creatively to emphasize that ultimately God is in control of the outcomes in our life. Throughout the reading, Gene Edwards repeatedly uses the phrase, "No one knows the answer, Except God. And he never tells" (p.22). Saul was described as a jealous king, whereas Absalom was described as a rebellious leader. David on the other hand was broken and submissive to the Lord's plans.

## Interaction and Critique

This reading interacts with my present ministry context in past and present contexts. When reflecting on my past work experience, I see how I was asking God questions of motive and the heart of the other pastors. In chapter 16 Edwards writes, "The man I sit under: I think he is a King Saul. How can I know with certainty?" (p.43). He continues and answers, "It is not given to us to know. And remember, even Sauls are often the Lord's anointed" (p.43). As I was transitioning out of my Job I sensed God tell me, "Glenn and Blaze are my children. And I love to work through them." Even after all the hurtful words, these men said to me, I pray for them and their families and that God would bless their ministries. Just because I was hurt doesn't make them evil. It was hard for me not to process my hurt with people at the church, and also to hear them talk so highly of the pastors. But I am thankful that I left as David did; quietly and alone.

What initially stood out to me was the series of events that took place after David was anointed with oil. He didn't become king right after, instead, he became a messenger for his brothers in the war. After David was anointed by God he was, "Led not to the throne but a

decade of hellish agony and suffering... into the school of brokenness” (p.8). God then used Saul’s jealousy to crush David so that he would grow in the understanding that the kingdom is under God’s authority ultimately. Later on, we read why God does this. To, “Cut away the Saul inside David’s heart... Otherwise the Saul in him would survive” (p.24). In other words, David was growing in humility rather than someone who responds out of jealousy, control, and power-driven. David didn’t give in when he was, “Feared, hated, lied about, and plotted against” (p.32). He leaned into God and trusted him with the outcome. David comes to a similar crossroads twice where he chooses not to respond in the same way Saul did by throwing spears at him to both Saul and Absalom. This is because David understood that God chooses who is king, not man. David states, “It is better that I be defeated, even killed, than to learn the ways of... of a Saul or the ways of an Absalom. The kingdom is not that valuable” (p.74). Our heart posture and submission to God are more important than keeping a place of authority or even protecting his empire.

David understood that it was God who had put him there and is reserving the kingdom. He continues, “I did not fight to be king, and I will not fight to remain king. May God come tonight and take the throne, the kingship, and...’ David’s voice faltered. ‘And his anointing from me. I seek his will, not his power” (p.75). I have ruminated on this idea a lot this past year on God’s anointing being taken away from me. Thankful for this reminder to seek God’s will above His power. I may not have clarity and assurance of who is truly anointed to bear God’s authority, but it is not mine to know. However, God is in control, and good will ultimately come out of it.

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely 100%

Quickly but Completely \_\_\_\_\_%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely \_\_\_\_\_%

Quickly and NOT Completely \_\_\_\_\_%

Signed: Annika Tilly

## Bibliography

Edwards, Gene. *A Tale of Three Kings: A Study in Brokenness*. Tyndale House Publishers, 199