

Saul. He had learned that his kingdom had passed from him. This form of insanity is often characterized by lucid intervals; and Saul's conduct clearly shows that this was the case with him. The manner in which he treated Jonathan and David is consistent with this view. By times he acted as if in his right mind. Then again the circumstances to which Saul had reduced himself were such as to give rise to great mental depression. The belief that one has done some great wrong, or committed some heinous sin, is a frequent delusion in this form of insanity. These cases frequently end in suicide. Then again the method of treatment in Saul's case was appropriate. Music and cheerful company often do much for those afflicted with mental depression. This treatment was in a measure successful in Saul's case. Taking a fair view of the sacred account and the history of this case, we are warranted in coming to the conclusion that it was not one of supernatural possession, but rather one of melancholic insanity. The expression 'an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him' would seem to imply that Saul was handed over to the torments of his own conscience, as a punishment for his conduct.

Nebuchadnezzar's mental condition may now claim a short notice. He was in the zenith of his pride and glory when the terrible message came to him that his kingdom was parted from him. In the same hour was the judgment fulfilled upon him. Here we have a haughty monarch told that his kingdom was gone and that he was to be driven to the fields to dwell with the beasts. Such a shock would be sufficient to upset the reason. Sudden shock, profound grief, great disappointment may cause insanity in a very acute form. The insanity, of course, might be also part of the punishment sent upon him. But even though it were not of such origin, there is enough in the tremendous crash to his earthly splendor to have overwhelmed his mind and stricken him down with mental derangement. The hand of God is clearly seen in this case, whether the insanity is regarded as a direct infliction of the Lord, or indirectly, through the destruction of the King's earthly grandeur.

The account of this case would lead us to suppose that the King became violent and had to be driven forth. It is not uncommon for the insane to fancy that they are some