With the exception of Judas Iscariot, probably one of the most tragic endings for a person once chosen and anointed by God was that which befell King Saul. The writer of First Samuel says, "the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him."

Later, one of Saul's servants advised him to find a musician, skilled in playing the lyre, to help him feel better when the evil spirit from God came upon him.

Some commentators have mistakenly suggested that the ancients did not know the difference between cases of mental illnesses and those of demonic possession. Consequently, they attributed much to the influence of demons that had their origins only in physical or mental maladies.

To quote just one, "It certainly had some perfectly natural cause and was not a judgement of God through the agency of evil spirits."

First, we must remember that all Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit and He would not have used the term in question just to accommodate any supposed thought form of that day.

As seen later in the New Testament documents, through the Ministry of Christ, He brought people face to face with reality, correcting any misconceived ideas about God.

King David would have been made aware from the experience with Saul that the people of God have to face the problem of habitual sin sooner or later, lest it take a firmer grip and lead to irretrievable bondage.

After the Prophet Nathan went out from David, he immediately went to his knees and begged forgiveness for his horrendous deeds. Prior to that encounter, he too had suffered various sorts of mental and physical affliction, "my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me." The writer of Hebrews further warns on sin's desensitizing effect.