

## 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 18

Verses 1 - 5

Now it came about, when he had finished speaking to Saul, that Jonathan committed himself to David, and Jonathan loved him as himself. <sup>2</sup> And Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father's house. <sup>3</sup> Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. <sup>4</sup> Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his military gear, including his sword, his bow, and his belt. <sup>5</sup> And David went *into battle* wherever Saul sent him, *and always* achieved success; so Saul put him in charge of the men of war. And it was pleasing in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

Now it came about, when he had finished speaking to Saul, that Jonathan committed himself to David, and Jonathan loved him as himself. <sup>2</sup> And Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father's house.

Saul spoke to David after he had killed Goliath. This took place in the last two verses of chapter 17.

<sup>57</sup> So when David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand. <sup>58</sup> Then Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

From that day on David remained with King Saul.

These events are reminiscent of what was spoken in chapter 16

<sup>21</sup> Then David came to Saul and attended him; and Saul greatly loved him, and he became his armor bearer. <sup>22</sup> So Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Let David now be my attendant for he has found favor in my sight."

<sup>4</sup> Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his military gear, including his sword, his bow, and his belt.

Jonathan giving his royal robe and his armor to David was a symbolical act. This was his way of showing that David should succeed his father on the throne.

**<sup>5</sup> And David went *into battle* wherever Saul sent him, *and always* achieved success; so Saul put him in charge of the men of war. And it was pleasing in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.**

Abner was the general of Saul's army but David was the Kings Armor Bearer and it appears that he was given charge of the army.

David conducted military operations and was very successful. His popularity increased among the people and those who severed Saul.

Verses 6 - 9

**<sup>6</sup> Now it happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with *other* musical instruments.**

**<sup>7</sup> The women sang as they played, and said,**

**“Saul has slain his thousands,  
And David his ten thousands.”**

**<sup>8</sup> Then Saul became very angry, for this lyric displeased him; and he said, “They have given David *credit for* ten thousands, but to me they have given *credit for only* thousands! Now *what* more can he have but the kingdom?” <sup>9</sup> And Saul eyed David with suspicion from that day on.**

**<sup>6</sup> Now it happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine**

In verses 1 thru 5 we see that Saul and Jonathan love David but there was this nagging memory in the back of Saul's mind that kept bugging him. After David killed Goliath the women of Israel gave him greater praise than they gave to the king. Instead of letting it go Saul continued to let this small seed turn into a large tree within his mind.

**Now *what* more can he have but the kingdom?” <sup>9</sup> And Saul eyed David with suspicion from that day on.**

Saul probably guessed, at this point in time, that David would be his successor. But he resolved to do everything in his power to prevent that from happening.

Verses 10 - 11

**<sup>10</sup> Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved in the midst of the house while David was playing *the harp* with his hand, as usual; and a spear was in Saul's hand. <sup>11</sup> Then Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David escaped from his presence, twice.**

Saul was already suspicious of David but this evil spirit made Saul much more angry and vocal about it. This event took place one day after David had killed Goliath.

After this happened the first time it must have been awkward for David to be in the king's presence but when the king calls it is wise to appear before him even if one has to dodge a spear.

Verses 12 - 16

**<sup>12</sup> Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him but had left Saul. <sup>13</sup> So Saul removed him from his presence and appointed him as his commander of a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. <sup>14</sup> David was successful in all his ways, for the Lord was with him. <sup>15</sup> When Saul saw that he was very successful, he was afraid of him. <sup>16</sup> But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he would go out *to battle* and return before them.**

**<sup>12</sup> Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him but had left Saul. <sup>13</sup> So Saul removed him from his presence and appointed him as his commander of a thousand;**

Removing David from his presence was both a blessing and a curse. It was good that David would not have to dodge spears from the King. ☺ But it was also an indication that David was no longer a part of the King's inner circle.

Being a commander of 1,000 men was a demotion from his prior position.

**<sup>14</sup> David was successful in all his ways, for the Lord was with him. <sup>15</sup> When Saul saw that he was very successful, he was afraid of him.**

David was only over 1,000 men now but The Lord made him very successful which only deepened Saul's suspicion of him.

Verses 17 - 19

**<sup>17</sup> Then Saul said to David, “Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife, only be a valiant man for me and fight the Lord’s battles.” For Saul thought, “My hand shall not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him.” <sup>18</sup> But David said to Saul, “Who am I, and who is my family, or my father’s family in Israel, that I should be the king’s son-in-law?” <sup>19</sup> So it came about at the time that Merab, Saul’s daughter, was to be given to David, that she was given *instead* to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife.**

**<sup>17</sup> Then Saul said to David, “Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife, only be a valiant man for me and fight the Lord’s battles.” For Saul thought, “My hand shall not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him.””**

The king had promised that the victor over Goliath would receive the king's daughter in marriage. However, Saul decided to add a new requirement. Of course this new condition was a ploy to put David in further danger hoping he would die in battle.

**<sup>18</sup> But David said to Saul, “Who am I, and who is my family, or my father’s family in Israel, that I should be the king’s son-in-law?”**

David saw thru the ruse and answered the king in such a way that he could not be seen as being ungrateful.

**<sup>19</sup> So it came about at the time that Merab, Saul’s daughter, was to be given to David, that she was given *instead* to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife.**

Since David refused the king's offer to marry Merab she was given to Adriel. The Bible records the death of the sons of Merab and Adriel in 2 Samuel 21:8

**<sup>8</sup> So the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, Armoni and Mephibosheth whom she had borne to Saul, and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, whom she had borne to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite. <sup>9</sup> Then he handed them over to the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the mountain before the Lord, so that the seven of them fell together; and they were put to death in the first days of harvest at the beginning of barley harvest.**

Verses 20 - 29

<sup>20</sup> Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. When they informed Saul, the thing was pleasing to him. <sup>21</sup> For Saul thought, "I will give her to him so that she may become a trap for him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David, "For a second time you may become my son-in-law, today." <sup>22</sup> Then Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in secret, saying, 'Behold, the king delights in you, and all his servants love you; now then, become the king's son-in-law.'" <sup>23</sup> So Saul's servants spoke these words to David. But David said, "Is it trivial in your sight to become the king's son-in-law, since I am *only* a poor man and insignificant?" <sup>24</sup> Then Saul's servants reported to him, saying, "These are the words David spoke." <sup>25</sup> Saul then said, "This is what you shall say to David: 'The king does not desire any dowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" But Saul plotted to have David fall by the hand of the Philistines. <sup>26</sup> When his servants told David these words, it pleased David to become the king's son-in-law. So before the time had expired, <sup>27</sup> David set out and went, he and his men, and fatally struck two hundred men among the Philistines. Then David brought their foreskins, and they presented all *two hundred* of them to the king, so that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal as a wife. <sup>28</sup> When Saul saw and realized that the Lord was with David, and *that* Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him, <sup>29</sup> then Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually.

<sup>20</sup> Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. When they informed Saul, the thing was pleasing to him. <sup>21</sup> For Saul thought, "I will give her to him so that she may become a trap for him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him."

Again Saul has bad intentions toward David. However, it is unclear how this would become a trap for him since David was already in charge of 1,000 men and fighting battles for the king.

<sup>22</sup> Then Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in secret, saying, 'Behold, the king delights in you, and all his servants love you; now then, become the king's son-in-law.'"

Saul used his servants to persuade David to marry his daughter, but David knew what they were saying was not true. Saul did not delight in him and that had been made quite clear.

**<sup>23</sup> So Saul's servants spoke these words to David. But David said, "Is it trivial in your sight to become the king's son-in-law, since I am only a poor man and insignificant?"**

David says he can't afford it. Apparently David was never given the great riches that were promised to the man who would kill Goliath. David was hardly insignificant but this may have been his way of sending a message to the king that he was being treated unfairly.

**<sup>25</sup> Saul then said, "This is what you shall say to David: 'The king does not desire any dowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" But Saul plotted to have David fall by the hand of the Philistines.**

Saul keeps hoping that David might be killed in one of his battles against the Philistines.

**<sup>26</sup> When his servants told David these words, it pleased David to become the king's son-in-law. So before the time had expired,<sup>27</sup> David set out and went, he and his men, and fatally struck two hundred men among the Philistines.**

Even though Saul had offered his daughter in marriage to David with evil intent, David was still pleased to take her in marriage. Now that is true love. 😊

Saul had placed a deadline on the marriage proposal hoping that David might do something rash and put himself in excessive danger.

**Then David brought their foreskins, and they presented all two hundred of them to the king, so that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal as a wife.**

David provided twice as many foreskins than the king had asked for. This had to send a message to Saul that his efforts to endanger David would not be successful.

**<sup>28</sup> When Saul saw and realized that the Lord was with David, and *that* Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him,<sup>29</sup> then Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually.**

Saul should have learned something from this event, but he did not.

Verse 30

**<sup>30</sup> Then the commanders of the Philistines went *to battle*, and it happened as often as they went out, that David was more successful than all the servants of Saul. So his name was held in high esteem.**

The Lord had promised David that he would become the King of Israel and God blessed him in battle accordingly.