

1st Samuel 19

Verses 1 - 7

Now Saul told his son Jonathan and all his servants to put David to death. But Jonathan, Saul's son, greatly delighted in David. ² So Jonathan informed David, saying, "My father Saul is seeking to put you to death. Now then, please be on your guard in the morning, and stay in a hiding place and conceal yourself. ³ And as for me, I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are *hiding*, and I will speak with my father about you; and whatever I find out, I will tell you." ⁴ Then Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul and said to him, "May the king not sin against his servant David, since he has not sinned against you, and since his deeds *have been* very beneficial to you. ⁵ For he took his life in his hand and struck the Philistine, and the Lord brought about a great victory for all Israel; you saw *it* and rejoiced. Why then would you sin against innocent blood by putting David to death for no reason?" ⁶ Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan, and Saul vowed, "As the Lord lives, *David* shall not be put to death." ⁷ Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these words. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

Now Saul told his son Jonathan and all his servants to put David to death.

One has to wonder why Saul spoke to Jonathan and his servants about killing David. It seems like this kind of mission would have been delegated to Abner who had the training and skills to put such an order in motion.

Then Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul and said to him, "May the king not sin against his servant David, since he has not sinned against you, and since his deeds *have been* very beneficial to you."

David killed Goliath, played the harp to sooth Saul's spirit, and won many a battle against the Philistines.

And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

It might have been better if Saul had just promised not to kill David and not brought him into his presence.

Verses 8 - 10

⁸ When there was war again, David went out and fought the Philistines and defeated them with great slaughter, so that they fled from him. ⁹ Now there was an evil spirit from the Lord on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand, and David was playing *the harp* with *his* hand. ¹⁰ And Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he escaped from Saul's presence, so that he stuck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.

Saul might argue that the devil made him do it, but we know this anger toward David started when the woman of Israel gave David too much praise.

Verses 11 - 17

¹¹ Then Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, in order to put him to death in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, informed him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be put to death!" ¹² So Michal let David down through a window, and he went and fled, and escaped. ¹³ And Michal took the household idol and laid *it* on the bed, and put a quilt of goats' hair at its head, and covered *it* with clothing. ¹⁴ When Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick." ¹⁵ Then Saul sent messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me on his bed, so that I may put him to death." ¹⁶ When the messengers entered, behold, the household idol was on the bed with the quilt of goats' hair at its head. ¹⁷ So Saul said to Michal, "Why have you betrayed me like this and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal said to Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I put you to death?'"

¹¹ Then Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, in order to put him to death in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, informed him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be put to death!"

David composed a psalm concerning this event. See Psalms 59

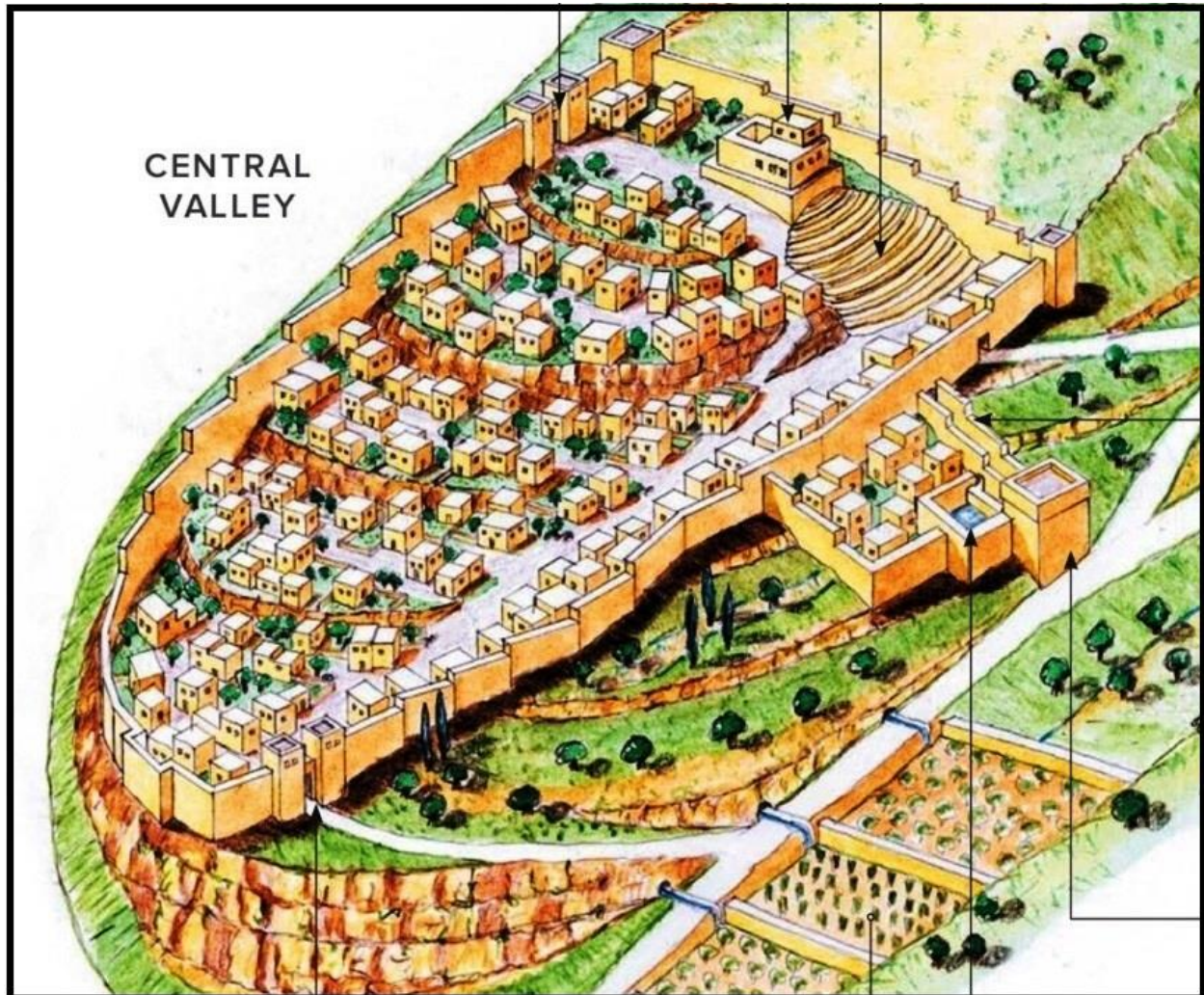
It should be noted that if the superscript was not present it would be very difficult to determine what event brought about the writing of this Psalm.

We don't know who informed Michal about the king's actions but it seems likely that Jonathan or one of Saul's servants got a message to her.

¹² So Michal let David down through a window, and he went and fled, and escaped.

The house of David and Michal was on the city wall.

See pic 1905



This drawing is of the City of David, not Gibeah where David was living, but it will do as an example of houses that were built along the city wall.

¹⁶ When the messengers entered, behold, the household idol was on the bed with the quilt of goats' hair at its head.

This household idol must have been fairly large and it is interesting that David allowed it to remain on the premises.

17 So Saul said to Michal, “Why have you betrayed me like this and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?” And Michal said to Saul, “He said to me, ‘Let me go! Why should I put you to death?’””

What do you suppose would have happened to Michal if she had told Saul the truth?

Verses 18 - 23

18 So David fled and escaped, and came to Samuel at Ramah; and he informed him of everything that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth. 19 But it was reported to Saul, saying, “Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah.” 20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David, but when they saw the company of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing *and* presiding over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul; and they also prophesied. 21 When Saul was informed *of this*, he sent other messengers, but they also prophesied. So Saul sent messengers again the third time, yet they prophesied. 22 Then he went to Ramah himself and came as far as the large well that is in Secu; and he asked, “Where are Samuel and David?” And *someone* said, “Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah.” 23 So he proceeded there to Naioth in Ramah; but the Spirit of God came upon him also, so that he went along prophesying continually until he came to Naioth in Ramah. 24 He also stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay down naked all that day and all night. Therefore they say, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

18 So David fled and escaped, and came to Samuel at Ramah; and he informed him of everything that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.

David was innocent of wrong-doing, but he was being hunted as an outlaw so he sought out Samuel for advice and protection. Samuel and David went to Naioth which was the area of Ramah inhabited by the prophets.

20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David, but when they saw the company of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing *and* presiding over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul; and they also prophesied.

The messengers, armed military personnel, that came to take David back to Saul were overcome by the Spirit of God and could not complete their mission.

²¹ When Saul was informed *of this*, he sent other messengers, but they also prophesied. So Saul sent messengers again the third time, yet they prophesied.

This happened three times to the different groups of messengers.

²² Then he went to Ramah himself and came as far as the large well that is in Secu.

Do you think Saul went along or with a group of his most trusted men?

²³ So he proceeded there to Naioth in Ramah; but the Spirit of God came upon him also, so that he went along prophesying continually until he came to Naioth in Ramah. ²⁴ He also stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay down naked all that day and all night.

Saul ends up lying naked on the ground all day and all night. One would think that this experience would have had a major effect on Saul but that was not the case.

If Saul did come with others nothing is said about their reaction so it may be that the king came alone.

Regarding this school of the prophets which had been founded and organized by Samuel, some scholars believe this may have been the beginning of **the scribes** that we hear about in the New Testament.

Therefore they say, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

This expression was first used in 1 Samuel 10:12

¹² And a man from there responded and said, “And who is their father?” Therefore it became a saying: “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

In the first situation it was used to enhance Saul's reputation but here it takes on a much different meaning.