

1st Samuel Chapter 18

- In Chapter 17 we saw that David was a picture and type of Jesus sent to deliver the world from the enemy of our soul.
 - Chapter 17 ends with David slaying Goliath and keeping his armor and head as trophies.
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V: 1 After the interview with Saul is over, Jonathan, Saul's son has seen and heard all the things that have gone on.

- Jonathan is a hero in his own right, he's demonstrated his own heroic exploits in the battle field, he's a man of God, a man of courage and faith as demonstrated in his singular attack upon the Philistines in chapter 14.
- It is no surprise that he would be drawn to a like minded man of courage and faith, and so a friendship is born.

Amos 3:3 "How can two walk together unless they be agreed?"

Proverbs 18:24 "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

- In recent years there have been attempts by those in the homosexual movement that have tried to use this passage to indicate that David and Jonathan were involved in a homosexual relationship and thereby justify their own deviant behavior.
- The Hebrew language does not support this for one thing; secondly David has already been described as a "man after God's own heart" – meaning amongst other things that he's not involved in what the Bible describes as a lifestyle of sin; a sin for which God brought judgment down upon Sodom & Gomorrah, and the tribe of Benjamin for not dealing with it properly.

1 Peter 3:8-9 "⁸Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: ⁹Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing."

V: 2 Saul now sees the usefulness of David and no longer allows him to go home, but keeps him close to himself.

- David would no longer be allowed to go home to his sheep, but he was still a shepherd at heart.
- A new season in David's life, built on the foundation of previous experience.

V: 3-4 Jonathan & David's friendship grows close, and Jonathan humbles himself before David, giving David his princely robes and his weapons. Acknowledging that David was the true crown prince, the next in line for the throne.

- Robe, garments, sword, bow, and girdle / belt.
- David being a type of our Lord Jesus, these things are significant.
- Jesus is our robe and garment:

Isaiah 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness,..."

- Sword & bow – Jesus is our defense, our protection:

Psalms 94:22 "But the Lord is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge."

Psalms 28:7 "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; and with my song will I praise Him."

- Girdle, belt, Jesus is the One who strengthens us.

Psalms 18:32 "It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect."

- David had rejected Saul's armor; here he receives Jonathan's clothing and armor because they have the same faith, the same love for God, and the same understanding that God doesn't need these things to save them.

V: 5-7 David, as Saul's servant went out wherever Saul sent him, he behaved wisely – and Saul set David over his army – and was accepted by all of Saul's servant and soldiers, presumably including Abner – Saul's former general.

- David is given much favor by the Lord. Joshua followed in the footsteps of Moses and was encouraged by God that he would receive favor as well.

Joshua 1:5 "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

- David was filled with the Holy Spirit and he was seeking to please God in all that he did, doing all as unto the Lord – and there is unmistakable fruit that comes from that.

V: 6 Saul later gets upset because the people ascribe greater glory to David than to Saul.

- “... when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistines” as opposed to when Saul & David, or David & Saul Meaning that David went out to battle while Saul stayed at home.
- Even had Saul been there for the battles, David would certainly have out shone him, but how could he reasonably expect the people to appreciate his military prowess if he didn't even go out to battle?

V: 8 Saul gets mad, he didn't like what he was hearing – “They ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribe but thousands:”

- What this means is that Saul doesn't need to get his hearing checked, he hears just fine. 😊
- Previously when Jonathan had gone out and attacked the Philistines, killing the garrison in Geba (1 Samuel 13:3-4) all Israel heard that Saul had smitten the Philistines...
- Saul has issues with both the truth and with reality... and ultimately with pride.

“... what can he have more but the kingdom?”

- Saul has already been told that the kingdom would not pass to his heritage, and that the kingdom has been torn from him personally because of his disobedience – he's going to lose it all.

1 Samuel 15:23 “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king.”

1 Samuel 15:28 “And Samuel said unto him, the Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.”

- Now the people are in essence singing that David is better than Saul... kind of like a wide receiver with his eyes on the ball, extending to receive the pass when you hear foot steps and heavy breathing – you know you're about to get creamed...

V: 9 “Saul *“eyed”* David from that day forward.”

- Eyed: (H-5770) 'avan, aw-van'; to watch with jealousy, envy-eye.
- A verb indicating to look askance, to eye with suspicion. It means to observe something with a critical and questioning attitude.

Jesus tells us:

Matthew 6:22-23 “²²The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single (clear), thy whole body shall be full of light. ²³But if thine eye be evil,

thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”

- We’ll see the fruition of this in the following verses.

V: 10 The next day... “the” / specific evil spirit from God comes upon Saul and he prophesies.

- An evil spirit from the Lord, or allowed by the Lord. There is no such thing as a void or vacuum in nature or in spiritual things.

Matthew 12:43-45 “⁴³When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. ⁴⁴Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. ⁴⁵Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.”

- We are either going to be inhabited by the Spirit of the Living God, or by the spirit of the world.
- The only kind of “prophesy” that comes from an evil spirit is a false prophesy.

Matthew 7:17-18 “¹⁷Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”

- The Hebrew word used here for “prophesy” is (H-5012). “hithaphel” – is not used for true prophesy, it is used for false prophecies; meaning he was just babbling, just screaming, and uttering words without any sense or meaning – he was so mad he was raving in anger.

V: 10b-11 David begins to apply the usual remedy, playing music on the harp – but Saul is given over to the evil spirit more and more – he tries to kill David with a spear – but David dodged Saul twice and left.

1. David was a capable warrior, he killed Goliath.
2. David didn’t respond in kind.
3. David feared God, would not touch God’s anointed.

V: 12 Saul is at the point of acknowledging a tragic fact – he is afraid of David because he knows that God’s spirit is upon him – and that God’s Spirit has departed from himself.

- Later when David was dealing with the effects of his own sin he would write:

Psalm 51:10-12 “¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”

- David had seen what it did to Saul, and didn't want that to happen to him.
- It would indeed be a terrifying prospect, to consider losing one's salvation knowing what all that would entail.

V: 13 Saul sends David out of his sight, made him a captain over a thousand men – seemingly a demotion from being set over the men of war.

- No longer going out and coming in before Saul, but doing so before the people.
- Removed from his sight; darkness hates the light.

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”

V: 14-16 David conducted himself with wisdom and propriety in all his ways.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

- Because David fears the Lord, because he is a man after God's own heart – God grants him wisdom and favor – “... and the Lord was with him.”
- Saul is never described as wise or having wisdom – because he didn't fear the Lord – which was evident in his disobedience to God's word.
- Because of these things Saul feared David all the more.

V: 17-19 Saul uses his daughter as bait for David, if he will be valiant for Saul in battle against the Philistines – like he hadn't been already, then David will be rewarded with his daughter Merab.

- Saul sought to “spiritualize” his sin – “the Lord's battles.”
- Merab = “Increase”
- In the previous chapter Saul promised to give his daughter to the man who vanquished Goliath – apparently Saul didn't keep his word.

- Here Saul hatches this plan that will lead to the death of David at the hand of the Philistines – Saul didn't figure on God's participation on behalf of David.

Proverbs 16:29-30 ²⁹A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good. ³⁰He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass."

- David is more focused on the perspective that he is not worthy to be a son-in-law to the king.
- Saul goes back on his word and gives Merab to another man by the name of Adriel, who had probably come up with a handsome dowry and Saul did that which was expedient at the moment.

V: 20-21 Michal = who is like El / God a variant of Micah – who is like Yah.

- Michal loved David as well – this fit into Saul's plans as well, he will use her as a snare to David, again plotting to place David in danger and get the Philistines to do his dirty work – an evil plan.
- We see again Saul pushing David into fights with the Philistines hoping that they will kill David, probably because Saul is afraid to do it himself because the people love David.

V: 22-23 Saul commands his servant to lie to David, butter him up and spy on him.

- David laments again that he's not worthy to be son in law to the king, he's a poor man and of no esteem – David is humble.
- David is still poor even though Saul had promised to give riches to the man who slew Goliath – Saul is not a man of his word.

V: 24-27 Saul's servants report back to David that Saul doesn't want a dowry, he wants vengeance upon the Philistines – bring me 100 foreskins from the Philistines and Michal will be yours.

- Saul of course assumed that this would be impossible and that David would die in the attempt.
- David on the other hand rejoiced – he took his men and went out against the Philistines and brought back double what Saul had required.
- Saul then gave Michal to David as his wife.

V: 28-30 Saul's plan completely backfires. God is with David, and he gets the girl who loves him – which made Saul all the more afraid.

- Saul is completely motivated alternately by fear and pride, Saul then became David's enemy continually, which makes him an enemy of God.
- David had a name among his own people, now due in part to Saul's foolishness David has a name, fame amongst the Philistines.

Attributes: David, the Lord is with him 3 X's.
 Saul: Fearful & afraid.

Again the typology is bourn out:

Philippians 2:9-11 “⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”