

Saul and David (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 17:55–18:11

David's Heroism Brings Him to Saul's Attention

17:55 Now when Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this young man?" And Abner said, "By your life, O king, I do not know."

56 The king said, "You inquire whose son the youth is."

57 So when David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head in his hand.

58 Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" And David answered, "*I am* the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

Jonathan and David Become Close Friends

18:1 Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.

2 Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father's house.

3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.

4 Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt.

The Rift Between Saul and David Begins

5 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, *and* prospered; and Saul set him over the men of war. And it was pleasing in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

6 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 musical instruments.

7 The women sang as they played, and said,

"Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."

8 Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"

9 Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on.

Saul Tries to Kill David

10 Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God came mightily 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.

11 Saul hurled the spear for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David escaped from his presence twice.

Vindicate Me, O LORD (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 26

A Psalm of David.

1 Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity,
And I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

2 Examine me, O LORD, and try me;
Test my mind and my heart.

- 3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes,
And I have walked in Your truth.
- 4 I do not sit with deceitful men,
Nor will I go with pretenders.
- 5 I hate the assembly of evildoers,
And I will not sit with the wicked.
- 6 I shall wash my hands in innocence,
And I will go about Your altar, O LORD,
- 7 That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving
And declare all Your wonders.
- 8 O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house
And the place where Your glory dwells.
- 9 Do not take my soul away *along* with sinners,
Nor my life with men of bloodshed,
- 10 In whose hands is a wicked scheme,
And whose right hand is full of bribes.
- 11 But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;
Redeem me, and be gracious to me.
- 12 My foot stands on a level place;
In the congregations I shall bless the LORD.

God Blesses David (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 18:12–16

- 12 Now Saul was afraid of David, for the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul.
- 13 Therefore 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.
- 14 David was prospering in all his ways for the LORD *was* with him.
- 15 When Saul saw that he was prospering greatly, he dreaded him.
- 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, and he went out and came in before them.

Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 139

For the choir director.

A Psalm of David.

- 1 O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You understand my thought from afar.
- 3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down,
And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Even before there is a word on my tongue,
Behold, O LORD, You know it all.
- 5 You have enclosed me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
- 6 *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.
- 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

9 If I take the wings of the dawn,
If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

10 Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,”

12 Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike *to You*.

13 For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother’s womb.

14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;

16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained *for me*,
When as yet there was not one of them.

17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

18 If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand.
When I awake, I am still with You.

19 O that You would slay the wicked, O God;
Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.

20 For they speak against You wickedly,
And Your enemies take *Your name* in vain.

21 Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?

22 I hate them with the utmost hatred;
They have become my enemies.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;

24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

Saul Schemes to Eliminate David (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 17:55–18:11

17 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.”

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

19 So it came about at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.

20 Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. When they told Saul, the thing was agreeable to him.

21 Saul thought, "I will give her to him that she may become a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David, "For a second time you may be my son-in-law today."

22 Then Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David secretly, saying, 'Behold, the king delights in you, and all his servants love you; now therefore, become the king's son-in-law.'"

23 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 a poor man and lightly esteemed?"

24 The servants of Saul reported to him according to these words *which* David spoke.

25 Saul then said, "Thus 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.'" Now Saul planned to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

26 When his servants told David these words, it pleased David to become the king's son-in-law. Before the days had expired

27 David rose up and went, he and his men, and struck down two hundred men among the Philistines. Then David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. So Saul gave him Michal his daughter for a wife.

28 When Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and *that* Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him,

29 then Saul was even more afraid of David. Thus Saul was David's enemy continually.

Give Ear to My Voice (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 141

A Psalm of David.

- 1 O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me!
Give ear to my voice when I call to You!
- 2 May my prayer be counted as incense before You;
The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.
- 3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
Keep watch over the door of my lips.
- 4 Do not incline my heart to any evil thing,
To practice deeds of wickedness
With men who do iniquity;
And do not let me eat of their delicacies.
- 5 Let the righteous smite me in kindness and reprove me;
It is oil upon the head;
Do not let my head refuse it,
For still my prayer is against their wicked deeds.
- 6 Their judges are thrown down by the sides of the rock,
And they hear my words, for they are pleasant.
- 7 As when one plows and breaks open the earth,
Our bones have been scattered at the mouth of Sheol.
- 8 For my eyes are toward You, O GOD, the Lord;
In You I take refuge; do not leave me defenseless.
- 9 Keep me from the jaws of the trap which they have set for me,
And from the snares of those who do iniquity.
- 10 Let the wicked fall into their own nets,

While I pass by safely.

David Defeats the Philistines (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 17:55–18:11

30 Then the commanders of the Philistines went out *to battle*, and it happened as often as they went out, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul. So his name was highly esteemed.

Rescue Me, O LORD, from Evil Men (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 140

For the choir director.

A Psalm of David.

- 1 Rescue me, O LORD, from evil men;
Preserve me from violent men
- 2 Who devise evil things in *their* hearts;
They continually stir up wars.
- 3 They sharpen their tongues as a serpent;
Poison of a viper is under their lips. *Selah.* [[Rom 3:13b](#)]
- 4 Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked;
Preserve me from violent men
Who have purposed to trip up my feet.
- 5 The proud have hidden a trap for me, and cords;
They have spread a net by the wayside;
They have set snares for me. *Selah.*
- 6 I said to the LORD, “You are my God;
Give ear, O LORD, to the voice of my supplications.
- 7 “O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation,
You have covered my head in the day of battle.
- 8 “Do not grant, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;
Do not promote his *evil* device, *that they not* be exalted. *Selah.*
- 9 “As for the head of those who surround me,
May the mischief of their lips cover them.
- 10 “May burning coals fall upon them;
May they be cast into the fire,
Into deep pits from which they cannot rise.
- 11 “May a slanderer not be established in the earth;
May evil hunt the violent man speedily.”
- 12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted
And justice for the poor.
- 13 Surely the righteous will give thanks to Your name;
The upright will dwell in Your presence.