

A Sad Parting (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 20

David Questions Jonathan

- 1 And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what *is* mine iniquity? and what *is* my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?
- 2 And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will show it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? *it is not so.*
- 3 And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly *as* the LORD liveth, and *as* thy soul liveth, *there is* but a step between me and death.
- 4 Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do *it* for thee.

The Test

- 5 And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow *is* the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third *day* at even.
- 6 If thy father at all miss me, then say, David earnestly asked *leave* of me that he might run to Bethlehem his city: for *there is* a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.
- 7 If he say thus, *It is* well; thy servant shall have peace: but if he be very wroth, *then* be sure that evil is determined by him.
- 8 Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the LORD with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldst thou bring me to thy father?
- 9 And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee: for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?
- 10 Then said David to Jonathan, Who shall tell me? or what *if* thy father answer thee roughly?
- 11 And Jonathan said unto David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

Jonathan's Covenant With David

- 12 And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about to morrow any time, *or* the third *day*, and, behold, *if there be* good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and show it thee;
- 13 The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father *to do* thee evil, then I will show it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.
- 14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live show me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:
- 15 But *also* thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.
- 16 So Jonathan made *a covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, Let the LORD even require *it* at the hand of David's enemies.
- 17 And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

Jonathan Arranges to Convey the Outcome of the Test

- 18 Then Jonathan said to David, To morrow *is* the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.
- 19 And *when* thou hast stayed three days, *then* thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was *in hand*, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel.
- 20 And I will shoot three arrows on the side *thereof*, as though I shot at a mark.
- 21 And, behold, I will send a lad, *saying*, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows *are* on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for *there is* peace to thee, and no hurt; *as* the LORD liveth.
- 22 But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows *are* beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away.
- 23 And *as touching* the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD *be* between thee and me for ever.
- 24a So David hid himself in the field:

Saul Tries to Kill Jonathan

- 24b and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat.
- 25 And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, *even* upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty.
- 26 Nevertheless Saul spake not any thing that day: for he thought, Something hath befallen him, he *is* not clean; surely he *is* not clean.
- 27 And it came to pass on the morrow, *which was* the second *day* of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day?
- 28 And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked *leave* of me *to go* to Bethlehem:
- 29 And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me *to be there*: and now, if I have found favor in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table.

30 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious *woman*, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness?

31 For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?

33 And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David.

Jonathan and David's Parting

34 So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.

35 And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.

36 And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. *And* as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

37 And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, *Is* not the arrow beyond thee?

38 And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master.

39 But the lad knew not any thing: only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

40 And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry *them* to the city.

41 *And* as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of *a place* toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

42 And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

Ahimelech the Priest Helps David (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 21:1–12

David and His Men Eat the Holy Bread

1 Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why *art* thou alone, and no man with thee?

2 And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed *my* servants to such and such a place.

3 Now therefore what is under thine hand? give *me* five *loaves of* bread in mine hand, or what there is present.

4 And the priest answered David, and said, *There is* no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women.

5 And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women *have been* kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and *the bread is* in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.

6 So the priest gave him hallowed *bread*: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away. [[Matt 12:3–4](#)]

7 Now a certain man of the servants of Saul *was* there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name *was* Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that *belonged* to Saul.

8 And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.

9 And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it *is here* wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take *it*: for *there is* no other save that here. And David said, *There is* none like that; give it me.

David Flees to Gath

10 And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

11 And the servants of Achish said unto him, *Is* not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

12 And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

In God I Trust (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 56

To the chief Musician upon Jonathelemrechokim,

Michtam of David, when the Philistines took him in Gath.

- 1 Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me.
- 2 Mine enemies would daily swallow *me* up: for *they be* many that fight against me, O thou most High.
- 3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.
- 4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.
- 5 Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts *are* against me for evil.
- 6 They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.
- 7 Shall they escape by iniquity? in *thine* anger cast down the people, O God.
- 8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: *are they* not in thy book?
- 9 When I cry *unto thee*, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God *is* for me.
- 10 In God will I praise *his* word: in the LORD will I praise *his* word.
- 11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.
- 12 Thy vows *are* upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.
- 13 For thou hast delivered my soul from death: *wilt not thou deliver* my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

David Escapes Gath By Feigning Insanity (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 21:13–15

- 13 And he changed his behavior before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.
- 14 Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore *then* have ye brought him to me?
- 15 Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this *fellow* to play the mad man in my presence? shall this *fellow* come into my house?

I Will Bless the Lord at All Times (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 34

A Psalm of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed.

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.
- 2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad.
- 3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.
- 6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard *him*, and saved him out of all his troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.
- 8 O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: [cf. [1 Pet 2:3](#)] blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him.
- 9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for *there is* no want to them that fear him.
- 10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good *thing*.
- 11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 What man *is he that* desireth life, *and* loveth *many* days, that he may see good?
- 13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.
- 14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD *is* against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. [[1 Pet 3:10–12](#)]
- 17 *The righteous* cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.
- 19 Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.
- 20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. [[John 19:36](#); cf. [Exod 12:46](#); [Num 9:12](#)]
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
- 22 The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.