

Saul and David (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 17:55–19:11a

David's Heroism Brings Him to Saul's Attention

17:55 Now when Saul saw David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Whose son *is* this young man, Abner?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

56 Then the king said, "You inquire whose son this young man *is*."

57 So when David returned from striking down the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul. The head of the Philistine *was* in his hand.

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

Jonathan and David Become Close Friends

18:1 When he finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan became attached to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his *own* soul.

2 Saul took him on that *very* day and did not allow him to return to his father's house.

3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his *own* soul.

4 Jonathan stripped off the robe that he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his fighting attire, and even his sword, his bow, and his belt.

The Rift Between Saul and David Begins

5 David went out whenever Saul sent him, *and* he succeeded. So Saul appointed him over the men of the war, and it pleased all the people and even pleased the servants of Saul.

6 When they were coming back after David had returned from striking down the Philistine, the women went out from all the cities of Israel singing and dancing to meet King Saul with tambourines, with joy, and with three-stringed instruments.

7 And the women sang as they danced, and they said,

"Saul has struck down his thousands,
but David his ten thousands!"

8 Saul became very angry, and this saying displeased him, and he thought, "They have attributed to David ten thousands, but to me they have attributed thousands! What more can he have but the kingdom?"

9 So Saul was watching David *with suspicion* from that day onward.

Saul Tries to Kill David

10 On *the* next day, the evil spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he prophesied in the middle of the house. Now David was playing *the lyre* with his hand on *that* day as usual, and the spear was in Saul's hand.

11 Then Saul hurled the spear and thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.

12 Now Saul was threatened by the presence of David because Yahweh was with him, but had departed from Saul.

God Gives David Success

13 So Saul removed him from his presence, and made him commander of a thousand, so he marched in and out at the front of the army.

14 And David was achieving success in all his ways and Yahweh *was* with him,

15 but when Saul saw that he *was* very successful, he was severely threatened by him.

16 However, all of Israel and Judah *were* loving David, for he was going forth and marching ahead of them.

Saul Schemes to Eliminate David

17 Then Saul said to David, "Here *is* my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you as *your* wife. Only be a brave warrior for me and fight the battles of Yahweh." For Saul thought, "My hand will not be against him, but let the hand of *the* Philistines be against him."

18 But David said to Saul, "Who *am* I, and *who are* my relatives, the clan of my father in Israel, that I should be a son-in-law to the king?"

19 But at the time Saul's daughter Merab *was* to be given to David, she *was* given *instead* to Adriel the Meholathite as wife.

20 Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David, so they told Saul, and the matter pleased him.

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

22 Then Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in secret, saying, 'Look, the king *is* pleased with you, and all his servants love you. So then, become a son-in-law of the king.'"

23 And Saul's servants spoke these words to David privately. But David said, "*Is* it insignificant in your sight to become the son-in-law of the king, *as* I am a poor and lightly esteemed man?"

24 So the servants of Saul informed him, saying, “This is what David said.”

25 Then Saul said, “This *is* what you must say to David: ‘The king desires no bride price except for a hundred foreskins of *the* Philistines, to avenge himself on the enemies of the king.’” (Now Saul had planned to allow David to fall by the hand of *the* Philistines.)

26 So his servants told David these words, and the matter pleased David to become the son-in-law of the king *as* the specified time had not expired.

27 And David got up, and he and his men went and struck down two hundred men *of the* Philistines. Then David brought their foreskins, and they presented the full number to become the king’s son-in-law. Then Saul gave him Michal his daughter as *his* wife.

28 When Saul realized that Yahweh *was* with David and his own daughter Michal loved him,

29 Saul was threatened by David still more, so Saul became a perpetual enemy of David.

30 Then the commanders of *the* Philistines went out *for battle*, and as often as they went out, David succeeded more than all the servants of Saul, and his name became very esteemed.

Jonathan Persuades Saul to Stop Trying to Kill David

19:1 Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants about killing David, but Saul’s son Jonathan liked David very much.

2 So Jonathan informed David, saying, “My father Saul *is* trying to kill you; now please take care! In the morning you should stay in the hiding place and conceal yourself.

3 I will go out and stand at my father’s side in the field where you are, and I will speak about you to my father; if I find out anything I will tell *it* to you.”

4 So Jonathan spoke well about David to his father Saul and said to him, “The king should not sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his service for you *has been* very good.

5 He put his life in his hand and attacked the Philistine, and Yahweh brought about a great victory for all of Israel, and you saw *it* and rejoiced! Now why should you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?”

6 And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan and swore, “As Yahweh lives, he will not be put to death!”

7 Jonathan called to David and told him all of these words. Then Jonathan brought David to Saul and he was before him as formerly.

Saul Again Tries to Kill David

8 War came again, so David went out and fought against *the* Philistines and defeated them thoroughly so that they fled before him.

9 Then the evil spirit from Yahweh came upon Saul while he was sitting in his house *with* his spear in his hand. And David *was* playing a stringed instrument in *his* hand.

10 So Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall, and David fled and escaped that *same* night.

11a Then Saul sent messengers to David’s house to guard him and to kill him in the morning,

Deliver Me From My Enemies (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 59

For the music director; according to Do Not Destroy;

Of David. A miktam. When Saul dispatched men and they watched the house to kill him.

- 1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God.
Protect me from those who rise up against me.
- 2 Deliver me from workers of iniquity,
and from men of bloodshed save me.
- 3 For look, they lie in wait for my life.
The mighty attack against me,
not *because of* my transgression or my sin, O Yahweh.
- 4 Without guilt on my part they run and ready themselves.
Awake to meet me and see.
- 5 And you, Yahweh, God *of* hosts, *are* the God of Israel.
Rouse yourself to punish all the nations.
Do not be gracious to any *who* treacherously plot evil. *Selah*
- 6 They return at evening; they howl like dogs
while they prowl *the* city.
- 7 Look, they pour out *talk* with their mouth.
Swords *are* on their lips,
for *they say*, “Who hears?”
- 8 But you, O Yahweh, will laugh at them;
you will mock all *the* nations.

- 9 O my strength, I will watch for you,
because *you*, O God, *are* my *high* stronghold.
- 10 My God of loyal love will meet me;
God will cause me to look *in triumph* on my enemies.
- 11 Do not kill them, lest my people forget.
Make them *to wander* by your power,
and bring them down, O Lord, our shield.
- 12 *By* the sin of their mouth *and* the words of their lips,
even in their pride, let them be trapped,
and for *the* curses and lies they proclaim.
- 13 Destroy in anger; destroy so they are no more,
so that they may know that God *is* ruling in Jacob
to the ends of the earth. *Selah*
- 14 They return at evening; they howl like dogs
while they prowl *the* city.
- 15 As for them, they wander for food.
If they are not satisfied, then they continue all night.
- 16 But as for me, I will sing *of* your strength,
and I will hail your loyal love in the morning,
because you have been my *high* stronghold
and a refuge in my time of trouble.
- 17 O my strength, to you I will give praise,
because God *is* my *high* stronghold,
my God of loyal love.

David On the Run (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 19:11b–24

David's Wife Michal (Saul's Youngest Daughter) Helps Him Escape

11b but Michal his wife told David, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, *then* tomorrow you *will be* killed!"

12 So Michal lowered David through the window, and he went and fled and escaped.

13 Then Michal took the household god and put it on the bed and put a quilt of goat's hair at its head and covered *it* with the clothes.

14 And Saul sent messengers to arrest David, but she said, "He *is* ill."

15 So Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, so that I can kill him."

16 When the messengers came, to their surprise the idol *was* on the bed *with* the quilt of goat's hair at the head.

17 Then Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this and sent away my enemy, so that he escaped?" Michal said to Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go, why should I kill you?'"

David Flees to Samuel

18 So David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.

19 And it was told to Saul, "David *is* in Naioth in Ramah."

20 So Saul sent messengers to capture David. When they saw the company of the prophets prophesying and Samuel standing *as* chief over them, then the Spirit of God came upon Saul's messengers, and they also prophesied.

21 So they told Saul, and he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. Again Saul sent messengers a third *time*, and they also prophesied.

22 Then he also went to Ramah. When he came to the great cistern which *was* in Secu, he asked and said, "Where *are* Samuel and David?" Someone said, "Look *they are* in Naioth in Ramah."

23 So he went there to Naioth in Ramah and the Spirit of God came upon him also, and he walked along prophesying until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

24 He also stripped *off* his clothes and prophesied before Samuel. He lay naked all that day and all night. Therefore they say, "*Is* Saul also among the prophets?"

Chronological Notes

- 1) Several of the Psalms written by David have headings or titles that link them to a specific event in David's life. These Psalms have been included in the reading in their respective contexts. In chronological order, these Psalms are:
 - Psalm 59—when Saul sent men to watch David's house in order to kill him.
 - Psalm 56—when the Philistines captured him in Gath.
 - Psalm 34—when David pretended to be insane before Abimelech.
 - Psalm 142—when David was "in the cave" (assumed to be the Cave of Adullam mentioned in 1 Sam 22:1–2).
 - Psalm 52—when Doeg the Edomite betrayed David to Saul.
 - Psalm 54—after David was betrayed by the Ziphites.
 - Psalm 57—when David fled from Saul "into the cave" (assumed to be the caves of En Gedi in 1 Sam 23:26–24:2).
 - Psalm 51—when Nathan confronted David about his affair with Bathsheba.
 - Psalm 60—when David fought against Aram Naharaim, Aram Zobah and Edom (2 Sam 8:1–14; 10:16; 1 Chr 18:1–13).
 - Psalm 18—when God had rescued David from the power of all his enemies, including Saul (placed after David's wars).
 - Psalm 63—when David was in the Judean wilderness (assumed to be David's flight toward the Jordan during Absalom's revolt).
 - Psalm 3—when David fled from his son Absalom.

- 2) The following Psalms also having headings that link them to a specific event in David's life—however, there is not enough data to ensure certainty on a date:
 - Psalm 7—concerning a Benjaminite named Cush.
 - Psalm 30—a psalm which was used at the dedication of the "house." (often assumed to refer to the temple).