

## A Sad Parting (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

### 1 Samuel 20

#### David Questions Jonathan

- 1 Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, “What have I done? What *is* my guilt and what *is* my sin before your father that *he is* trying to kill me?”
- 2 And he said to him, “Far from it! You will not die! Look, my father does not do anything large or small unless he reveals it to me. Why should my father hide this thing or anything from me?”
- 3 Then David took an oath again and said, “Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he thought, ‘Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he worry.’ But as Yahweh lives and as your soul lives, surely *there is* merely a step between me and death!”
- 4 Then Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you wish, I will do for you.”

#### The Test

- 5 David said to Jonathan, “Look, tomorrow *is* the new moon, and I should certainly sit with the king to eat. You must send me away so that I can hide myself in the field until the third evening.
- 6 If your father misses me at all, then you must say, ‘David earnestly asked from me to run to Bethlehem his city, for the yearly sacrifice *is* there for all the clan.’
- 7 If he says ‘Good,’ *it will mean* peace for your servant; but if he *is* very angry, know that he has decided to do me harm.
- 8 So you must show loyal love to your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of Yahweh with you. But if there *is* guilt in me, *then* kill me yourself! But why should you bring me to your father?”
- 9 Then Jonathan said, “Far be it from you! For if I know for certain that my father decided evil should come upon you, would I not have told it to you?”
- 10 Then David said to Jonathan, “Who will tell me if what your father answers you *is* harsh?”
- 11 And Jonathan said to David, “Come, let us go out to the field.” So the two of them went out to the field.

#### Jonathan’s Covenant With David

- 12 Then Jonathan said to David, “Yahweh the God of Israel *is my witness* that I will question my father by this time the day after tomorrow. And look, if he is well disposed toward you, will I not send *word* to you and disclose it to you?”
- 13 So may Yahweh punish Jonathan and more if my father decides to do you harm and if I fail to disclose it to you and send word to you that you can go safely. And may Yahweh be with you, as he has been with my father.
- 14 And not while I am still alive, will you not show the loyal love of Yahweh with me, that I may not die?
- 15 And do not cut off your loyal love from my family forever, not *even* when Yahweh exterminates each of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.”
- 16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, *saying*, “May Yahweh call the enemies of David to account.”
- 17 And Jonathan again made David swear an oath, because he loved him; for with the love of his soul he loved him.

#### Jonathan Arranges to Convey the Outcome of the Test

- 18 Then Jonathan said to him, “Tomorrow *is* the new moon, and you will be missed, for your seat will stay empty.
- 19 On the third day you must go down quickly and go to the place where you hid yourself on the day all this started and remain beside the stone Ezel.
- 20 I will shoot three arrows *to the side as if* I were shooting at a target.
- 21 Then I will send *word* to my servant, ‘Go, find the arrows!’ If I clearly say to the boy, ‘Look, the arrows *are* on this side of you; bring it,’ then come, for *it means* peace for you. And there is no problem, as Yahweh lives.
- 22 But if I say this to the young man, ‘Look, the arrows *are* beyond you,’ go, for Yahweh has sent you away.
- 23 And *as for* the matter about which you and I spoke, look, Yahweh *is* between you and me forever.”
- 24a So David hid himself in the field.

#### Saul Tries to Kill Jonathan

- 24b When the new moon came, the king was seated at the feast.
- 25 The king sat at his seat as before, the seat by the wall, and Jonathan got up, and Abner sat beside Saul, but David’s place was empty.
- 26 But Saul said nothing on that day, for he thought, “Something happened to him. He *is* not *ceremonially* clean; surely he *is* not clean.”
- 27 And then on the next day, the second day of the new moon, that David’s place was empty. So Saul asked Jonathan his son, “Why did the son of Jesse not come either yesterday or today to the feast?”
- 28 Jonathan answered Saul, “David earnestly asked permission from me *to go* up to Bethlehem.
- 29 He said, ‘Send me away, please, for our clan sacrifice *is* in the city, and my brother commanded me *to be present*. So then, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me slip away and see my brothers.’ Therefore he has not come to the table of the king.”

30 Then Saul became angry at Jonathan and said to him, “*You* son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your shame and to the shame of your mother’s nakedness?”

31 For as long as the son of Jesse *is* alive on the earth, you and your kingdom will not be established! So then, send and bring him to me, for he will surely die!”

32 But Jonathan answered his father Saul and said to him, “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?”

33 Then Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. So Jonathan knew that his father had decided to kill David.

#### **Jonathan and David’s Parting**

34 Jonathan got up from the table enraged, and did not eat on the second day of the new moon because he was upset about David, because his father had disgraced him.

35 And then in the morning Jonathan went out to the field for the appointment with David, and a young boy *was* with him.

36 He said to his servant, “Run, please find the arrows that I am shooting!” The boy ran, and he shot the arrow to pass *over* him.

37 When the boy came up to the place of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called out after the boy and said, “*Is* not the arrow beyond you?”

38 Then Jonathan called out after the boy, “Quick, hurry, do not linger!” And Jonathan’s servant collected the arrows and came to his master.

39 But the boy did not know anything *about this*; only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

40 Jonathan gave his weapons to his servant and said to him, “Go, bring *them* to the city.”

41 The boy left, and then David got up from the south side, and he fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed each other and wept together, but David *wept* the most.

42 Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, because we have sworn, the two of us, *an oath* in the name of Yahweh, saying, “Yahweh will be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring forever.” Then he got up and left, 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 Now David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came trembling to meet David, and he said to him, “Why are you alone and there are no men with you?”

2 So David said to Ahimelech the priest, “The king charged me *with* a matter and said to me, ‘No one must know anything about this matter *on* which I am sending you, *with* which I have charged you and the servants.’” So I have arranged to meet with my servants at a certain place.

3 Now then, what do you have at hand? Give me five *loaves* of bread or whatever is here.”

4 The priest answered David and said, “There is no ordinary bread here at hand; there is only holy bread, *but* only if the young men have kept themselves from women.”

5 David answered the priest and said to him, “Indeed, women *were* held back from us as it has been when I’ve gone out before. And the things of the young men are holy when it *is* an ordinary journey. How much more today will the things be holy?”

6 So the priest gave him *the holy bread*, for there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence, which was removed from before Yahweh, in order to set hot bread *there* on the day when it was taken away. [[Matt 12:3–4](#)]

7 Now there was a man from the servants of Saul on that day, detained before Yahweh, whose name *was* Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul’s shepherds.

8 David asked Ahimelech, “Is there not at your disposal a spear or a sword? For I took neither my sword nor my weapons with me because the king’s matter was urgent.”

9 So the priest said, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine whom you killed in the valley of Elah *is* here, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want to take it for yourself, *then* take it, for there is no other except it here.” And David said, “There is none like it; give it to me.”

#### **David Flees to Gath**

10 So David got up and fled on that day from the presence of Saul, and he came to Achish the king of Gath.

11 The servants of Achish said to him, “*Is* not this David the king of the land? *Is* it not for this *one* that they sang in the dances, saying,

‘Saul killed his thousands,  
but David his ten thousands?’”

12 David took these words seriously and felt severely threatened by Achish the king of Gath.

## In God I Trust (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 56

*For the music director, according to The Silent Dove of Distant Lands.*

**Of David. A miktam. When the Philistines seized him in Gath.**

- 1 Be gracious to me, O God, because humankind has trampled me;  
fighting all the day he oppresses me.
- 2 My enemies trample all day,  
because many *are* attacking me proudly.
- 3 When I fear, I trust you.
- 4 God, whose word I praise,  
God I trust; I do not fear.  
What can *mere* flesh do to me?
- 5 All day they twist my words;  
all their thoughts *are* against me for evil.
- 6 They attack, they hide, they watch my steps,  
as they *lie in* wait for my life.
- 7 Because of iniquity will they escape?  
In anger cast down *the* peoples, O God.
- 8 You have kept count of my wonderings.  
Put my tears in your bottle;  
*are they* not in your book?
- 9 Then my enemies will turn back when I call.  
This I know because God *is* for me.
- 10 God, *whose* word I praise,  
Yahweh, *whose* word I praise,
- 11 God I trust; I do not fear.  
What can *mere* humankind do to me?
- 12 *My vows to you, O God, are binding* upon me.  
I will pay thank offerings to you,  
13 because you have delivered my soul from death.  
*Have you not kept* my feet from stumbling,  
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 So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be mad in their presence. He made scratches on the doors of the gate and let his saliva run down into his beard.
- 14 Then Achish said to his servants, “Look, you see a madman! Why did you bring him to me?”
- 15 Do I lack madmen that you have brought this one to act like a madman before me? Should this one enter my household?”

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

Psalm 34

**Of David, when he pretended to be crazy in front of Abimelech so that he drove him out, and so he departed.**

- 1 I will bless Yahweh at all times;  
his praise *shall be* in my mouth continually.
- 2 My soul makes its boast in Yahweh;  
let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3 Magnify Yahweh with me,  
and let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought Yahweh and he answered me,  
and from all my terrors he delivered me.
- 5 They looked to him and were radiant,  
and their faces shall not be ashamed.
- 6 This poor *man* called and Yahweh heard,

- and saved him from all his troubles.
- 7 The angel of Yahweh encamps  
around *those who* fear him,  
and he rescues them.
- 8 Taste and see that Yahweh *is* good; [cf. [1 Pet 2:3](#)]  
blessed *is* the man *who* takes refuge in him.
- 9 Fear Yahweh, *you* his saints,  
for there is no lack for *those who* fear him.
- 10 *The* young lions are in want and suffer hunger,  
but those who seek Yahweh will not lack for any good thing.
- 11 Come, *you* children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of Yahweh.
- 12 Who *is* the man who desires life,  
who loves *many* days in order to see good?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking deceit.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good.  
Seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of Yahweh *are* toward *the* righteous,  
and his ears toward their cry for help.
- 16 The face of Yahweh *is* against evildoers,  
to cut off the remembrance of them from *the* earth. [[1 Pet 3:10–12](#)]
- 17 They cry out and Yahweh hears  
and delivers them from all *of* their troubles.
- 18 Yahweh *is* near to *those who* are heartbroken  
and saves *those who* are crushed in spirit.
- 19 Many *are the* distresses of *the* righteous,  
but Yahweh delivers him out of them all.
- 20 *He* protects all his bones;  
not one of them is broken. [[John 19:36](#); cf. [Exod 12:46](#); [Num 9:12](#)]
- 21 Evil will slay *the* wicked,  
and *those who* hate *the* righteous will incur guilt.
- 22 Yahweh redeems the life of his servants,  
and none who take refuge in him will incur guilt.

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