

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 to Jonathan, “What have I done? What is my iniquity? And what is my sin before your father, that he is seeking my life?”
- 2 He said to him, “Far from it, you shall not die. Behold, my father does nothing either great or small without disclosing it to me. So why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so!”
- 3 Yet David vowed again, saying, “Your father knows well that I have found favor in your sight, and he has said, ‘Do not let Jonathan know this, or he will be grieved.’ But truly as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is hardly a step between me and death.”
- 4 Then Jonathan said to David, “Whatever you say, I will do for you.”

The Test

- 5 So David said to Jonathan, “Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I ought to sit down to eat with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field until the third evening.
- 6 If your father misses me at all, then say, ‘David earnestly asked *leave* of me to run to Bethlehem his city, because it is the yearly sacrifice there for the whole family.’
- 7 If he says, ‘It is good,’ your servant *will be* safe; but if he is very angry, know that he has decided on evil.
- 8 Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. But if there is iniquity in me, put me to death yourself; for why then should you bring me to your father?”
- 9 Jonathan said, “Far be it from you! For if I should indeed learn that evil has been decided by my father to come upon you, then would I not tell you about it?”
- 10 Then David said to Jonathan, “Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?”
- 11 Jonathan said to David, “Come, and let us go out into the field.” So both of them went out to the field.

Jonathan’s Covenant With David

- 12 Then Jonathan said to David, “The LORD, the God of Israel, *be witness!* When I have sounded out my father about this time tomorrow, *or* the third day, behold, if there is good *feeling* toward David, shall I not then send to you and make it known to you?
- 13 If it please my father *to do* you harm, may the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also, if I do not make it known to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And may the LORD be with you as He has been with my father.
- 14 If I am still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness of the LORD, that I may not die?
- 15 You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever, not even when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.”
- 16 So Jonathan made a *covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, “May the LORD require *it* at the hands of David’s enemies.”
- 17 Jonathan made David vow again because of his love for him, because he loved him as he loved his own life.

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 because your seat will be empty.
- 19 When you have stayed for three days, you shall go down quickly and come to the place where you hid yourself on that eventful day, and you shall remain by the stone Ezel.
- 20 I will shoot three arrows to the side, as though I shot at a target.
- 21 And behold, I will send the lad, *saying*, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I specifically say to the lad, ‘Behold, the arrows are on this side of you, get them,’ then come; for there is safety for you and no harm, as the LORD lives.
- 22 But if I say to the youth, ‘Behold, the arrows are beyond you,’ go, for the LORD has sent you away.
- 23 As for the agreement of which you and I have spoken, behold, the LORD is between you and me forever.”
- 24a So David hid in the field;

Saul Tries to Kill Jonathan

- 24b and when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat food.
- 25 The king sat on his seat as usual, the seat by the wall; then Jonathan rose up and Abner sat down by Saul’s side, but David’s place was empty.
- 26 Nevertheless Saul did not speak anything that day, for he thought, “It is an accident, he is not clean, surely *he is* not clean.”
- 27 It came about the next day, the second *day* of the new moon, that David’s place was empty; so Saul said to Jonathan his son, “Why has the son of Jesse not come to the meal, either yesterday or today?”
- 28 Jonathan then answered Saul, “David earnestly asked leave of me *to go* to Bethlehem,
- 29 for he said, ‘Please let me go, since our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to attend. And now, if I have found favor in your sight, please let me get away that I may see my brothers.’ For this reason he has not come to the king’s table.”
- 30 Then Saul’s anger burned against Jonathan and he said to him, “You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you

are choosing the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?

31 For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Therefore now, send and bring him to me, for he must surely die."

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

33 Then Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him down; so Jonathan knew that his father had decided to put David to death.

Jonathan and David's Parting

34 Then Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did not eat food on the second day of the new moon, for he was grieved over David because his father had dishonored him.

35 Now it came about in the morning that Jonathan went out into the field for the appointment with David, and a little lad *was* with him.

36 He said to his lad, "Run, find now the arrows which I am about to shoot." As the lad was running, he shot an arrow past him.

37 When the lad reached the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the lad and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?"

38 And Jonathan called after the lad, "Hurry, be quick, do not stay!" And Jonathan's lad picked up the arrow and came to his master.

39 But the lad was not aware of anything; only Jonathan and David knew about the matter.

40 Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad and said to him, "Go, bring *them* to the city."

41 When the lad was gone, David rose from the south side and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed three times. And they kissed each other and wept together, but David *wept* the more.

42 Jonathan said to David, "Go in safety, inasmuch as we have sworn to each other in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever.'" Then he rose and departed, while 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 David came to Nob to Ahimelech the priest; and Ahimelech came trembling to meet David and said to him, "Why are you alone and no one with you?"

2 David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has commissioned me with a matter and has said to me, 'Let no one know anything about the matter on which I am sending you and with which I have commissioned you; and I have directed the young men to a certain place.'

3 Now therefore, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever can be found."

4 The priest answered David and said, "There is no ordinary bread on hand, but there is consecrated bread; if only the young men have kept themselves from women."

5 David answered the priest and said to him, "Surely women have been kept from us as previously when I set out and the vessels of the young men were holy, though it was an ordinary journey; how much more then today will their vessels *be holy*?"

6 So the priest gave him consecrated *bread*; for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence which was removed from before the LORD, in order to put hot bread *in its place* when it was taken away. [[Matt 12:3–4](#)]

7 Now one of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's shepherds.

8 David said to Ahimelech, "Now is there not a spear or a sword on hand? For I brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's matter was urgent."

9 Then the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah, behold, it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod; if you would take it for yourself, 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 Then David arose and fled that day from Saul, and went to Achish king of Gath.

11 But the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of this one as they danced, saying,

'Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands?'"

12 David took these words to heart and greatly feared Achish king of Gath.

In God I Trust (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 56

For the choir director; according to Jonath elem rehokim.

A Mikhtam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

- 1 Be gracious to me, O God, for man has trampled upon me;
Fighting all day long he oppresses me.
- 2 My foes have trampled upon me all day long,
For they are many who fight proudly against me.
- 3 When I am afraid,
I will put my trust in You.
- 4 In God, whose word I praise,
In God I have put my trust;
I shall not be afraid.
What can *mere* man do to me?
- 5 All day long they distort my words;
All their thoughts are against me for evil.
- 6 They attack, they lurk,
They watch my steps,
As they have waited *to take* my life.
- 7 Because of wickedness, cast them forth,
In anger put down the peoples, O God!
- 8 You have taken account of my wanderings;
Put my tears in Your bottle.
Are *they* not in Your book?
- 9 Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call;
This I know, that God is for me.
- 10 In God, *whose* word I praise,
In the LORD, *whose* word I praise,
- 11 In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid.
What can man do to me?
- 12 Your vows are *binding* upon me, O God;
I will render thank offerings to You.
- 13 For You have delivered my soul from death,
Indeed my feet from stumbling,
So 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 disguised his sanity before them, and acted insanelly in their hands, and scribbled on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva run down into his beard.
- 14 Then Achish said to his servants, “Behold, you see the man behaving as a madman. Why do you bring him to me?”
- 15 Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this one to act the madman in my presence? Shall this one 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 feigned madness 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 will make its boast in the LORD;
The humble will hear it and rejoice.
- 3 O magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.

- 5 They looked to Him and were radiant,
And their faces will never be 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 encamps around those who fear Him,
And rescues them.
- 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; [cf. [1 Pet 2:3](#)]
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
- 9 O fear the LORD, you His saints;
For to those who fear Him there is no want.
- 10 The young lions do lack and suffer hunger;
But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.
- 11 Come, you children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 Who is the man who desires life
And loves *length of days* that he may see good?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil
And your lips from speaking deceit.
- 14 Depart from evil and do good;
Seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous
And His ears are *open* to their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
To cut off the memory of them from the earth. [[1 Pet 3:10–12](#)]
- 17 *The righteous* cry, and the LORD hears
And delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
And saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
But the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- 20 He keeps 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 those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- 22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,
And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

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