

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- There is a stark transition that happens in the story between Saul losing the kingdom and David gaining the kingdom. The Spirit of the Lord rushes upon David, and the same Spirit departs from Saul. The Lord, instead, sent Saul a harmful spirit to torment him.
- David is summoned from Bethlehem by the king's servants to play music for Saul while he is tormented in order to sooth him. This enabled David to become acquainted with life in the court and prepared him for the public role he was to fill later.
- While bringing his brothers their lunch on the battle field, David overheard the taunts of Goliath of Gath, and he fought and killed the Giant in the presence of all. Thus David early on showed his holy zeal as the anointed of Yahweh, the warrior-king who joined his God in battle against all who would challenge God's sovereignty.

Friendship

- This act of **heroism** so impressed Saul that he attached David permanently to his court and proceeded to fulfill his pledge to reward the hero who could avert the Philistine peril (**1 Sam. 17:25**).
 - ▶ This included the exemption from **taxation**, marriage to **Saul's daughter**, and riches, and additionally, David is made **commander** over the King's army (**1 Sam. 18:5**).
 - ▶ The most valuable reward, however, was **friendship with Jonathan** (**1 Sam. 18:3-4**). Jonathan was considerably older than David, so much so that we ought to regard it as a father-son relationship rather than one of mere friends. David, as we have seen, was born no earlier than 1041 whereas Jonathan was already a leader of men early in his father's reign, by 1050.
- Jonathan's love for David is a remarkable sign of the Lord's favor. As the eldest son of Saul, he surely would have followed in **ordinary dynastic succession**. This is the impetus behind Saul's eventual warning to Jonathan (**1 Sam. 20:31**). However, Jonathan disavowed any political ambition and joined himself to David in indissoluble bonds of friendship and loyalty.
 - ▶ Jonathan deferred to **Yahweh's selection** of David in the text in three

primary ways:

- ◆ First, by making a **binding covenant** with him (**1 Sam. 18:3**). This was not a mutual agreement; it was a pledge made by Jonathan to David.
- ◆ Second, Jonathan symbolized his submission to David's claims to the throne by clothing David in his own **royal attire**, and he would later explicitly acknowledge David as king over Israel (**1 Sam. 18:4; 23:17-18**).
- ◆ Third, the covenant was made not only with David personally but also with the **Davidic dynasty** (**1 Sam. 20:16**).

Everything Changes

- Saul's promotion of David to rank and power was an astute political move, but it proved to be more than the **fragile psyche** of the troubled king could handle. David went to war, and he was so successful that it was not long before the women of Israel began to sing of his exploits in almost **legendary terms** (**1 Sam. 18:6-9**). Saul then tried to get rid of David.
 - ▶ First, under demonic influence, Saul tried to **spear** David to the wall at least twice, but Yahweh **delivered** him (**1 Sam. 18:11; 19:10**).
 - ▶ Then, Saul released David from **palace service** and left him to military affairs only, but the Lord made him **successful** (**1 Sam. 18:13-16**).
 - ▶ Next he planned to rid himself of David by requiring David to pay the price of **a hundred** slain Philistines for the hand of his daughter Michal, this in lieu of what normally would have been an immense payment in silver and gold, but the Lord gave David **two hundred** (**1 Sam. 18:25-29**).
- Saul now became more **overt** in his intentions and let it be known even to Jonathan that **David must die**. Jonathan, already aware of David's divine election, tried to communicate to his father the folly of spilling innocent blood (**1 Sam. 19:4-5**).
 - ▶ This achieved a temporary **reconciliation**, but before long Saul again sought David's life, this time by sending assassins to murder him in his bed (**1 Sam. 19:6-7, 15**).
 - ▶ Michal, when she learned of the plot, warned her husband, who escaped to **Ramah** to find refuge with the prophet Samuel (**1 Sam. 19:11-18**).
 - ▶ David and Jonathan determined once and for all that David had **no future** in the employment of Saul. There was only one recourse now open to David: he must take up the life of a fugitive, exiled from family and home, if he hoped to survive and claim his throne.

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<p>1 Samuel 17:25</p>	<p>And the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father’s house free in Israel.”</p>
<p>1 Samuel 18:5</p>	<p>And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 18:3–4</p>	<p>3 Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 20:31</p>	<p>For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die.”</p>
<p>1 Samuel 18:3</p>	<p>Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 18:4</p>	<p>And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 23:17–18</p>	<p>17 And he said to him, “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this.” 18 And the two of them made a covenant before the Lord. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 20:16</p>	<p>And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, “May the Lord take vengeance on David’s enemies.”</p>
<p>1 Samuel 18:6–9</p>	<p>6 As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. 7 And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, “Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” 8 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” 9 And Saul eyed David from that day on.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 18:11</p>	<p>And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David evaded him twice.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 19:10</p>	<p>And Saul sought 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 night.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 18:13–16</p>	<p>13 So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. 14 And David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him. 15 And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 18:25–29</p>	<p>25 Then Saul said, “Thus shall you say to David, ‘The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king’s enemies.’ ” Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king’s son-in-law. Before the time had expired, 27 David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king’s son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife. 28 But when Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved him, 29 Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David’s enemy continually.</p>

<p>1 Samuel 19:4–5</p>	<p>4 And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. 5 For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the Lord worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?”</p>
<p>1 Samuel 19:6–7</p>	<p>6 And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, “As the Lord lives, he shall not be put to death.” 7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 19:15</p>	<p>Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, “Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him.”</p>
<p>1 Samuel 19:11–18</p>	<p>11 Saul sent messengers to David’s house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning. But Michal, David’s wife, told him, “If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed.” 12 So Michal let David down through the window, and he fled away and escaped. 13 Michal took an image and laid it on the bed and put a pillow of goats’ hair at its head and covered it with the clothes. 14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, “He is sick.” 15 Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, “Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him.” 16 And when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats’ hair at its head. 17 Saul said to Michal, “Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?” And Michal answered Saul, “He said to me, ‘Let me go. Why should I kill you?’ ” 18 Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth.</p>