

## 1 Samuel 19

After David killed Goliath (Chapter 17), everything changed in his relationship with Saul. 1 Samuel 18:9 says, “*And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.*” Since that time, Saul has repeatedly either attacked David or put him in a dangerous battle position, with one persistent goal.....to eliminate him.

**What order did Saul issue (v. 1)?** David was a marked man and Jonathan and his soldiers were instructed to kill David.

What a difficult place for Jonathan, his son (18:1-3)! What a difficult place for the servants of Saul! Remember.... everyone loved David. He had won the hearts of the people. What a difficult place for David as well! Who can he trust? Are the people going to honor the king? There was lots of uncertainty surrounding David at this time.

**What two things did Jonathan do to intervene (v. 1-7)?**

1. He warned David of Saul’s intentions. He advised David to hide in the field while he sought to pacify the king.

2. At the same time, he also tried to honor his father by urging him not to kill David. He appealed to Saul logically and rationally. He reminded Saul that he was the king and that David was his servant, that he needed to be fair with David, and that it was in Saul’s best interest to let David live (v. 4). He also reminded Saul that David was the Lord’s instrument who had defeated Israel’s enemies, and that Saul had rejoiced in his success.<sup>1</sup> It is difficult to confront your dad and tell him he’s wrong, especially when he’s the king.

**We are under authority established by God and commanded to submit to that authority (Romans 13:1).**

**How could Jonathan justify disobeying his father?** Because Saul, his father and king, commanded him to do something that was clearly disobedient to God. **Why was it disobedient?** God had anointed David as King. We are never excused from sin because we obeyed an authority that told us to sin. You can’t place the blame for your sin on your authority. In this instance, it would have been wrong for Jonathan to obey his father and kill David.

**How did Saul respond to Jonathan’s counsel (v. 6)?** Saul made a vow, “*As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death.*” This shows that the Lord had used Jonathan to genuinely touch Saul’s heart.....at least temporarily.

**How did Jonathan respond to Saul’s promise (v. 7)?** Jonathan brought David to Saul and he was in his presence as in times past; it seems to have all worked out. The command to kill David was revoked. Saul and David were together again just as in the “good ole days.”

**When war broke out again, what did David do (v. 8)?** Once more, David distinguished himself by defeating the Philistines and Saul’s jealousy was kindled afresh.

**How did Saul respond (vv. 9-10)?** The distressing spirit returned and Saul sought to pin David to the wall with his spear. This was the third time Saul missed. David barely escaped with his life.<sup>2</sup> Saul’s vow (v. 6) was short-lived.

**What did David do after Saul’s attempt on his life (v. 10)?** David fled and escaped that night. David never returned to the palace until he was king of Israel - some 20-ish years later! From now until the day Saul died, David would live his life as a fugitive.

**What happened prior to David’s escape (v. 11)?** Saul sent “hit men” to David’s house to watch for him and to kill him in the morning.

**How did David get out of this predicament (vv. 11-12)?** Michal, David’s wife, saved the day. Michal knew of the plot and helped him escape. Michal was Saul’s daughter, so this was a conflict of loyalties for Michal. Should she act

in her father's interests or in her husband's interests? Here, she made the right choice and supported her husband David. Her husband had replaced her father in the position of authority over her.

**How did Michal fool the men coming to capture David (vv. 13-16)?** She put an idol in his bed and concocted a story that he was sick. When Saul sent the men to seize David, her subterfuge was discovered.<sup>3</sup>

**What is the significance of the fact that Michal had an idol?** It shows that Michal didn't have the kind of relationship with God that she should have had. And, this weak relationship with God will show up in Michal as the story of David's life unfolds (2 Samuel 6:16-23). When we read of this idol, we are not surprised by the defects of character which we see in Michal.

**When he fled from Saul, where did David go (v. 18)?** How natural it was for David to seek refuge with the faithful prophet Samuel, who resided less than an hour's walk from Saul's headquarters at Naoth. Naoth was evidently a compound within Ramah where Samuel headed a school of prophets.<sup>4</sup>

**Men of God know to go to other men of God in times of trouble. Do you have a man or woman of God to go to in difficult times?**

**When Saul discovered David's whereabouts, what did he do (v. 20)?** He sent men to capture David.

**What repeated experience did these three groups of men have in common (vv. 20-21)?** Three times Saul's messengers failed to catch David because, when they came near the prophets who were with Samuel, they themselves began to prophesy under the control of the Spirit of God.

**What does it mean to prophesy?** When it says that they were all prophesying, it wasn't saying that they were all predicting the future. The Hebrew word simply has the idea of speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They were probably all giving spontaneous and inspired praise to God.

**When Saul himself went after David.....as he approached the city where David was, what happened to Saul (vv. 23-24)?** He too was gripped by the power of God and he prophesied. Once again the people repeated the proverb about Saul being among the prophets (10:11, 12). His fluctuating behavior must have been puzzling to them.<sup>5</sup>

While God held Saul prostrate on the ground all that day and all that night, David escaped (20:1).<sup>6</sup> God rescued David, not by using a human intermediary but directly by the overpowering influence of His Spirit.<sup>7</sup>

**What is the point of all these men prophesying? It's not like they were seeking diligently after God.** First, because God was protecting David and this was His way of "disarming" those who came to capture him. Second, this was the Holy Spirit's warning to these men and to Saul. Three sets of messengers came back with the same message -- *Hands off My servant David. David is mine! You're going home empty handed.*

**What must have been David's continuing mindset as he fled from Naoth (20:1)?** Exactly what he had said before: *Lord, you put that man on the throne. If he is going to be removed, You are going to have to do it, because I won't.* No manipulation! David knew what God's will/plan was; he had been anointed and was content to wait on His timing.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on 1 Samuel, 2024 Edition (published by Sonic Light), 149.

<sup>2</sup> William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 311.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on 1 Samuel, 2024 Edition (published by Sonic Light), 152.

<sup>5</sup> William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 312.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on 1 Samuel, 2024 Edition (published by Sonic Light), 152.