

1 Samuel

18

1 When [David] finished speaking with Saul, Jonathan's soul became bound up with the soul of David; Jonathan loved David as himself.

2 Saul took him [into his service] that day and would not let him return to his father's house.—

3 Jonathan and David made a pact, because [Jonathan] loved him as himself.

4 Jonathan took off the cloak and tunic he was wearing and gave them to David, together with his sword, bow, and belt.

5 David went out [with the troops], and he was successful in every mission on which Saul sent him, and Saul put him in command of all the soldiers; this pleased all the troops and Saul's courtiers as well.

6 When the [troops] came home [and] David returned from killing the Philistine, ^a*Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Septuagint reads "the dancing women came out to meet David from all the towns of Israel."* the women of all the towns of Israel came out singing and dancing to greet King Saul^a with timbrels, shouting, and sistrums.^b*Meaning of Heb. uncertain.*

7 The women sang as they danced, and they chanted:
Saul has slain his thousands;
David, his tens of thousands!

8 Saul was much distressed and greatly vexed about the matter. For he said, "To David they have given tens of thousands, and to me they have given thousands. All that he lacks is the kingship!"

9 From that day on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

10 The next day an evil spirit of God gripped Saul and he began to rave in the house, while David was playing [the lyre], as he did daily. Saul had a spear in his hand,

11 and Saul threw^c*Change of vocalization yields “raised.”* the spear, thinking to pin David to the wall. But David eluded him twice.

12 Saul was afraid of David, for the LORD was with him and had turned away from Saul.

13 So Saul removed him from his presence and appointed him chief of a thousand, ^d*Lit. “and he went out and came in before the troops.”* to march at the head of the troops.^{-d}

14 David was successful in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him;

15 and when Saul saw that he was successful, he dreaded him.

16 All Israel and Judah loved David, for he marched at their head.

17 Saul said to David, “Here is my older daughter, Merab; I will give her to you in marriage; in return, you be my warrior and fight the battles of the LORD.” Saul thought: “Let not my hand strike him; let the hand of the Philistines strike him.”

18 David replied to Saul, “Who am I and ^e*Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Change of vocalization yields “who are my kin.”* what is my life^{-e}—my father’s family in Israel—that I should become Your Majesty’s son-in-law?”

19 But at the time that Merab, daughter of Saul, should have been given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel the Meholathite.

20 Now Michal daughter of Saul had fallen in love with David; and when this was reported to Saul, he was pleased.

21 Saul thought: “I will give her to him, and she can serve as a snare for him, so that the Philistines may kill him.” So Saul said to David, ^b*Meaning of Heb. uncertain.* “You can become my son-in-law even now through the second one.”^{-b}

22 And Saul instructed his courtiers to say to David privately, “The king is fond of you and all his courtiers like you. So why not become the king’s son-in-law?”

23 When the king’s courtiers repeated these words to David, David replied, “Do you think that becoming the son-in-law of a king is a small matter, when I am but a poor man of no consequence?”

24 Saul’s courtiers reported to him, “This is what David answered.”

25 And Saul said, “Say this to David: ‘The king desires no other bride-price than the foreskins of a hundred Philistines, as vengeance on the king’s enemies.’”—Saul intended to bring about David’s death at the hands of the Philistines.—

26 When his courtiers told this to David, David was pleased with the idea of becoming the king’s son-in-law. ^b*Meaning of Heb. uncertain.* Before the time had expired,^{-b}

27 David went out with his men and killed two hundred^f*Septuagint reads “one hundred” and cf. 2 Sam. 3.14.* Philistines; David brought their foreskins and ^b*Meaning of Heb. uncertain.* they were counted out^{-b} for the king, that he might become the king’s son-in-law. Saul then gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.

28 When Saul realized that the LORD was with David ^g*Septuagint reads “and that all Israel loved him.”* and that Michal daughter of Saul loved him,^{-g}

29 Saul grew still more afraid of David; and Saul was David’s enemy ever after.

30 The Philistine chiefs marched out [to battle]; and every time they marched out, David was more successful than all the other officers of Saul. His reputation soared.

19

1 Saul urged his son Jonathan and all his courtiers to kill David. But Saul's son Jonathan was very fond of David,

2 and Jonathan told David, "My father Saul is bent on killing you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; get to a secret place and remain in hiding.

3 I will go out and stand next to my father in the field where you will be, and I will speak to my father about you. If I learn anything, I will tell you."

4 So Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul. He said to him, "Let not Your Majesty wrong his servant David, for he has not wronged you; indeed, all his actions have been very much to your advantage.

5 He took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great victory for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then should you incur the guilt of shedding the blood of an innocent man, killing David without cause?"

6 Saul heeded Jonathan's plea, and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death!"

7 Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all this. Then Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he served him as before.

8 Fighting broke out again. David went out and fought the Philistines. He inflicted a great defeat upon them and they fled before him.

9 Then an evil spirit of the LORD came upon Saul while he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand, and David was playing [the lyre].

10 Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he drove the spear into the wall. David fled and got away.
That night

11 Saul sent messengers to David's home to keep watch on him and to kill him in the morning. But David's wife Michal told him, "Unless you run for your life tonight, you will be killed tomorrow."

12 Michal let David down from the window and he escaped and fled.

13 Michal then took the household idol, laid it on the bed, and covered it with a cloth; and at its head she put a net of goat's hair.

14 Saul sent messengers to seize David; but she said, "He is sick."

15 Saul, however, sent back the messengers to see David for themselves. "Bring him up to me in the bed," he ordered, "that he may be put to death."

16 When the messengers came, they found the household idol in the bed, with the net of goat's hair at its head.

17 Saul said to Michal, "Why did you play that trick on me and let my enemy get away safely?" "Because," Michal answered Saul, "he said to me: 'Help me get away or I'll kill you.'"

18 David made good his escape, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. He and Samuel went and stayed at Naioth.

19 Saul was told that David was at Naioth in Ramah,

20 and Saul sent messengers to seize David. They^a*Heb.* "He." saw a band of prophets ^b*Cf. note at 10.5.* speaking in ecstasy, ^{-b} with Samuel

standing by ^cas their leader; ^c and the spirit of God came upon Saul's messengers and they too began to speak in ecstasy.

21 When Saul was told about this, he sent other messengers; but they too spoke in ecstasy. Saul sent a third group of messengers; and they also spoke in ecstasy.

22 So he himself went to Ramah. When he came to ^d*Septuagint reads "the cistern of the threshing floor on the bare height."* the great cistern at Secu, ^d he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" and was told that they were at Naioth in Ramah.

23 He was on his way there, to Naioth in Ramah, when the spirit of God came upon him too; and he walked on, speaking in ecstasy, until he reached Naioth in Ramah.

24 Then he too stripped off his clothes and he too spoke in ecstasy before Samuel; and he lay naked all that day and all night. That is why people say, "Is Saul too among the prophets?"

2 Samuel Chapter 3:12-16

12 Abner immediately^b*Meaning of Heb. uncertain.* sent messengers to David, saying, ^b*Meaning of Heb. uncertain.* “To whom shall the land belong?” and to say [further],^b “Make a pact with me, and I will help you and bring all Israel over to your side.”

13 He replied, “Good; I will make a pact with you. But I make one demand upon you: Do not appear before me unless you bring Michal daughter of Saul when you come before me.”

14 David also sent messengers to Ish-bosheth son of Saul, to say, “Give me my wife Michal, for whom I paid the bride-price^c*Cf. Exod. 22.15; Deut. 20.7; 22.23–29. of one hundred Philistine foreskins.*”^d*Cf. 1 Sam. 18.27 (where the number is given as “two hundred”).*

15 So Ish-bosheth sent and had her taken away from [her] husband, Paltiel son of Laish.

16 Her husband walked with her as far as Bahurim, weeping as he followed her; then Abner ordered him to turn back, and he went back.

2 Samuel Chapter 6:12-23

12 It was reported to King David: “The LORD has blessed Obed-edom’s house and all that belongs to him because of the Ark of God.” ⁱVv. 12b–14 are found, with variations, in 1 Chron. 15.25–27; vv. 15–19a, with variations, in 1 Chron. 15.28–16.3; vv. 19b–20a, with variations, in 1 Chron. 16.43. Thereupon David went and brought up the Ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the City of David, amid rejoicing.

13 When the bearers of the Ark of the LORD had moved forward six paces, he sacrificed ^{i4Q}Sama reads “seven oxen and seven [rams]”; cf. 1 Chron. 15.26. an ox and a fatling. ^j

14 David whirled with all his might before the LORD; David was girt with a linen ephod.

15 Thus David and all the House of Israel brought up the Ark of the LORD with shouts and with blasts of the horn.

16 As the Ark of the LORD entered the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him for it.

17 They brought in the Ark of the LORD and set it up in its place inside the tent which David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the LORD.

18 When David finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of Hosts.

19 And he distributed among all the people—the entire multitude of Israel, man and woman alike—to each a loaf of bread, ^fMeaning of Heb.

uncertain. a cake made in a pan, and a raisin cake.^f Then all the people left for their homes.

20 David went home to greet his household. And Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, “Didn’t the king of Israel do himself honor today—exposing himself today in the sight of the slavegirls of his subjects, as one of the riffraff might expose himself!”

21 David answered Michal, “It was before the LORD who chose me instead of your father and all his family and appointed me ruler over the LORD’s people Israel! I will dance before the LORD

22 and dishonor myself even more, and be low in ^k*Septuagint reads* “*your.*” my own^k esteem; but among the slavegirls that you speak of I will be honored.”

23 So to her dying day Michal daughter of Saul had no children.