

1 Samuel 18

King James Version (KJV)

18 And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. (Jonathan was Saul's son. He loved David as if he was his own brother)

²And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house. (David was now forced to live in the king's palace. He wasn't allowed to go home to tend the sheep)

³Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. (A covenant = an agreement of friendship for life)

(It was believed in Israel that Jonathan would be the next king. God anointed David to be the next king, but only Samuel and David's family knew that. If Saul had known about that, he would have killed David)

⁴And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. (This was a custom and an honor to David by Jonathan, the heir apparent to the throne. Maybe Jonathan was beginning to think that David might be the next king. Or maybe it was just a way of honoring him)

⁵And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants. (David's courage, through the Holy Spirit, got him promoted to be a leader of some of the army of Saul. He became a war hero of the people)

NOTE: (When judges or kings had the Spirit of God upon them, they received the gifts of prophecy, courage and wisdom. Here David is displaying those gifts from God)

⁶And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

⁷ And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. (This will cause Saul to see David as a threat to his kingship. His paranoia and jealousy eventually grew to the point that Saul tried to murder David more than once)

⁸ And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? (Saul became jealous of David's growing reputation with the people. He saw David as a threat to his kingship. God had already rejected Saul and anointed David for the king line)

⁹ And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. (eyed = to watch with jealousy – typical of men kings; God warned Israel about this when they rejected Him in favor of a man king)

¹⁰ And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. (God allowed the evil spirit; He didn't send it. When the Holy Spirit left Saul, there was a vacancy and an opening for the evil spirit to come in and take God's place in Saul's heart)

(He prophesied in the midst of the house = he ranted and raved like a mad man. When the Spirit of God left Saul, evil spirits moved right in to play on Saul's paranoia)

¹¹ And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice. (Saul attempted to murder David twice; and David was able to dodge both attempts)

¹² And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. (Afraid <Yah-wrey in the Hebrew> = to fear or to revere)

¹³ Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. (He demoted David and sent him out to war, away from the court)

¹⁴ And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. (With the presence of the Holy Spirit of God comes wisdom, courage and success)

¹⁵ Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. (This word afraid <ner - in the Hebrew> = to shrink from sore fear; a deathly, paranoid fear)

(Saul was losing his mind through his own paranoia. He knew that God had rejected him as king but refused to step down)

¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them. (He was a good leader, trusted by the people)

¹⁷ And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him. (Saul is hoping David will be killed in battle)

¹⁸ And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king? (David remained humble; unlike Saul and his ego problems)

¹⁹ But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.

²⁰ And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. (Maybe Merab didn't love David, but Michal did)

²¹ And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain. (Saul means to harm David. His words are all lies and scheming against David. David probably saw through it all, but Saul was still the king and therefore, untouchable)

(God warned Israel that a man king would not serve Israel, but rather he would serve himself at Israel's expense)

²² And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law. (Saul is sending liars to David, to set him at ease; so that he can do David harm)

²³ And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed? (David isn't buying it. He knows Saul is out to get him)

(David is using the dowry as an excuse to not be Saul's son-in-law. David's family couldn't afford the dowry that would be needed to marry the king's daughter)

²⁴ And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David. (David says that he is too poor to afford the dowry)

²⁵ And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. (No dowry needed. Saul won't let David escape his trap. David would have to kill 100 Philistines. This "dowry" was a pretty sure way to get David killed)

²⁶ And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired. (David still had time to raise the dowry before the marriage to Michal)

²⁷ Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife. (At this point, Saul had no choice. He made the offer to David. Now he has to deliver. David beat him at his own game)

²⁸ And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him. (Saul's plan totally backfired on him. David gets stronger and more popular, as Saul gets weaker and more pathetic. That is a sure sign of God's blessings upon David)

²⁹ And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually. (Saul's hatred is growing and growing; as is his paranoia)

³⁰ Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by. (set by = precious) (The battles continued, and David continued to prevail over

the Philistines. He became a national war hero and beloved of the people)

(The name David means beloved, in the Hebrew)