

1 Samuel 18:1-16 **David – Jonathan – Saul – Relationships**

Bond between David and Jonathan

¹ Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

² Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.

³ Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴ And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

David's Reputation

⁵ So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved 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. ⁶ Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. ⁷ So the women sang as they danced, and said:

"Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."

Saul resents David

⁸ Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" ⁹ So Saul eyed David from that day forward.

¹⁰ And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. ¹¹ And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

¹² Now Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul. ¹³ Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

¹⁴ And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him.

¹⁵ Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him.

¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Bond between David and Jonathan [1 Samuel 18:1-4]

✧ The bond between David and Jonathan was the kindred spirit of respect and admiration for the strength of faith displayed by both toward God.

✧ Trusting in God, Jonathan took his armorbearer with him and he attacked the Philistine garrison saying, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be

that the Lord will work for us. **For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few.**" [1 Samuel 14:6 NKJV]

- ✧ Jonathan had witnessed David's faith in facing Goliath. David had said, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But **I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.** This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.**" [1 Samuel 17:45-47]
- ✧ Mutual trust in the Lord makes bonds closer than a brother, Paul compared it to members of the same body. [1 Corinthians 12:12-27]
- ✧ From that day and on, Saul would not allow David to return to his father's house anymore. [1 Samuel 18:2]
- ✧ Jonathan and David made a covenant equivalent the bond of blood-brothers.

David's Reputation [1 Samuel 18:5-7]

- ✧ David behaved wisely wherever Saul sent him so Saul set David over the men of war.
- ✧ David was well received by all the people and all of Saul's servants.
- ✧ The victory over the Philistines after David killed Goliath gave him a higher popularity in Israel than the exploits of Saul who was credited with thousands while David ten thousands.

Saul resents David [1 Samuel 18:8-16]

- ✧ Saul saw the popularity of David and viewed it as a threat to his throne saying, "Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" So from that day Saul watched David with suspicion and fear. [1 Samuel 18:8-9]
 - ✧ This human attitude is understandable, especially in light of the prediction of Samuel when Saul failed in the case of the Amalekites. Samuel said, "Because you have rejected the Word of Yahweh, He has rejected you from being king" [1 Samuel 15:23].... "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. [1 Samuel 15:28]
- ✧ And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. [1 Samuel 18:10]
 - ✧ This is most interesting text, to realize that a person can prophesy while being influenced by a distressing spirit. All prophecies are not from the Holy Spirit, but often are from evil spirits sent from God to accomplish specific purposes. [1 Kings 22:19-23, 2 Chronicles 18:18-22]
- ✧ So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice. [1 Samuel 18:10-11]
 - ✧ When prophesying under the influence of a distressing spirit, Saul found himself able to strike out in his rage twice attempting to kill David.
 - ✧ The presence of the Holy Spirit enabled David to evade the spear and escape.
- ✧ Now Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him, but had departed from Saul. Therefore Saul removed David from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and David went out and came in before the people. And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him. Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. [1 Samuel 18:12-15]
 - ✧ A tormenting spirit in the heart of a politician drives him to rash action out of fear even when the other party is successfully accomplishing the mission he was sent to perform.
 - ✧ David's successful behavior was enhanced by the fact that Yahweh was with him.

- ✧ Saul's unreasonable behavior was due to the fact that Yahweh had departed from him and resentment had overcome him. When the Holy Spirit departs, the only thing left is human fleshly emotion jealousy and fear.
- ✧ But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them. [[1 Samuel 18:16](#)]
- ✧ The people appreciated David's performance because it was blessed by God and a benefit for the nation.