

1 Samuel 19 - David is Delivered by Jonathan, Michal, and the Spirit's Power

IV. Transition from the house of Saul to the house of David (1 Samuel 16:1—31:13)

(2) David at enmity with Saul (18:1—20:42)

(D) Saul's royal household protects David from death (19:1—20:42)

(a) David protected by Jonathan (19:1-10)

(b) David protected by Michal (19:11-17)

(c) David protected by the Spirit (19:18-24)

1 Samuel 19

(D) Saul's royal household protects David from death (19:1—20:42)

(a) David protected by Jonathan (19:1-10)

1 Now Saul told his son Jonathan and all his servants to put David to death. But Jonathan, Saul's son, greatly delighted in David.

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1 Saul told his son Jonathan and all his officials to kill David, but Saul's son Jonathan was very fond of David.

1 And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

- Saul's plan to murder David was no longer a secret, as now the king's servants were commanded to slay him

— Saul was being driven to take more desperate measures through his jealousy and paranoia, likely driven by the evil spirits that would come upon him

— Saul had been unable to kill David in previous attempts (18:11,25)

2 So Jonathan informed David, saying, "My father Saul is seeking to put you to death. Now then, please be on your guard in the morning, and stay in a hiding place and conceal yourself.

2 So Jonathan told David saying, "Saul my father is seeking to put you to death. Now therefore, please be on guard in the morning, and stay in a secret place and hide yourself.

2 So Jonathan told David, "My father Saul is trying to kill you. In the morning be careful and stay hidden in a secret place.

2 But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the

morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

3 And as for me, I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are *hiding*, and I will speak with my father about you; and whatever I find out, I will tell you."

3 I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father about you; if I find out anything, then I will tell you."

3 I'll go out and stand by my father in the field where you are. I'll speak to my father about you. If I find out what he intends to do, I'll tell you."

3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.

- Certainly the king's son could intercede for David. Saul even swore that he would protect David, but these promises were never fulfilled. No sooner did David win a great victory on the battlefield than Saul's old envy returned, and he threw the spear again.

4 Then Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul and said to him, "May the king not sin against his servant David, since he has not sinned against you, and since his deeds *have been* very beneficial to you.

4 Then Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Do not let the king sin against his servant David, since he has not sinned against you, and since his deeds *have been* very beneficial to you.

4 Jonathan spoke to his father Saul favorably about David. "The king shouldn't wrong his servant David because he has not wronged you and because what he has done has been very beneficial for you.

4 And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good:

- Jonathan chose to tell David about Saul's intentions, but he also tried to honor his father by urging him not to kill David

— He reminded Saul, both logically and rationally, that David was his servant, and that it was in his best interest to let David live

5 For he took his life in his hand and struck the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great victory for all Israel; you saw *it* and rejoiced. Why then would you sin against innocent blood by putting David to death for no reason?"

5 For he took his life in his hand and struck the Philistine, and the Lord brought about a great deliverance for all Israel; you saw *it* and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by putting David to death without a cause?"

5 He risked his life and struck down the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a spectacular deliverance for all Israel. You saw that and rejoiced, so why would you do wrong and shed innocent blood by killing David without cause?"

5 For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

- Jonathan also reminded Saul that David was the Lord's instrument to defeat Israel's enemies

— Jonathan's reasoning echoed Saul's own statement when he freed Jabesh-gilead (11:12-15)

6 Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan, and Saul vowed, "As the LORD lives, *David* shall not be put to death."

6 Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan, and Saul vowed, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death."

6 Saul listened to Jonathan, and swore by the life of the LORD that David would not be killed.

6 And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.

- A short-lived vow, which will be broken in four short verses...

7 Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these words. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

7 Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these words. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as formerly.

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

7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.

David Delivered Through Michal

8 When there was war again, David went out and fought the Philistines and defeated them with great slaughter, so that they fled from him.

8 When there was war again, David went out and fought with the Philistines and defeated them with great slaughter, so that they fled before him.

8 The war continued and David went out to fight against the Philistines. He thoroughly defeated them, and they fled before David.

8 And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

It was during this time (v8-14), where Saul was trying to kill David in his home, that David wrote Psalm 59.

9 Now there was an evil spirit from the LORD on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand, and David was playing *the harp* with *his* hand.

9 Now there was an evil spirit from the LORD on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand, and David was playing *the harp* with *his* hand.

9 The evil spirit from the LORD attacked Saul while he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand and David was playing the lyre.

9 And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.

- This is the third reference to an evil spirit from the Lord afflicting Saul (Cf. 16:14; 18:10)

— This influence overcame his good intentions and resulted in him breaking his vow to God by unleashing his wild jealousy

10 And Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he escaped from Saul's presence, so that he stuck the spear into the wall. And David **fled and escaped** that night.

10 Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, so that he stuck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.

10 Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he jumped away from Saul and the spear stuck in the wall. That night David escaped and fled.

10 And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

- After an initial and successful attempt by Jonathan to soothe his father's feelings toward David, Saul set in motion further steps to destroy David (this was his fourth attempt to kill David):

(1) Saul directly tried to kill David (18:10-16)

(2) Saul indirectly tried using the Philistines (18:17-20)

(3) Saul indirectly tried using Jonathan and Saul's men (19:1-7)

(4) Saul directly tried to kill David (19:8-10)

- First he tried to slay him once more with his own hand (v10); then he hired conspirators to murder him in his bed, a plot foiled by Michal (#5, v11-17). Next Saul sent men to Naioth at Ramah where David had taken refuge with Samuel (#6, v18-24).

- "...fled and escaped" - David was no longer able to stay in Saul's presence, but had to seek refuge from the king wherever he could find it
- From this time until Saul's death (1 Sam 31), David lived as a fugitive

(b) David protected by Michal (19:11-17)

11 Then Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, in order to put him to death in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, informed him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be put to death!"

11 Then Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, in order to put him to death in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be put to death."

11 Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him so they could kill him in the morning. David's wife, Michal, told him, "If you don't escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be put to death."

11 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.

- Saul reactivated his mission of killing David by using his men (Cf. v1)
- As Jonathan had done, Michal told David what Saul was planning
- It is ironic that two of Saul's own children delivered David from danger and possible death: Jonathan (18:1-7) and now Michal (v11-17)

12 So Michal let David down through a window, and he went and fled, and escaped.

12 So Michal let David down through a window, and he went out and fled and escaped.

12 So Michal let David down through the window, and he escaped and fled.

12 So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.

- The house of Michal was apparently situated on a wall

13 And Michal took the **householdidol** and laid *it* on the bed, and put a quilt of goats' hair at its head, and covered *it* with clothing.

13 Michal took the household idol and laid *it* on the bed, and put a quilt of goats' *hair* at its head, and covered *it* with clothes.

13 Then Michal took the household idol and laid it on the bed with a cover of goat hair placed at its head. Then she covered it with clothes.

13 And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth.

- "...household idol" - *teraphim*, they had corrupted Israel's worship from the time of the patriarchs (Gen 31:19,34-35; Judges 17:5; 18:14-20; 2 Kings 23:24; Hosea 3:4)

— Michal, like Rachel, probably kept *teraphim* in secret because of barrenness
— It is noteworthy that both Rachel and Michal were second daughters of their fathers, both deceived their fathers with *teraphim*, and both proved to be disappointments to their husbands

14 When Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick."

14 When Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick."

14 When Saul sent the messengers to take David, Michal said, "He's sick."

14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick.

15 Then Saul sent messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me on his bed, so that I may put him to death."

15 Then Saul sent messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me on his bed, that I may put him to death."

15 Then Saul sent messengers to check on David. He told them, "Bring him to me on the bed so I may kill him."

15 And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.

16 When the messengers entered, behold, the household idol *was* on the bed with the **quilt of goats' hair** at its head.

16 When the messengers entered, behold, the household idol *was* on the bed with the quilt of goats' *hair* at its head.

16 The messengers went in, and there was the household idol in the bed with the cover of goat hair at its head!

16 And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster.

- "...quilt of goats' hair" - both the LXX and Josephus translated this obscure Hebrew word as "a goat's liver"

— This is why Josephus relates that Michal placed a still-moving goat's liver in the bed to make the messengers believe that there was a breathing invalid beneath [6:11:4]

17 So Saul said to Michal, "Why have you betrayed me like this and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal said to Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I put you to death?'"

17 So Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal said to Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I put you to death?'"

17 Then Saul told Michal, "Why did you deceive me like this and let my enemy go so he could escape?"

Michal told Saul, "He told me, 'Let me go or I'll kill you!'"

17 And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

- Saul expected more loyalty from Michal than he received

— While Jonathan reminded Saul of David's faithful service, Michal slandered her husband, claiming he had threatened her and suggesting he was as ruthless as Saul

— No doubt Michal feared her father, but her words pushed him further from repentance

- Jonathan described David as Saul's "servant" (v4), but Saul now called David his enemy

(c) David protected by the Spirit (19:18-24)

18 So David fled and escaped, and came to Samuel at Ramah; and he informed him of everything that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.

18 Now David fled and escaped and came to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.

18 David escaped and fled. He came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went and stayed at Naioth.

18 So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth.

- When David was under pressure and uncertain about what to do next, so he sought counsel from Samuel; Ramah was Samuel's hometown

- "...Naioth" - "dwellings"; may be the college or common residence of the society of prophets Samuel gathered around him

- From this passage we learn that there was a company of prophets at Ramah, under the superintendence of Samuel, whose members lived in a common building, and that Samuel had his own house at Ramah (7:17ff), although he sometimes lived in Naioth.

19 But it was reported to Saul, saying, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah."

19 It was told Saul, saying, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah."

19 It was reported to Saul saying, "David is at Naioth in Ramah right now."

19 And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah.

20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David, but when they saw the company of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing *and* presiding over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul; and they also prophesied.

20 Then Saul sent messengers to take David, but when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing *and* presiding over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul; and they also prophesied.

20 Saul sent messengers to take David, and they saw a group of prophets caught up in prophetic ecstasy, with Samuel standing beside them leading them. Then the Spirit of God came on Saul's messengers, and they also were caught up in prophetic ecstasy.

20 And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

- Whatever relief David felt soon vanished when Saul discovered his location and sent soldiers to seize him

- Just as the Spirit once came on Saul to equip him as king, the Spirit now publicly stripped Saul of his kingly robes and power (10:9-13; 11:6; 19:23-24)

21 When Saul was informed *of this*, he sent other messengers, but they also prophesied. So Saul sent messengers again the third time, yet they prophesied.

21 When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. So Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied.

21 They reported this to Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also were caught up in prophetic ecstasy.

21 And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.

- This means that they fell into a trance or an ecstatic state, a condition which immobilized them and made them incapable of accomplishing their evil intentions

22 Then he went to Ramah himself and came as far as the large well that is in Secu; and he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" And *someone* said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah."

22 Then he himself went to Ramah and came as far as the large well that is in Secu; and he asked and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And *someone* said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah."

22 Then Saul himself went to Ramah, and he arrived at the large well that is in Secu. He asked, "Where are Samuel and David?"

Someone replied, "They're at Naioth in Ramah."

22 Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that is in Sechu: and he asked and said, Where are Samuel an David? And one said, Behold, they be at Naioth in Ramah.

23 So he proceeded there to Naioth in Ramah; but the Spirit of God came upon him also, so that he went along prophesying continually until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

23 He proceeded there to Naioth in Ramah; and the Spirit of God came upon him also, so that he went along prophesying continually until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

23 Saul went to Naioth in Ramah, and the Spirit of God came on him also. He continued in prophetic ecstasy until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

23 And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

- Saul's prophesying happened near the same location where he prophesied shortly after his anointing (10:12)

— Saul began his reign with great potential, plus God's enabling Spirit, which resulted in him praising God (1 Chr 25:1-3). However now, he was a raving lunatic.

— This passage does not support the theory that the prophets became ecstatic when they prophesied (Cf. 18:10; 1 Kings 18:29; 22:10-12; 2 Kings 9:1-12; Jer 29:26; Hosea 9:7)

— Saul drove himself to the brink of insanity by refusing to submit to God, who still exercised sovereign control over him despite the king's attempts to go his own way

24 He also stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and **lay** down naked all that day and all night. Therefore they say, "**Is Saul also among the prophets?**"

24 He also stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

24 He also removed his clothes and was caught up in prophetic ecstasy right in front of Samuel! He fell down naked and remained there all that day and all night. That is why people say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

24 And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?

- "...lay" - "fell"; note that Samuel defeated Saul, not with lies or weapons, but with the Spirit of God

— By using spiritual weapons, Samuel delayed Saul and gave David opportunity to get away

- "...Is Saul also among the prophets?" - this derogatory saying brackets the story of Saul's contacts with Samuel and with the Holy Spirit (Cf. 10:11)

— It reminds us that Saul had the potential to be a great king because of Samuel and the Spirit's resources that were available to him

— The narrative that the two occurrences of this saying enclose explains Saul's failure. He lost the opportunity to found a dynasty, he lost his own throne, and he lost his personal dignity because he refused to act like a prophet: he refused to put the honor, glory, and will of God before his personal ambitions and pride.

These two events [of Saul prophesying] prove that a person can have a remarkable religious experience and yet have no change in character. Special religious manifestations aren't evidences that a person is even saved (Cf. Matt 7:21-23). [Wiersbe]