

## 1 SAMUEL OVERVIEW - PART 2

### I. 1 SAMUEL

#### A. David in Saul's court (cont'd)

##### 1. The love of Michal for David

##### a. (18.17-19) Saul's attempt to give his daughter to David

- 1). It was promised that the slayer of Goliath would have Saul's daughter for his wife
- 2). Saul offered his older daughter, Merab, to David
  - a.) His condition was that David continue to battle Philistines
  - b.) His hope was that David would die in battle
- 3). David feels that being the king's son-in-law was above his station
- 4). The day David and Merab were to be married, Saul suddenly gave her to Adriel the Meholathite
  - a.) Resident of Abel-Meholah > Jordan plain, upper part
  - b.) This was likely done as an insult to David

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##### b. Michal, Saul's second daughter, loved David

1). (18.20) David and Michal approached Saul requesting marriage

2). (vss 21-25) Saul uses this to again plot David's death

##### a.) First he uses subtlety

- Saul has his servants tell David that the king really loved him, and wanted him to marry Michal

##### b.) David was still reluctant to become a king's son-in-law

- Note vs 25 "dowry" was his concern

- .. "Dowry not correct translation of Heb word *mohar*
- .. Means bride purchase price or marriage price

- David noted that he was poor, and did not have the *mohar*

- .. He reflects this in vs 23, asking if the servants thought the king's daughter should be bought cheaply

##### c.) The servants report David's concern back to Saul

- Saul enlarges his scheme with an achievable goal for David, that included his trap to kill him

- David needed to bring a hundred Philistine foreskins as the *mohar*

- .. Common practice of conquering kings to do to the vanquished soldiers

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- 3.) (vss 26-29) David accepts the challenge
  - a.) David and his men killed 200 Philistines, and brought twice what Saul required to the king
  - b.) Saul then gave Michal to David as his wife
  - c.) Now Saul's fear of David grew even more
    - He saw that God was with David, and gave him success
    - He saw that his daughter loved David
    - (vs 30) Even the Philistine commanders saw David's strategic skills in battle and respected him

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2. Saul's jealousy becomes unbounded

- a. (19.1-3) He enlists everyone in his court to kill David
  - 1). This includes Jonathan !
  - 2). But Jonathan warns David of the plot
    - a.) He tells David he will try to dissuade Saul
    - b.) He will warn him if further steps take place
- b. (vss 4-7) Jonathan then undertakes a plea for David's life before Saul
  - 1). His key points
    - a.) David didn't sin against, Saul, why would Saul sin against David ?
    - b.) David had performed a number of great victories for Saul and Israel
      - These victories were at a great peril to his own life
  - 2). Saul listened to reason and vowed that David would not be killed
    - a.) Jonathan informed David of this, and returned him to court
- c. (vs 8-14) Saul is again turned against David by jealousy
  - 1). David was once against successful in battles with the Philistines
  - 2). The Lord again sent an evil spirit to Saul
    - a.) His jealousy turned again against David
    - b.) He tried to pin him to the wall with his spear
    - c.) David escaped and went to his house
  - 3). Saul sent assassins to his house
    - a.) They were to kill him when he left the house in the morning
    - b.) But Michal let David out the back window during the night
    - c.) She set the household idol (!) [*teraphim*] in bed as a man
      - Did Saul rely on Michal as a snare because of the idolatry ??
    - d.) Saul sent messengers to bring David in, but Michal said he was sick
- d. (vss 15-17) Saul tries to bring David to him
  - 1). His messengers were to bring him in for execution
  - 2). They see the false man and tell Saul
  - 3). Saul is furious with Michal
    - a.) She claims that she had to let David go because he threatened her

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e. David is now a FUGITIVE

- 1). Result of Saul's jealousy
- 2). But the root cause is really Saul's failure to accept God's sovereignty
  - a.) A great failure of many (most ?) leaders today

B. David the Fugitive

1. Those aiding David in his flight

a. Flight benefactor: Samuel (19.18-24)

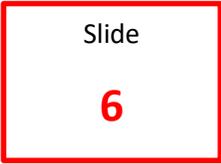
- 1). David headed immediately for Ramah to relate Saul's misdeeds to Samuel
- 2). Samuel took him to Naioth
  - a.) A quarter within Ramah where Samuel had established a community of prophets
  - b.) Saul heard that David was in Ramah
- 3). Saul sent agents to bring David back
  - a.) Three separate groups were affected by the Holy Spirit and began to prophesy with Samuel and his prophets
- 4). Finally Saul himself went to Ramah
  - a.) As he approached Naioth, the Holy Spirit came on him, and he joined the prophesying
  - b.) He ended up lying without his royal outer robes before Samuel and prophesied all day and night > humiliation before God

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b. Flight benefactor: Jonathan

- 1). (20.1-3) David flees Naioth to Jonathan
  - a.) Jonathan tries to assure him that Saul tells him everything, and that he will be able to warn David
  - b.) But David points out that Saul knows of their bond, and will withhold plans from him
- 2). (20.4-11) Plan to determine Saul's mood
  - a.) David asks Jonathan to find out if Saul still intended to harm him
    - The next day was the New Moon celebration
    - If Saul asked where David was, Jonathan would say he had given him leave to celebrate with his family
    - If Saul became angry, they had their answer
  - b.) The problem was how would Jonathan communicate this to David in secret



- 3). (20.12-17) The covenant
  - a.) Jonathan agreed to get the news to David, good or bad
  - b.) He then asked David to guarantee to protect his house when God gave him the victory over his enemies as the next king
    - David agreed to this request
    - This was fulfilled when David, as the new king, restored Saul's lands to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son and only remaining heir
  
- 4). (20.18-23) Means of communicating David's danger or not
  - a.) David was to hide in a place he had previously hidden
  - b.) Jonathan would go there for archery practice and shoot three arrows
    - If he told the servant to go beyond, it would tell David he was in danger and should run
    - If he told the servant to search near, it would tell David he could safely come back
  
- 5). (20.24-31) The test of Saul's attitude unfolds
  - a.) Saul notes that David is absent from the celebratory feast two days in a row
  - b.) He inquires of Jonathan why David is missing
  - c.) When Jonathan shares the excuse he and David contrived, Saul is filled with instant anger
    - He is so angry that he insults Jonathan's mother
      - .. This is a form of Oriental insult
      - They regarded an insult to a parent to be more inexcusable than an insult to themselves
      - Africans regard an insult to their mother to be the worst assault to themselves
      - .. This shows the depth of Saul's anger
    - He warns Jonathan that he will never become king so long as David is alive
    - He orders Jonathan to bring David to him for execution
  
- 6). (20.32-34) Jonathan's reaction
  - a.) He challenges the unfairness of Saul's intent to kill David
    - In answer, Saul hurls his spear at Jonathan
  
  - b.) Jonathan leaves the banquet with fierce anger, likely because of the insult to his mother and to his friend, David

7). (20.35-42) Jonathan's warning to David

a.) Jonathan went out to the prearranged field the next morning

- He took a lad with him under the pretext of practicing archery, and needing him to chase down the arrows

b.) As arranged, he told the lad to search out further as a signal to David that Saul wanted him dead, and he should flee

- The signal arrangement was made because Jonathan feared he might be watched by Saul's servants
- When the lad returned with the arrow, Jonathan told him to take his arrows and bow back to the city

c.) David came out of hiding for what might be their last meeting

- He bowed three times before Jonathan in gratitude
- They embraced in eastern style
- Jonathan reminded him of the covenant between their families, and urged him again to flee for his life

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c. Flight benefactor: Ahimelec

1). (21.1-3) David heads immediately to Ahimelec at Nob

a.) Located a few miles NE of Jerusalem

- The tabernacle was now located there

b.) Ahimelec was the high priest at Nob,

- Ahimelec is 12th high priest, descended from Eli
  - .. Name means "brother of a king"
  - .. Father of David's soon to be high priest Abiathar
  - .. Name shows up in archaeology on Samarian ostraca and on an ancient Hebrew seal

c.) David tells Ahimelec a lie to obtain food

- Ahimelec is trembling from the beginning
  - .. Probably knows Saul hates David
  - .. Is suspicious because he is alone
- David says he is on a secret mission for Saul
  - .. His men have been sent to an assembly point
  - .. He needs to gather food for them
- Why did David lie when God hates liars ?
  - .. He told it to God's high priest in God's holy place
  - .. Possibilities (not excuses)
    - Severe constant threats from Saul wore his character down ?
    - No mention of him seeking God's counsel or aid
    - Desire to protect Ahimelec from Saul's wrath ?

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- 2). (21.4-5) Ahimelec sets conditions for the food
  - a.) The only food is consecrated, i.e. holy, bread
    - Background (Lev 24.5-9)
      - .. Originally called the "Bread of the presence"
      - Located on a table next to the veil separating the temple sanctuary and the Holy of Holies
      - It is on display as a symbol of the covenant between God and His people
      - 12 loaves, 12 tribes
    - .. The process
      - Loaves are baked before the Sabbath begins
      - On the morning of the Sabbath, the high priest replaces the 12 old loaves with the 12 new loaves
      - The loaves are now in the presence of the Lord, and become consecrated
      - The old loaves are given to other priests, who must eat them within the tabernacle ("a holy place")
  - b.) Ahimelec determines he can give him the old bread IF ...
    - Jesus gave the principle Ahimelec decided from (Mk 2.23-28)
      - .. When a ceremonial principle conflicts with a moral duty, the lesser obligation gives way to the heavier
      - .. Eating bread to sustain life outweighed the ceremonial restriction
    - Since the bread was consecrated, the men must also be consecrated (not defiled) to eat it
      - .. Soldiers were normally consecrated when they fought a holy war
      - .. Apparently this included restriction from sexual relations
      - .. David said that this was done normally, as even more so as this was a special mission
- 3). (21.6-7) Success - and not success
  - a.) Ahimelec gave David the bread after David's assurances
  - b.) Unfortunately, Doeg the Edomite was also there
    - He was likely "detained before the Lord" by the restriction of travel on the Sabbath
    - He will soon report this incident to Saul
- 4). (21.8-9) David's last request
  - a.) Stretching his story further, he claimed he left with such urgency that he didn't have a sword or any other weapon
  - b.) Ahimelec told him that Goliath's sword was still there, which David took

d. Flight benefactor: Achish

- 1). (21.10-11) David now flees to the Philistine king of Gath
  - a.) It is likely he regarded David as a defector
  - b.) But Achish's servants reminded him of David's reputation
    - He was virtually king of Israel
    - He had slain more Philistines than Saul
- 2). (21.12-15) David created a ruse to counter his danger
  - a.) He acted like a madman
    - Made marks on the gate
    - Let his spittle run down his beard, which no male would do
  - b.) Achish decided he was no danger
    - The code of the east was that mad people were possessed by gods, and were inviolate

e. Flight benefactor: The four hundred (22.1-2)

- 1). David escaped Gath and settled into the cave of Adullam
  - a.) Located about ten miles southeast of Gath and 16 miles southwest of Jerusalem
- 2). His relatives soon joined him
- 3). All those who were denied justice and were disappointed in the country joined him
- 4). David became the leader of 400 men

f. Flight benefactor: King of Moab (22.3-5)

- 1). David remained at the cave of Adullam for an unspecified time
- 2). He then went to Moab and asked the king to allow his father and mother to remain there while he was in the "stronghold"
  - a.) Kings of the east were notorious for seeking revenge on enemies through their families, so David feared Saul would
  - b.) The king of Moab was relatively safer for them
    - He was the great-grandson of Ruth, so he's related to Jesse and David's family
    - He was an enemy of Saul
  - c.) "Mizpeh" means a watchtower, or stronghold
- 3). The prophet Gad advised David to return to Judah
  - a.) He wouldn't be much of a king in exile
  - b.) So he left for the forest of Hereth in Judah

These notes were originally written as I composed this study for our Faculty & Staff Bible Study at the local university. It is important to note that they follow the narrative in *Old Testament Survey Series: The Books of History* by James E. Smith (1995, College Press Publishing Company) very closely. It is the best summary I found, so it is the foundation for the study. In many cases, I used Dr. Smith's words directly, sometimes paraphrased them for clarity, sometimes enlarged on them with other resources. Since I didn't expect to publish the notes, I did not cite them at the time. It is now difficult to distinguish quotes from Dr. Smith, material from other resources, or what thoughts the Spirit gave me. Suffice to say that, if it is insightful to your spiritual growth, give all the glory to the Spirit, some credit to Dr. Smith, and none to me. I'm just the Spirit-led editor and teacher.

Bob Kostrubanic, November 5, 2021