

## **Saul Attempts to Kill David – 1 Samuel 19:1-24**

### **Introduction:**

Samuel anoints David under God's direction to be the next king. However, there already is a king in Israel, and his name is Saul. Saul believes that his son, Jonathan, should succeed him. Though David has done no wrong to the king, when Saul sees David he sees a threat. In this chapter alone Saul tries to kill David eight times. Yet David does not retaliate or strike back. He ends up fleeing for his life, finding respite with the aged prophet Samuel. In Saul's quest to destroy David he loses the respect and allegiance of his own children. What a price to pay for not listening to God.

### **Jonathan Defends David – 1 Samuel 19:1-7**

1. Chapter 19 is a continuation of what was happening in chapter 18. There we saw David gathering a following, to the dismay of King Saul. Verse 1 of chapter 19 reveals where Saul's heart is at. What does he want his son and attendants to do?
2. Saul likely knew Jonathan and David were friends. Why would he tell Jonathan to kill David?
3. How does Jonathan respond to the command of the king (v. 2)?
4. What plan does Jonathan make with David to protect him (v. 3)?
5. Jonathan speaks to his father, King Saul, about David. What facts does Jonathan remind the king of in regards to David (vss. 4-5)?
6. According to Jonathan, if King Saul killed David, what would he be doing (v. 5)?
7. How does King Saul respond according to verse 6? What is an oath?
8. How did things turn out for David according to verse 7?

## **Michal Saves David – 1 Samuel 19:8-17**

9. Verse 8 is the prelude to the next section, introducing the background for what will happen next. What is happening, and how is David involved?
10. One would think the King would be happy when one of his generals has success on the battlefield, but what happens to Saul (v. 9)?
11. Verse 9 reveals a little about the state of mind of Saul. In this verse, where do we find King Saul? What is in his hand? Does this make sense?
12. General David is also therapist David, playing the harp for the king who has fits of rage. As David plays to sooth the King, what does King Saul suddenly do? What is David's response?
13. David escapes to his home. Is he safe there (v. 11)? He warns David of the danger he is in? What is David told?
14. Michal is the daughter of King Saul. Who does she side with in this dispute between Saul and David (vss. 12-13)?
15. When the King's men came to get David, what does Michal tell them (v. 14)? How does the King respond to this excuse (v. 15)?
16. Verse 17 is quite revealing about the mindset of King Saul. What does he call David here?
17. How does Michal protect herself (v. 17)? Will this help his relationship with his father-in-law?

## **Samuel Protects David – 1 Samuel 19: 18-24**

18. David flees from the King. Where does he go and who does he meet up with (v. 18)?
19. Verse 19 reveals that Saul still has those who are loyal to him. How des this verse reveal that?

20. When King Saul discovers where David is hiding, he sends some men to capture him. They do not succeed. Why? (cf. v. 20)
21. What happens in verse 21?
22. King Saul is frustrated by the lack of success his men have had. So what does he do (v. 22)?
23. Is Saul any more successful than the men he sent to capture David (v. 23)? What happens?
24. A saying is started after the King's encounter with the prophets at Naioth. What is the saying? Is this the first time we have heard this (cf. 1 Samuel 10:11-12)?

### **Conclusion:**

In this chapter we find that David is neither a trouble maker nor an enemy of the King, yet the King tries to take his life over and over again. King Saul is unsuccessful because David is under the protection of God. God raises up three allies when David needs them most: Jonathan, Michal and Samuel. God's purposes would not be thwarted by a maniac King. David was chosen to be king, and he would survive all the attacks of Saul, and anyone else, until God put him on the throne.

This chapter speaks of David facing a terrible enemy, yet we see David continuing to trust in God. Yes, he fled when it was not safe – that was not a lack of faith; that was prudence. Still God would step in and rescue his servant. When hired thugs and a maniac King are subdued by worship, we know God has been at work.

It may be out of a context like this that David writes Psalm 59. In this Psalm we read the following:

Deliver me from my enemies, O God;  
be my fortress against those who are attacking me.  
<sup>2</sup> Deliver me from evildoers  
and save me from those who are after my blood.

<sup>3</sup> See how they lie in wait for me!

Fierce men conspire against me  
for no offense or sin of mine, LORD.

<sup>4</sup> I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me.

Arise to help me; look on my plight!

<sup>5</sup> You, LORD God Almighty,

you who are the God of Israel,  
rouse yourself to punish all the nations;  
show no mercy to wicked traitors.

It would be this strong sense of trust and confidence in God that would characterize the leadership of David. May we also trust that God will make a way for us when we walk in obedience and faithfulness to Him.

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