

1 Samuel 20

King James Version (KJV)

20 And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what is mine iniquity? and what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life? (David did nothing wrong. Saul had become evil)

²And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? it is not so. (Saul tells Jonathan everything that he will do. Jonathan will warn David of what Saul is up to. Jonathan is going way out on a limb to help David)

³And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death. (David knows the odds are mounting against him. Saul rules all of Israel. David needs to remember that God is protecting him, so Saul will fail)

(This is a good lesson to the Elect who will stand against antichrist in the end days. The whole world will hate them, but God will protect His anointed. They will prevail)

⁴Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do it for thee.

⁵And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even. (David was expected to sit with Saul at his table. This was probably on the Feast of Trumps - the 1st day of the 7th month <Tissery>)

⁶If thy father at all miss me, then say, David earnestly asked leave of me that he might run to Bethlehem his city: for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family. (David wants to judge Saul's reaction to him not being present. This will tell David whether Saul was planning to kill him at the feast)

(The temple was still in disarray, after the travesty of Eli and his corrupt sons. So people would sacrifice to God in their own towns with their family on the feast days)

⁷If he say thus, It is well; thy servant shall have peace: but if he be very wroth, then be sure that evil is determined by him. (If Saul is angry, then he intended to kill David at the feast)

⁸Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the LORD with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldst thou bring me to thy father? (If I'm guilty against the king, then kill me yourself)

⁹And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee: for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee? (Jonathan knows that David did no wrong against the king)

¹⁰Then said David to Jonathan, Who shall tell me? or what if thy father answer thee roughly?

¹¹And Jonathan said unto David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field. (They went away from where anyone could overhear their discussion)

¹²And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about to morrow any time, or the third day, and, behold, if there be good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee; (sounded = searched, inquired of, investigated)

¹³The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father. (Jonathan will tell David of Saul's intentions toward David – good or bad)

¹⁴And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:

¹⁵But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. (Jonathan is proposing that David look after Jonathan's family, long after Jonathan is dead. Jonathan knew that God was with David, and that he would eventually succeed) (Much later, Meshibusheth, Jonathan's handicapped son, would always have a place at King David's table and be under his protection)

¹⁶ So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies.

¹⁷ And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul. (He loved David like a brother)

¹⁸ Then Jonathan said to David, To morrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty. (Saul will notice David's absence)

¹⁹ And when thou hast stayed three days, then thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was in hand, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel. (Jonathan is telling David where he needs to be on the third day. He can hide there and watch for the signal that Jonathan will send him)

²⁰ And I will shoot three arrows on the side thereof, as though I shot at a mark. (The arrows will be a covert signal to David, because Saul's spies were everywhere. Jonathan would have been murdered if he were discovered to be helping David)

²¹ And, behold, I will send a lad, saying, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows are on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for there is peace to thee, and no hurt; as the LORD liveth. (That will mean that David can return)

²² But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows are beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away. (That will mean that David needs to disappear. Saul still intends to kill him)

²³ And as touching the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD be between thee and me for ever. (An oath to God, to be honest on their alliance, and help each other's family, even to their descendants)

²⁴ So David hid himself in the field: and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat. (Saul was at the festival)

²⁵ And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, even upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty. (Abner was Saul's cousin and the general of Saul's armies)

²⁶ Nevertheless Saul spake not any thing that day: for he thought, Something hath befallen him, he is not clean; surely he is not clean. (This is a guilty man, hoping that David is either hurt or unclean due to something bad)

²⁷ And it came to pass on the morrow, which was the second day of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day? (If David had been unclean, he could have been cleansed spiritually and attended the second day)

²⁸ And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem: (David and Jonathan had agreed to this story)

²⁹ And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me to be there: and now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table.

³⁰ Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness? (Saul realizes that Jonathan is making excuses for David. Jonathan is risking his own life by helping David. Saul even insults Jonathan's mother in chastising Jonathan)

³¹ For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die. (Saul is telling Jonathan that if he wants to be king, David must die)

³² And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done? (Jonathan isn't interested in committing murder to gain power. They all know that David did nothing wrong)

(This is what happens when a man is chosen to be king, instead of God. Men are corrupted by absolute power. Saul believes he is allowed to murder people, without cause, in order to remain in power)

³³ And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David. (And now Saul tried to kill his own son with a javelin)

³⁴ So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame. (Saul shamed him, shamed David and even berated Jonathan's mother. Finally he even just tried to kill Jonathan)

³⁵ And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.

³⁶ And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

³⁷ And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, Is not the arrow beyond thee? (This is the signal for David to leave. Saul intends to murder him)

³⁸ And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master.

³⁹ But the lad knew not any thing: only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

⁴⁰ And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry them to the city.

⁴¹ And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded. (Good friends who believe that they may never see each other again. At this point, David has lost his wife, his country, his family, his best friend <Jonathan> and pretty much everything)

⁴² And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.