

Study #10 Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 18:1-16, 19:1-7

18:1 When David had finished talking to Saul, Jonathan became a very close friend of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself. 2 From that day Saul kept him and didn't let him go back to his father's home. 3 Jonathan made a pledge of friendship with David because he loved him as himself. 4 Jonathan took off the coat he had on and gave it to David and also his military garment with his sword, his bow, and his belt. 5 So David went out; wherever Saul sent him, he was successful, so that Saul put him in charge of the fighting men, and all the people and Saul's officers approved.

6 Once, as they arrived when David had returned from defeating the Philistines, the women from all of Israel's towns came to meet King Saul, singing and dancing, with tambourines, shouts of joy, and musical instruments. 7 As the women sang to one another and celebrated, they said: "Saul struck down his thousands but David his ten thousands!"

8 Saul got very angry and didn't like that saying. "To David they give ten thousands," he said, "but to me only thousands. What more can he do but be the king?" 9 From that day Saul kept his eye on David.

10 The next day an evil spirit from God seized Saul, and he was prophesying in his house. While David was playing the lyre with his hand as he did every day, there was a spear in Saul's hand. 11 Saul raised the spear, thinking, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David got away from him twice.

12 Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him and had left Saul. 13 And Saul kept him away from him and made him commander of a thousand men. So he led the people out on campaigns and back again. 14 David was successful in everything he undertook, the LORD being with him. 15 Saul noticed how very successful he was and dreaded him. 16 Everyone in Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

19:1 Saul talked to his son Jonathan and all his officers about killing David. 2 But Jonathan, Saul's son, liked David very much. "My father Saul is trying to kill you," Jonathan told David. "Now please be careful tomorrow morning, stay out of sight, and hide. 3 I'll go out and stand beside my father in the field where you'll be, and I'll talk to my father about you. And anything I can find out I'll tell you."

4 Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul. "The king should not harm his servant David," he told him. "He hasn't harmed you but has done some very fine things for you. 5 He risked his life, struck down the Philistine, and the LORD gave all Israel a great victory. You were delighted to see it. Why then should you become guilty of murdering an innocent man by killing David without a reason?"

6 Saul listened to Jonathan, and so he swore, "As the LORD lives, he must not be killed."

7 Jonathan called David and told him everything that happened. Then Jonathan took David to Saul, and he was with him as before.