

Jonathan and David

18:1 Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that ^athe soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and ^bJonathan loved him as himself. 2 And Saul took him that day and ^adid not let him return to his father's house. 3 Then ^aJonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. 4 And ^aJonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt. 5 So David went out wherever Saul sent him, *and* ¹prospered; and Saul set him over the men of war. And it was pleasing in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

6 And it happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that ^athe women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with ¹musical instruments. 7 And the women ^asang as they ¹played, and said, "^bSaul has slain his thousands, ^cAnd David his ten thousands."

8 Then Saul became very angry, for this saying ¹displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now ^awhat more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 And Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on.

Saul Turns against David

10 Now it came about on the next day that ^aan evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and ^bhe raved in the midst of the house, while David was playing *the harp* with his hand, ¹^cas usual; and ²^da spear *was* in Saul's hand. 11 And ^aSaul hurled the spear for he thought, "I will ¹pin David to the wall." But David ²escaped from his presence twice. 12 Now ^aSaul was afraid of David, ^bfor the LORD was with him but ^chad departed from Saul. 13 Therefore Saul removed him from ¹his presence, and appointed him as his commander of a thousand; and ^ahe went out and came in before the people. 14 And David was ¹prospering in all his ways for ^athe LORD *was* with him. 15 When Saul saw that he was ¹prospering greatly, he dreaded him. 16 But ^aall Israel and Judah loved David, and he went out and came in before them.

17 Then Saul said to David, "^aHere is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife, only be a valiant man for me and fight ^bthe LORD'S battles." For Saul thought, "My hand shall not be against him, but ^clet the hand of the Philistines be against him." 18 But David said to Saul, "^aWho am I, and what is my life *or* my father's family in Israel, that I should be the king's son-in-law?" 19 So it came about at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to ^aAdriel ^bthe Meholathite for a wife.

David Marries Saul's Daughter

20 Now ^aMichal, Saul's daughter, loved David. When they told Saul, the thing was agreeable ¹to him. 21 And Saul thought, "I will give her to him that she may become a snare to him, and ^athat the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David, "^bFor a second time you may be my son-in-law today." 22 Then Saul

commanded his servants, “Speak to David secretly, saying, ‘Behold, the king delights in you, and all his servants love you; now therefore, become the king’s son-in-law.’” 23 So Saul’s servants spoke these words ¹to David. But David said, “Is it trivial in your sight to become the king’s son-in-law, ^asince I am a poor man and lightly esteemed?” 24 And the servants of Saul reported to him ¹according to these words *which* David spoke. 25 Saul then said, “Thus you shall say to David, ‘The king does not desire any ^adowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, ^bto take vengeance on the king’s enemies.’” Now ^cSaul planned to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. 26 When his servants told David these words, ¹it pleased David to become the king’s son-in-law. ² ^aBefore the days had expired 27 David rose up and went, ^ahe and his men, and struck down two hundred men among the Philistines. Then ^bDavid brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full number to the king, that he might become the king’s son-in-law. So Saul gave him Michal his daughter for a wife. 28 When Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and *that* Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved him, 29 then Saul was even more afraid of David. Thus Saul was David’s enemy continually.

30 Then the commanders of the Philistines ^awent out *to battle*, and it happened as often as they went out, that David ^bbehaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul. So his name was highly esteemed.

^a Gen. 44:30

^b Deut. 13:6; 1 Sam. 20:17; 2 Sam. 1:26

^a 1 Sam. 17:15

^a 1 Sam. 20:8-17

^a Gen. 41:42; 1 Sam. 17:38; Esth. 6:8

¹ Or, *acted wisely*

^a Ex. 15:20, 21; Judg. 11:34; Ps. 68:25; 149:3

¹ I.e., triangles; or, three-stringed instruments

^a Ex. 15:21; 1 Sam. 21:11; 29:5

¹ Or, *danced*

^b 1 Sam. 21:11

^c 2 Sam. 18:3

¹ Lit., *was evil in his eyes*

^a 1 Sam. 15:28

^a 1 Sam. 16:14

^b 1 Sam. 19:23, 24

¹ Lit., *day by day*

^c 1 Sam. 16:23

² Lit., *the*

^d 1 Sam. 19:9

^a 1 Sam. 19:10; 20:33

¹ Lit., *strike David and the wall*

² Lit., *turned about*

^a 1 Sam. 18:15, 29

^b 1 Sam. 16:13, 18

^c 1 Sam. 16:14; 28:15

¹ Lit., *with him*

^a Num. 27:17; 1 Sam. 18:16; 2 Sam. 5:2

¹ Or, *acting wisely*

^a Gen. 39:2, 3, 23; Josh. 6:27; 1 Sam. 16:18

¹ Or, *acting very wisely*

^a 1 Sam. 18:5

^a 1 Sam. 17:25

^b Num. 21:14; 1 Sam. 17:36, 47; 25:28

^c 1 Sam. 18:21, 25

^a 1 Sam. 9:21; 18:23; 2 Sam. 7:18

^a 2 Sam. 21:8

^b Judg. 7:22; 1 Kin. 19:16

^a 1 Sam. 18:28

¹ Lit., *in his sight*

^a 1 Sam. 18:17

^b 1 Sam. 18:26

¹ Lit., *in the ears of*

^a Gen. 29:20; 34:12

¹ Lit., *by saying according*

^a Gen. 34:12; Ex. 22:17

^b 1 Sam. 14:24

^c 1 Sam. 18:17

¹ Lit., *it was agreeable in the sight of*

² Lit., *And the days had not expired*

^a 1 Sam. 18:21

^a 1 Sam. 18:17

^b 2 Sam. 3:14

^a 2 Sam. 11:1

^b 1 Sam. 18:5

ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.