

8. Saul Turns on David and Pursues Him

(1 Samuel 18:6–23:29)

3.3 Saul Becomes Jealous of David and Plots Against Him

(1 Samuel 18:6–30)

3.3.1 Saul becomes jealous of David's fame (18:6-9)

3.3.2 Saul tries to kill David but the people love David (18:10-30)

- 18:11-12 - Saul FIRST tries to kill David with his spear. Saul fears because he realizes that the LORD is with David and not with him.
- 18:13-19 - SECONDLY, Saul places David's life and reputation at risk by making him commander, ultimately hoping the Philistines would kill him (see 18:17). The deal is "sweetened" by offering Merab to be David's wife IF David will fight for Saul (Saul had already promised to give his daughter to the man who killed Goliath - see 17:25)
- 18:21 - THIRDLY, Saul hopes Michal will be a *snare* for David and continues to hope that the Philistines will kill him. The term "snare" is used in the Torah in association with idolatry (see Exod 23:33; 34:12; Deut 7:16). 1 Sam 19:13 indicates that Michal may have been involved in idolatry when she uses one of the "household idols" to hide David.
- 18:25 -30 - FINALLY, Saul's scheming is highlighted by requiring *100 foreskins* of the Philistines meaning David would be at great risk to accomplish the task. David provides 2x the number making clear that the LORD was with him so that Saul fears even more. ***All of this elevated David's esteem among the people*** (18:30)

3.4 Jonathan Shows His Faithfulness to David

(1 Samuel 19:1-20:42)

3.4.1 Saul again seeks to kill David and Jonathan intervenes (19:1-7)

- 19:6 - Saul takes a "solemn oath" before the LORD not to kill David, which he will break, again showing his overall *faithlessness*.

3.4.2 Saul tries to kill David again (19:8-10)

3.4.3 Michal helps David escape from Saul (19:11-17)

- 19:13 - "idol/image" - Hebrew: *teraphim* - a large, anthropomorphic idol. Samuel had already indicated that Saul's rebellion was equivalent

to the “evil of teraphim” in 15:23. *Michal is most likely practicing some form of idolatry learned through her family.*

- **Psalm 59** - the title of the Psalm indicates that David composed it in reference to this episode: “To The Choirmaster: According To Do Not Destroy. A Miktam Of David, When Saul Sent Men To Watch His House In Order To Kill Him. “

3.4.4 **David flees to Samuel in Ramah (19:18-24)**

- 19:24 - Saul stripping naked (a great shame) before the LORD and prophesying emphasizes the reality that he was powerless before the LORD to reverse what the LORD had already decreed.

3.4.5 **David returns to Jonathan for help (20:1-11)**

- 20:5 - New Moon - a celebration prescribed in Numbers 28:11-15 for the beginning of a new month. These celebrations often strengthened clan solidarity.

3.4.6 **Jonathan makes a covenant with David (20:12-17)**

- The covenant that Jonathan (the heir apparent to Saul’s throne) makes is unique in that 1) Jonathan vows to side with David and 2) he asks David to be merciful to his family when he comes to power.
- 20:15 - “when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth.” Although Jonathan is speaking in poetic hyperbole here, the words foreshadow **the Messianic Promises** to be developed later - See Psalm 2, 110

3.4.7 **Jonathan schemes with David (20:18-29)**

3.4.8 **Saul becomes enraged with Jonathan (20:30-34)**

3.4.9 **Jonathan warns David to flee (20:35-42)**

3.5 **David Begins Living as a Fugitive and Outlaw** (1 Samuel 21:1–22:5)

- **Chapters 21—29** narrate David’s “Wilderness Wanderings” which may be seen as a parallel to Israel’s wilderness wanderings. Just as Israel was pursued and plagued by foreign kings, so David is plagued by a king “just like all the nations”!

3.5.1 David flees to Nob and eats the Bread of the Presence (21:1-9)

- **Nob** - In 1 Sam 22:19 it is referred to as a city of priests; it is likely that priests had fled there with the ephod after the capture of the Ark and the destruction of Shiloh (1 Sam 4:11).
- Doeg is likely a Moabite acquired in Saul's wars. He may have been exiled to Nob.

3.5.2 David flees to Gath and acts like a madman (21:10-15)

- David uses *insanity* to disguise his sanity whereas Saul uses the appearance of sanity to hide his insanity.

3.5.3 David flees to Adullam then to Moab (22:1-5)

- REMEMBER: David's great-grandmother was a Moabite! (Ruth 4:13-17)
- 21:5 - **The Prophet Gad** - Apparently one of David's group, advises David to return to Judah most likely because of the prohibition of making treaties with Moabites (Deut 23:2-6). He appears later warning David again (2 Sam 24:11-14). He also produced archived records of David's life (1 Chr 29:29) which indicates he served David for many years.

3.6 Saul Slaughters the Priests at Nob and David Rescues Keilah (1 Samuel 22:6-23:14)**3.6.1 Saul accuses his leaders of conspiracy and Doeg reports David (22:6-10)**

- 22:6-8 - Saul is so twisted in his thinking that he accuses Jonathan of conspiring with David to kill him. Based on Doeg's report, Saul believes the Priests are in on it too!!

3.6.2 Ahimelech the Priest tries to reason with Saul (23:11-16)**3.6.3 Doeg slaughters the priests of Nob (23:17-19)**

- The mass execution of the Priests - who had the responsibility of teaching and guiding the people - and of all the city of Nob was prescribed in the Torah only for Canaanite cities what would lead Israel astray (see Deut 20:17-18). This inversion of *cherem* - *holy destruction* - is one of Saul's final, unthinkable sins.

3.6.4 Abiathar escapes and finds refuge with David (22:20-23)

3.6.5 David inquires of LORD about saving Keilah (23:1-5)

- In this section, the narrative focuses on David “inquiring of the LORD.” When Abiathar arrives with the priestly ephod (23:6) it may be that it also contained the *urim and thummim* that was used to consult the will of the LORD. The main point is, David did not make a move without hearing from the LORD; this stands in stark contrast to Saul who always acts presumptuously.

3.6.6 Saul pursues David in Keilah but David escapes to Ziph (23:6-14)

- By fleeing the city, David spares the city from Saul’s wrath.

3.7 David Eludes Saul in the Wilderness (1 Samuel 23:15–23:29)

3.7.1 David and Jonathan covenant together again (23:15-18)

3.7.2 The Ziphites reveal David to Saul (23:19-24a)

- 23:22 - Naked/Crafty or Cunning - there is a wordplay here as in Gen 2:24, 3:1. The word for “naked” and “crafty” sound the same. Saul had *exposed* his shame through his nakedness earlier (19:24), now David is *hidden* because of his craftiness.

3.7.3 David escapes to Maon and Saul is turned back to fight the Philistines (23:24b-29)

