

## SERMON 7: COVENANT, KINSHIP, AND KINGDOM - 1 SAMUEL 18

THE LIFE & TIMES OF KING DAVID | DR. RANDY WHITE

### DAVID AND JONATHAN'S COVENANT (1 SAMUEL 18:1-4)

In 1 Samuel 18, a deep bond forms between Jonathan, King Saul's son, and David, Israel's hero, symbolized as a knitting of the soul. This bond, more than friendship, signifies a covenantal kinship formed right after David's victory over Goliath, reflecting Jonathan's recognition of David as a kindred spirit.

Jonathan's covenant with David symbolizes his acknowledgment of David's divine anointing and submission to God's plan, contrasting with Saul's growing hostility. These covenants in the ancient Near Eastern context were sacred, binding agreements, emphasizing the depth of their commitment.

Jonathan's gifts to David, including his robe and weapons, represent a transfer of royal honor and mutual defense, demonstrating Jonathan's humility and recognition of God's favor on David.

These verses lay the foundation for one of the most celebrated biblical friendships. The covenant between David and Jonathan transcends personal affection and aligns with divine purpose. It sets the stage for David's future challenges and ascent to the throne. Jonathan, despite being the heir apparent, acknowledges and submits to God's choice in David, displaying the power of godly friendship and loyalty amidst political intrigue and personal ambition.

### DAVID'S MILITARY SUCCESSES AND GROWING POPULARITY (1 SAMUEL 18:5-7)

Following his victory over Goliath, David quickly becomes a trusted figure in King Saul's service, earning admiration from the people of Israel. His transition from shepherd boy to respected military leader is marked by consistent success in his missions. His effective leadership and godly character earn him the loyalty of Saul's men.

This period in David's life showcases his capabilities beyond his encounter with Goliath. He proves himself as a leader and warrior, fulfilling Samuel's anointing, and reflecting divine favor. David's rise signifies his military prowess and his ability to inspire people, necessary for his future role as king.

David's popularity peaks with the celebratory songs sung by the women of Israel attributing more triumphs to David than to Saul, causing jealousy and fear in Saul's heart. This song, while a tribute to David's heroism, also reveals a shift in public perception of him as a hero surpassing the king.

This song profoundly impacts Saul, who views David as a rival and a threat, marking a turning point in their relationship. The resulting conflict profoundly affects both their lives and Israel's future.

In 1 Samuel 18, we witness the paradox of David's rise: as his popularity grows, so does Saul's jealousy, setting the stage for David's journey marked by triumphs and trials.

### SAUL'S JEALOUSY AND FEAR OF DAVID (1 SAMUEL 18:8-9)

1 Samuel 18 delves into King Saul's emotional turmoil due to David's growing popularity. Saul's growing fear and jealousy stem from David's rise as a national hero and potential threat to his reign.

Saul's envy is triggered by a song praising David for slaying more enemies than Saul. This comparison shakes Saul's self-perception and authority, sparking fear that David might overshadow his reign.

Saul's reaction is profound, reflecting a deep fear for his throne and legacy. Despite his anointment by Samuel and leadership in battles, Saul's reign is tainted by disobedience and a troubled spirit. Meanwhile, David shines as a blessed figure excelling where Saul stumbled.

Saul's perception of David shifts from loyal servant to rival, marking a tragic trajectory in his reign, driven by fear and jealousy, not wisdom or faith. This change highlights the dangers of leadership dictated by insecurity and envy, revealing Saul's lack of trust in God's plan and inability to celebrate others' achievements.

These verses contrast Saul's fear-driven leadership with David's faith-driven journey, setting the stage for their struggle that transcends personal conflict, exploring the essence of leading and serving according to God's will.

### SAUL'S HOSTILE ACTIONS AGAINST DAVID (1 SAMUEL 18:10-11)

In 1 Samuel 18:10-11, Saul's jealousy and fear towards David turn into open hostility. Influenced by an evil spirit from God, Saul attempts twice to kill David with a spear. This marks Saul's deteriorating mental state and divine punishment for his disobedience. Despite King Saul's efforts, David escapes, demonstrating his alertness and possibly divine protection. These incidents not only show Saul's deep-seated jealousy and fear but also signify a shift in their relationship from mutual respect to a fight for survival. The narrative depicts a king losing his moral compass, driven by uncontrolled emotions and a departure from God's favor, and the rise of David as a resilient figure of divine favor.

### DAVID'S MARRIAGE TO MICHAL (1 SAMUEL 18:17-30)

King Saul initially offered his elder daughter, Merab, to David as a reward for his victory over Goliath. However, Saul betrayed David by marrying Merab to Adriel the Meholathite, a political move reflecting his fear of David's growing influence.

Saul's younger daughter, Michal, who loved David, is introduced next. Seeing her affection, Saul used it to trap David by demanding a hundred Philistine foreskins as a dowry, hoping David would be killed. David, showing humility and courage, doubled the dowry, securing his marriage with Michal and solidifying his position in Israel.

Saul's fear increased as he realized God's favor had shifted to David. The chapter ends highlighting David's escalating success, stirring Saul's fear and setting the stage for future conflicts. David's marriage to Michal signifies a personal, political, and spiritual milestone, reflecting his divine favor. In contrast, Saul's fear-driven actions foreshadow his reign's downfall, showing the consequences of flawed leadership.