

The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 20

Jonathan, David, and Saul

Though David and Jonathan are the closest of friends, the growing paranoia of Saul is soon to separate them.

51. The Conference of Jonathan and David- I Samuel 20:1-23

- With Saul “distracted” with the prophets at Ramah, David returns to Gibeah to consult with Jonathan.
- vs. 2 - It looks like Jonathan was not privy to the murderous plans of Saul. Jonathan was deluded into thinking he knew all his father’s doings and underestimates how far Saul will go.
- New Moon - remember that Jewish months were based on the phases of the moon. The new moon heralded a new month. There were prescribed sacrifices for the occasion (Numbers 28:11-15) and the silver trumpets were blown (Numbers 10:10). The main purpose was to consecrate to God each month at its beginning. Isaiah mentions them in Isaiah 1:12-14.
- vs. 5 - David and Jonathan are discussing this on the last day of a month (30th), which would be day one of three. The new moon began the new day on the 1st, which would be day two of three. Therefore, David would remain hidden until the evening of the 2nd, which would be day three.
- vs. 5-7 - basically this test is to see how Saul reacts to David’s absence. If Saul noticed and had no problem with the secure offering, then that was a sign that everything was OK. However, if Saul noticed and became angry (which he probably would since he seems determined to kill David at the earliest chance), then Jonathan would know Saul truly intended to kill David.
- vs. 8 - Note that they have made a covenant (agreement).
- vs. 9 - How would you react if your best friend asked you to be their executioner?
- vs. 11 - they go into the field to ensure privacy.
- vs. 12-15 - This is an oath that Jonathan makes to David. Note that it begins with Jonathan swearing to inform David of Saul’s attitude towards him, then ends with a promise for the descendants. I think Jonathan knew that David, and not himself, would be the next king over Israel and that he would serve and love David when he became king.
- vs. 16-17 - this agreement only builds upon that already made between these friends.
- vs. 19 - This is probably the field they were talking in. The stone named Ezel must have been some sort of landmark and Jonathan routinely used for target practice.
- vs. 21-22 - to summarize: if Jonathan’s servant retrieves the arrows, Saul is not planning on murdering David; if Jonathan’s servant doesn’t retrieve the arrows, Saul is planning on murdering David. This is a brilliant method of covert communication.

52. Saul's Intentions Revealed to Jonathan - I Samuel 20:24-34

- vs. 26 - Saul almost ruins the plan by not commenting on David's absence at the feast of the New Moon.
- vs. 30-31 - Wow, Saul. Full of vitriol, are we?
- vs. 33 - somebody really needs to take that spear away from Saul. He's gonna hurt somebody!
- vs. 33 - So it takes his Dad attempting to kill him for Jonathan to realize what is going on?

53. The Parting of Jonathan and David - I Samuel 20:35-42

- vs. 38 - the servant is an overachiever!
- vs. 41 - "David exceeded" - he wept more than Jonathan
- vs. 42 - these two will meet only once more.