

The Life of David – Lesson 3 In Saul's Court

4. David and Jonathan

I Samuel 18:1-4, 1067 B.C., Age 18

- vs. 2 – David rejoins the court of Saul after the victory over Goliath and the Philistines.
- Notes on Jonathan:
 - He was 46 years old at the time he meets David.
 - He was the eldest son, and I would think presumed heir to his father's throne.
 - He has already proven to be a strong leader and warrior – I Samuel 14
- It is a symptom of our sick world that anyone can see anything in the relationship of David and Jonathan except a deep friendship. There is absolutely no hint of romance here.
- vs. 3 – this covenant agreement appears to be two-fold:
 - That Jonathan would serve David when David was king – I Samuel 23:17
 - That they would mutually support for their families – I Samuel 20:42
- vs. 4 – this act was Jonathan showing that David was true heir to the throne.

5. Growing Reputation and Praise

I Samuel 18:5-9, 1067 B.C., Age 18

- vs. 5 – David still served Saul faithfully though knowing he would replace him.
- Saul's jealousy is stirred by the people's celebration of David's victory.
- vs. 9 – This is the turning point of Saul's relationship toward David.

6. Saul's First Attempt to Kill David

I Samuel 18:10-11, 1067 B.C., Age 18

- vs. 10 – prophesied – There are many interpretations of what Saul is doing here. Some say he is mocking true prophets, others that he was raving. I think he is in a state of melancholy or depression and saying things that would prove true; perhaps, "David will be king and not me". This sort of "unintentional prophecy" is also seen in John 11:49-52.

♪ Psalm 131

- Gill: "This psalm was written by David in his younger days, before he came to the throne; while he was in Saul's court, or persecuted by him. The occasion of it, as is generally thought, was a calumny [*or slander*] cast upon him, as if he had some ill designs against Saul; was ambitious of the crown,

and aspiring to the throne, and was plotting and forming measures to get the government into his hand;”

7. Military Commission

I Samuel 18:12-16, 1067 B.C., Age 18

- vs. 12-13 – Saul has few options to deal with the popular hero David, so chooses to send him away.
- Most ancient militaries of this time are militias with no real standing armies. David seems to be a professional officer over these volunteer forces.
- The result of David’s reassignment is that the people saw him more and loved him more. Saul’s plan backfired.

8. Marriage to Michal

I Samuel 18:17-30, 1066 B.C., Age 19

- Saul had promised the victor over Goliath should be married to his daughter – 17:25
- vs. 17 – Saul hopes that David will die in battle.
- vs. 20 - why did this please Saul? He had just slighted David over Merab. I think this marriage allowed him to save face before the people and as an opportunity to perhaps rid himself of David.
- vs. 23 - David’s concern is that he would not be able to afford the dowry payment involved in marrying a daughter of a king. I don’t know what the going rate for wives was at the time, but I’m sure this would have been the most expensive.
- vs. 27 - Note that David doubled the asking price.
- vs. 28 - Every one of Saul’s plans backfires.
- vs. 29 - David is a war hero, highly respected, wonderfully behaved, married into the royal family. Saul is extremely wary of this upstart and tries to thwart him at every turn, but David only excels.

♪ Psalm 26

- Gill – “The occasion of this psalm seems to be the quarrel between Saul and David, the former listening to calumnies and reproaches cast upon the latter, and persecuting him in a violent manner.”