



Mounting Trouble & God's Protection of David

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Five Seasons in David's Life

1. Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16-17): up through age 17, this was the out-of-the-way hometown where David grew up and is the context of the beginning of his focus on God even in the midst of the rejection of his family and in the faithfulness to the mundane tasks.
2. Gibeah (1 Samuel 18-20): from age 18-22, this was where David was called to live in the capitol in serving Saul after David killed Goliath. This was where David arose to a national prominence and a temporary popularity.
3. Adullam (1 Samuel 21-31): from age 23-30, this was a cave in the wilderness (among other wilderness hideouts) where David fled from Saul who was chasing him with 3000 men intent on killing him. YHWH trained David in the seminary of Saul where he was chased by this demonized king.
4. Hebron (2 Samuel 2-5): from age 30-37, this was the city that David went up to after the death of Saul where he ruled as king over Judah (only 1 of the 12 tribes David was initially called to rule over). In this place David was tested by receiving a *partial* fulfillment of God's prophecy that he would rule Israel.
5. Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6-24): from age 37-70, this was the capitol city where David ruled over all of Israel. David's biggest sins were in this context when he was most prominent.

B. What Had Gone Directly Before:

1. David continued to succeed and be given favor by God
1 Samuel 18:27 – David killed 200 Philistines for a dowry for his daughter Michal
2. Michal loved David (1 Samuel 18:20, 28)
3. Saul was afraid of David and became his enemy continually (1 Samuel 18:29)
4. David behaved wisely and was successful when going out to war and his name became highly esteemed

C. Overview: David's life was threatened by Saul in four separate incidents related in 1 Samuel 19 (19:1-7, 9-10, 11-17, 18-24). Saul's earlier (generally more indirect) plots to kill him were not successful, so Saul directed his servants to kill David. One key message seen in 1 Samuel 19 is that David did not usurp the throne from Saul.

1. David's Deliverance: There were a diversity of different deliverances for David. In this passage David was delivered from Saul's murderous intents by Jonathan, David, Michal, and Samuel.
2. David had to "flee and escape." This phrase occurs three times in this chapter (vv. 10, 12, 18),
 - a. David's days as a fugitive (living beyond the king's reach), which began here, would continue until Saul died.
3. David's Life Threatened: 4 times in 18 months his life is threatened with the political and military authorities as a young 20-something-year old.
4. Saul Abandons Pretense – his intentions become clear and public
5. David Innocent: In this instance David didn't do anything wrong – He called out to YHWH. God answered him and used pressure to shape him.

II. JONATHAN'S INTERVENTION

A. Jonathan's Initiative: In 1 Samuel 18:30, the Philistines attacked Israel, and David was successful in defeating them. This stirred up Saul's jealousy. Jonathan intervened to warn David of the Saul's plan to kill David and urged David to hide (19:1-3).

- B. Jonathan Sought to Bring Reconciliation:** He reached out to try to reconcile his father with David. He urged the king not to sin and to be reminded him of David's innocence and benefit to Israel and his father.
- C. Saul Was Persuaded:** He swore an oath that he wouldn't kill David and David was restored to the palace.
- D. Human Persuasion:** Jonathan only convinced Saul for a moment because there wasn't a deeper work of repentance and consecration in Saul's heart.

III. SAUL'S RENEWED DETERMINATION TO KILL DAVID

- A. War again:** Often in a war like this, time will pass (up to a year or two). There is an ebb and flow in how God trains us. It gets intense, and then it lifts again, in cycles. David's success in this battle stirred up Saul's jealousy with his fits of oppression and murderous rage which led to...
- B. A Tormenting Spirit from YHWH?**
 - 1. This is the third reference to an evil spirit afflicting Saul (cf. 16:14; 18:10). The evil spirit was a consequence of YHWH's rejection of Saul as king and Saul's jealousy towards David.
 - 2. Human Responsibility & God's Responsibility - Other Negatives were sent from Yahweh
 - a. God hardened Pharaoh's heart: God honored Pharaoh's choices and then there came a point of no return.
 - b. A deluding spirit from YHWH because people didn't have a heart for the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)
 - c. Sin is crouching at the door – God spoke to Cain to warn him not to give in to sin against his brother (Genesis 4:7)
- C. David's Music:** David was employed again as a musician in the royal court. David was restored to the king's court and thus he brought his harp with him.
- D. David's Escape:** Saul tried to pin David to the wall with his spear (1 Samuel 19:10) and the spear was driven into the wall. This was the third time that Saul had done this. Earlier (1 Samuel 18:9-11) Saul had attempted to do the same with his spear while David was playing his harp. David fled the palace.

IV. MICHAL HELPED DAVID ESCAPE FROM SAUL

- A. Overview:** When David fled the royal court and returned to his residence, Saul sent his servants to murder David (19:11). They surrounded David's house and waited for daylight, rather than entering the house by night and risk killing a member of the royal household, or allowing him to escape in the dark. They were to slay David in the morning, when he would not be suspecting an attack. With the doors guarded, Michal urged him to escape through a window and covered up his absence (19:12).
- B. Messengers Sent to David's House:** Saul enters a new stage in his hatred for David by being upfront about his plans to murder David. In demonic fury, Saul sent men to kill David (19:11).
- C. An Image in the Bed:** Michal put an idol under the blankets to deceive Saul's men. It was a wooden block with head and shoulders, shaped to represent a person. The superstitious belief was that these images brought good luck to the house. To make the image appear even more realistic, she put "a goat's skin around its head," which looked like a man's hair from a distance.
- D. "He is sick":** Michal would not let anyone disturb David. Her intention was to give him as much time as possible to escape.
- E. Bring him up to me in the bed:** Resolute in his plan to kill David, Saul commanded his messengers to arrest David and bring him "in his bed," so that he could finish the job himself (19:15).
- F. Why have you deceived me?** Saul demanded an answer from Michal as to why she had deceived his men, allowing his "enemy," David, to escape. She answered him with another lie, saying that David had threatened her life. Saul could use this kind of accusation, claiming that since David had threatened the royal household, he deserved to be put to death.

V. DAVID FLED TO SAMUEL AT RAMAH

- A. David Needed Samuel's Counsel:** After this, Saul's sixth attempt on his life, David escaped from Gibeah to stay with Samuel in Ramah (19:18-19), which was Samuel's birthplace and about twenty miles from Gibeah. David needed counsel from the prophet who had anointed him to be the future king of Israel.
- B. David Never Returned to Saul's Court:** David never again appeared in Saul's court. From this time, David began years of wandering as an outlaw and fugitive from Saul, who pursued him relentlessly with 3,000 soldiers.
- C. Naioth:** How natural it was for David to seek refuge with the faithful prophet Samuel who resided less than an hour's walk from Saul's headquarters. "Naioth" (lit. "Dwellings") was evidently a compound within Ramah where Samuel headed a school of prophets (cf. 2 Kings 2:3, 5; 4:38). (Constable, 139)
- D. Saul's Men Pursue & God's Intervention:** Reports of David's location came to Saul, who sent men to arrest his son-in-law (19:19). The Lord intervened, as the Spirit hindered the servants that Saul sent to arrest David (19:18-24).
- E. Saul's Servants Sent:** Saul's servants were sent to arrest David (three times) and found Samuel and a group of prophets prophesying. Before they could search for David, they were all compelled by the Spirit to prophesy. The Spirit, who had anointed David for kingship, now preserved David for his divine assignment. The Spirit moved on Saul in a similar way to when he himself had been established as king (1 Sam. 10). This time, Saul lay naked, taking off his royal robes in God's presence, signifying his rejection as king.
- F. Saul's Fall:** this was most likely the place where the Holy Spirit confirmed Saul's kingship first (1 Samuel 10:1-13). This time, Saul was rejected as king. In the presence of God he could not keep on his royal garments because God had rejected him as king. Saul could have worn his inner tunic and still be described as naked (see Isa. 20:2; Mic. 1:8).
- G. Is Saul Also Among the Prophets?** It is significant that this chapter closes with the repetition of the saying, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" This derogatory saying brackets the story of Saul's contacts with Samuel and with the Holy Spirit (cf. 10:11). It reminds the reader that Saul had the potential to be a great king because of Samuel and the Spirit's resources that were available to him. (Constable, 140-141)
- H. Saul's Result:** Saul drove himself to the brink of insanity by refusing to submit to God, who still exercised sovereign control over him despite the king's attempts to go his own way. Saul lost the privilege of reigning, he became a vessel unto dishonor, he created problems for others, and he eventually destroyed himself. (Constable, 141)

VI. PSALM 59

¹Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; defend me from those who rise up against me...³For look, they lie in wait for my life; the mighty gather against me, not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD. ⁴They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me...⁷swords are in their lips; for they say, "Who hears?" ⁸But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them; You shall have all the nations in derision. ⁹I will wait for You, O You his Strength; for God is my defense. ¹⁰My God of mercy shall come to meet me...¹⁶I will sing of Your power; yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. ¹⁷To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy. (Ps. 59:1-17)

- A. Focus:** "The focus of the psalm is on God—the Deliverer (vv. 1-9) and the Judge (vv. 10-17).
- B. Waiting for God:** I wait for you O God; (by refusing to strike back verbally, manipulate, or to take matters into his own hands); David was waiting for God's intervention
1. :16 – I will sing of Your mercy in the morning
- C. Larger Focus:** David broadened his request to include his nation that suffered similarly at the hands of hostile Gentile neighbors. (Constable, 238)

VII. APPLICATION

A. David's Troubles Were a Gift from YHWH: Our troubles are too.

1. Training: God was training David to be the right kind of king: Without responding to these troubles in a godly way, David would not have been trained up and qualified to be an effective king.
 - a. God was establishing in David a deep reservoir of relationship with Him
 - b. God was forming and refining David's character to prepare him for the total power of being king over Israel
2. Troubles are for Our Good: So too, our troubles are intended to help us to be prepared for what God has for us and to make us more like Him.
3. Our Circumstances Aren't Our Problem: About 10% of our life is determined by what happens to us and 90% by how we respond to it. We either *become bitter* by focusing on the wrong that was done to us or we *become better* by focusing on our sin and pride that is exposed. The lesser enemy in David's life was Saul, whom God used to expose the greater enemy—the sin and pride in his own heart. Human tendency is to focus on the external “injustices” and not on our internal life and relationship with God.
4. Doing the Right Thing often leads to more problems/difficulty

B. Have Yeshua As Our Greatest Desire: If He's our greatest desire who cares if we are no longer king

1. Give Up Anything Else in the Way: Saul was holding on to that (the kingship) which YHWH was no longer giving him
- 35 *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?* Mark 8:35-36
2. John the Baptist understood this principle
26 *And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!” 27 John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.* John 3:26-27
3. Secret History with God: We need to develop a secret history with God where we are attempting to interact with Him deeply
4. Abide in Yeshua's Love
9 *“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.* John 15:9

C. David Came to God: will we come to God too?

1. Come into His Presence: I will draw near to God and cry out to Him
2. Linger with Him: I will wait for You My strength Psalm 59:9
3. Stay at It: David Was Confident that God Would Meet Him and Help Him: He will respond to me and meet with me
 - a. My God of mercy shall come to meet me (Psalm 59:10)
4. Talk to Him: David talked to God and cried out to Him for help.

D. Stay Connected with Other Believers

1. Confess our Sins to Each Other (1 John 1:7-10)

E. We Can Waste Our Troubles: How do we waste our sorrows?

1. Blameshifting: that other person is my problem. They are a more significant part of the problem. If they would “behave” then things would be fixed.
2. Pride/Self-pity: Why me God? I'm getting a bad deal and deserve better. God I don't deserve this
3. Bad Attitudes: moping
4. Prayerlessness: giving God the silent treatment
5. Gossip/Slander: talking to someone else about another person's sin, weakness, or problems.
6. Complaining:

7. *Not forgiving others:*

F. Resist the Evil Thoughts/Tendencies:

1. *Avoid:* Avoid Saul-like thoughts, attitudes, and tendencies
2. *Bless* those who are “more anointed” who are emerging; bless them
 - a. Our ceiling should be our spiritual children’s floor
3. *Deal With It:* Ruthlessly deal with jealousy, envy, and other sinful thoughts, emotions, and attitudes:
 - a. Talk to God about our negative emotions
 - b. Jealousy is a cancer
 - c. Bless and do not curse

29Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:29-32

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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