

1 Samuel 18

Chapter 18 of 31 · 30 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Saul's Jealousy of David

¹ And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

² And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

³ Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

⁴ And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

⁵ And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

⁶ And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

⁷ And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

⁸ And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

⁹ And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

12 And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

14 And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.

15 Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

David and Michal

17 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.

18 And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?

19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.

20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.

22 And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.

23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed?

24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David.

25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired.

27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.

28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

29 And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

30 Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Covenant — בְּרִית (Berit)

Covenant, treaty

The Hebrew **berit** (בְּרִית) denotes a covenant—a binding agreement, often ratified by blood sacrifice. God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) structure redemptive history, culminating in the New Covenant.

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Love — אַהֲבָה / חֶסֶד (Ahavah / Chesed)

Love / Loyal-love

Hebrew uses **ahavah** (אַהֲבָה) for love generally, but the covenant term **chesed** (חֶסֶד) describes God's steadfast, loyal love—faithful covenant commitment beyond mere emotion.

Repent — שׁוּב / נָחַם (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

Spirit — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 18:1 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 44:30; Deuteronomy 13:6; Psalms 86:11; Proverbs 18:24. **Love:** 1 Samuel 18:3; 20:17; 2 Samuel 1:26; Colossians 2:2. **References David:** 1 Samuel 19:2; 1 Chronicles 12:17

1 Samuel 18:2 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 17:15

1 Samuel 18:3 **References David:** 1 Samuel 20:42; 2 Samuel 21:7. **Covenant:** 1 Samuel 23:18

1 Samuel 18:4 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 41:42; Isaiah 61:10; Luke 15:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21

1 Samuel 18:5 **References David:** 1 Samuel 18:30. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 13:2; Psalms 1:3; Matthew 10:16; Acts 7:10; Ephesians 5:17; Colossians 4:5

1 Samuel 18:6 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 15:20; Judges 11:34. **Sin:** Psalms 68:25

1 Samuel 18:7 **References David:** 1 Samuel 21:11; 29:5. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 15:21

1 Samuel 18:8 **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 15:28; 20:31. **Parallel theme:** Esther 3:5; Proverbs 13:10; James 4:5

1 Samuel 18:10 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 18:29. **Spirit:** 1 Samuel 16:23; 19:9; Acts 16:16. **References God:** 2 Thessalonians 2:11

1 Samuel 18:11 **References David:** 1 Samuel 20:33. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 54:17

1 Samuel 18:12

Parallel theme: 1 Samuel 18:15; 28:15; Psalms 51:11. **References David:** 1 Samuel 18:29. **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 16:18

1 Samuel 18:13 **Parallel theme:** 2 Samuel 5:2

1 Samuel 18:14 **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 16:18; Genesis 39:23; Joshua 6:27. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 10:7; Matthew 1:23; 28:20; Acts 18:10

1 Samuel 18:16 **References David:** 1 Samuel 18:5

1 Samuel 18:17

Parallel theme: 1 Samuel 17:25. **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 17:47; 25:28. **References David:** 1 Samuel 18:21; 18:25

1 Samuel 18:18 **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 18:23; 2 Samuel 7:18. **References Israel:** 1 Samuel 9:21; Exodus 3:11. **Parallel theme:** Ruth 2:10

1 Samuel 18:19 **Parallel theme:** Judges 7:22; 2 Samuel 21:8

1 Samuel 18:20 **Love:** 1 Samuel 18:28

1 Samuel 18:21

References David: 1 Samuel 18:17. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 10:7; Jeremiah 9:8. **Word:** 1 Samuel 18:26

1 Samuel 18:25 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 14:24; Genesis 34:12. **References David:** 1 Samuel 18:17

1 Samuel 18:27 **References David:** 2 Samuel 3:14

1 Samuel 18:29 **Parallel theme:** Ecclesiastes 4:4

1 Samuel 18:30 **References David:** 1 Samuel 18:5; 2 Samuel 11:1

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