

# 1 Samuel 20:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jonathan said to David, To morrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

## Analysis

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**Then Jonathan said to David, To morrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.**

Jonathan's statement 'thy seat will be empty' acknowledges David's established position at the royal table. The empty seat would force Saul to notice David's absence and reveal his response. The phrase 'thou shalt be missed' (paqad, to visit/attend to) indicates both David's importance and the test's mechanism. Sometimes absence speaks more clearly than presence. David's empty seat would provoke Saul to reveal what he concealed when David was present.

## Historical Context

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Fixed seating arrangements at royal feasts reflected status and favor. David's assigned seat indicated his honored position in the court. Absence from required royal functions demanded explanation and drew attention.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. When has your absence from a situation revealed others' true attitudes toward you?
2. How can strategic withdrawal create opportunities for hidden realities to surface?

## Interlinear Text

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ל	וְ	יָאֹתָר	מִן	ר	יְהוָתָת		לֹא	לְ	דָּשָׁן	חַדְשָׁה	תְּפִלָּה
<b>said</b>	<sup>הָ</sup>	<b>Then Jonathan</b>	<b>To morrow</b>		<b>is the new moon</b>		<b>and thou shalt be missed</b>				
H559		H3083		H4279			H2320				H6485
כִּי		לְפִלָּה		מִשְׁבַּת							
H3588	<b>and thou shalt be missed</b>		<b>because thy seat</b>				H4186				
	H6485										

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 20:25** (References David): And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, even upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty.

**1 Samuel 20:5** (References David): And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.