

# 1 Samuel 23:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

## Analysis

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**And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.**

This covenant renewal deepens their bond at a critical moment. The Hebrew 'vayikhretu sheinehem berit' (they two cut a covenant) employs the traditional covenant-making language. The phrase 'before the LORD' (liphnei Yahweh) invokes divine witness and guarantee. After this sacred moment, their paths diverge—David to continued hiding, Jonathan to his father's house. They would never meet again; Jonathan would die with Saul at Gilboa. This final covenant stands as the capstone of their friendship, a solemn commitment maintained until death. The scene models how covenant relationships sustain through separation and uncertainty.

## Historical Context

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This was the third recorded covenant between David and Jonathan (18:3; 20:16-17, 42). Each renewal came at a critical juncture. The wilderness setting made this covenant particularly poignant, ratified amid danger rather than celebration.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. What covenants or commitments have sustained you through separation from loved ones?
2. How does this final meeting between David and Jonathan model faithfulness amid uncertainty?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּכְרֹת	שְׁנֵיהֶם	בְּרִית	לִפְנֵי	יְהוָה	וַיָּשָׁב	דָּוִד
made	And they two	a covenant	before	the LORD	abode	and David
H3772	H8147	H1285	H6440	H3068	H3427	H1732
בַּחַרְשָׁה	וַיְהוֹנָתָן	הָלַךְ	לְבֵיתוֹ			
in the wood	and Jonathan	went	to his house			
H2793	H3083	H1980	H1004			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 20:42** (References Lord): And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

**1 Samuel 18:3** (Covenant): Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

**2 Samuel 21:7** (References Lord): But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD'S oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

**2 Samuel 9:1** (References David): And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

