

## 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Ch 19

Prov 27:4 reads, “*Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, But who is able to stand before jealousy?*” And that’s surely a thread that’s woven into the circumstances that surround David’s life, the more good that he does, and the more victory that he obtains, the more jealous Saul becomes, and as a result of that Saul is becoming enraged and incensed with David. and Already he’s tried to kill David *twice*, but God has faithfully delivered David from the snare (or maybe I should say from the spear) of Saul as Saul has twice tried to pin David to the wall. David was there with an instrument of worship in his hand; Saul was there with an instrument of warfare in his hand. And if you remember right therein lies a big key because what’s in your hand determines whether or not you are on your way up, or on your way down. The man, the woman, the individual who is diminishing in the ministry, and on their way down, is the individual who has in their hand an instrument of war, an instrument that facilitates not healing, but hurting, they’re throwing spears and trying to pin people to the wall. And that was Saul, he was jealous and envious of David, the favor that God was showing him, he felt threatened by David and wanted to do him in.

But the overarching theme that seems to umbrella David’s life is Rom 8:31, “*If God is for us, who can be against us?*” And even though the world can be against us, the flesh can be against us, and Satan is *surely* against us, in reality none of those things are able to prevail against us in Christ Jesus. And so even though Saul is against David, he’s not able to prevail against David because God is with him. Nor will he prevail against you, the attacks may come, spears may keep your head low, and you may be forced into exile for a number of years, but ultimately God is fashioning you, and using what’s been intended for evil in your life, to turn it to His good, so that your heart might be fashioned after His own. There was a whole season of David’s life whereby it seemed like (from the human perspective) God was anything but with him. Always on the run, living in caves, fearing for his life, and he had done *nothing*, but in hind sight God was using those times as a refining fire, just burning away the chaff, and melting away the dross from David’s life, preparing him for the throne. Remember Joseph was a slave and a prisoner before he took the throne in Egypt; Moses went from one of the most powerful positions in Egypt, to tending sheep for 40years (something that Egyptians seen as an abomination) before God would use him to lead His people. And the patter that’s established throughout the scriptures is that before God uses you greatly, He breaks you, or humbles you greatly, and so though presently David don’t understand, (& none of us do when we’re in the throw of things). But hindsight shows us God preparing David, and making him and molding him into a yielded and humble man who won’t let the throne go to his head as it has Saul’s.

Now chapter 18 ends with David being “highly esteemed” which means that Saul is “highly infuriated.”

So Saul is through with the behind the scenes plots and ploys to destroy David, you recall that he set him over a battalion of a thousand men hoping that he would get killed in war. He offered to him one of his daughters and then took her away hoping to insight treason (a capital offense), he offered him Michal with the dowry being the foreskins of 100 Philistines hoping that he would be killed trying to obtain them. And he's done everything that he could to try and get him killed just short of ordering the job done by the men of his own personal regime, and since none of it's worked now he's even resorted to that.

And again, surely what Saul means for evil God will use for good, but we can see Satan's hand all throughout this scheme of things.

Why do I say that? Because the hope of Israel lay in the heart and ministry of David, and what God would do in his life. God would use him to defeat Israel's enemies and consolidate the kingdom, and that's just the short sighted benefits that God was wanting to do in and through this man's life. He would gather most all of the wealth that would be needed to build the temple, he would write psalms for the people of God to use in their worship to/of God. And in reality God would bless all the world throughout every generation through David in that the Messiah was promised to come into the world through the *line* of David. So it's no wonder that Satan had filled Saul's heart with envy and murder, Satan is a liar and murderer, and wants to destroy people's lives. And if he'd have gotten David, then the ramifications would've been incalculable, so we see how Satan was trying to thwart God's plan through Saul even as he has done throughout every generation and still tries to this day. But, "*greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*" 1 John 4:4

And so Saul makes David a marked man, even though before he'd tried to have him destroyed in a manner that would keep him looking good in the poles, as though it had nothing to do with him. Now he just out and out orders the death of David.

Vs 2-3

Now this brings up a point that's worth reiterating from time and again and that is this: Saul ordered his son to pursue killing David, however his son (Jonathon) disobeyed his father. Aren't we to honor our mother and our father, aren't we to be submissive to those who rule over us? Yes, then how can he justify blatant disobedience? And the question is, are we to always submit our lives to those over us, be it employers, parents, maybe a husband or a church leader with out exception? and The answer to *that* is no; there is an exception to the rule of submission and obedience and that is that anytime anything is required of us that's ungodly or unbiblical we submit to *God* and His Word over that person physically over us and his word. This wasn't something that Jonathon had to somehow justify because the bible is very clear Ex 20:13, what's one of the 10 commandments of God? "*You shall not murder.*" Yet Saul was very clearly commanding the murder of David, he went on record saying that they should "kill David."

You see in one respect we're to submit to those who are over us, but in another respect we're never justified from sin by obeying an individual over us who requires sin of us. Because we're to at such point bypass the authority of that person going directly to the authority of the Word of God which is always the higher law. You remember when the apostle's were preaching Jesus among the people and were brought in and commanded to quit preaching in the name of Jesus, now they were commanded that by those in authority over them. But Peter responded by saying, "*Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.*" Acts 4:19. And then in a later situation that was similar he said straight out, "*We ought to obey God rather than men.*" Acts 5:29 So Jonathon was well within his biblical rights to refuse his father's order here, as matter of fact it was necessary that he do so. So we need to understand that in any given situation we're to obey God if what man says is contrary to the word, other than that live peaceably and do what's required of you.

Vs4-6

Now I want you to see what's happening here because it's a neat picture of what happens for you and me on an ongoing basis. We have here a very real picture of the crowned prince who is standing in the gap "interceding" (if you will) on the behalf David, before his father, sparing him certain destruction. Prince Jonathon is pleading David's cause and the result is the sparing of David's life.

What does the bible say about J.C., the Prince of Peace? "*Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*" Heb 7:25

He's continually standing in the gap for you and me before His Father in order that we might be spared certain destruction. Jonathon is serving here as a *type* or an *illustration* of Christ. But there are some very real differences as well, and I want to be careful not to take this too far because in reality Saul serves as a type of Satan, not our heavenly Father. and That's one of the differences in the picture, Saul is looking for a reason to destroy David, your Heavenly Father is looking for a reason not to, Saul (Jonathon's father) is filled with hatred, jealousy and envy. God, (your Heavenly Father) is filled with Love, grace, mercy, compassion and forgiveness. Jonathon, is pleading David's cause before his father based upon what David has done, "Dad, he hasn't sinned against you, he's been very good to you, he killed Goliath and secured our victory, and even you rejoiced that day. So why would you kill him now?" But Jesus (God's Son) pleads our cause based upon what He has done, and how we're cleansed from sin and not against Him, being found in Him and not upon our own works of righteousness which are filthy rags.

So though there's some neat similarities, there's some very distinct differences as well. But notice what Saul says here in vs 6, "As the Lord lives, he shall not be killed." And it would seem as though he was genuinely touched, and maybe for the moment he was, but Saul was a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. So this promise was incredibly weak and shallow, but what he doesn't know is that there's more truth to this statement than what he knows. As the Lord lives, David would not be killed, but not because of Saul's word, but because of God's promise towards his life.

#### Vs7-8

There was temporary restoration, but you have to know that whenever the waters calm, that there's always a storm on the horizon, there will always be war again, not just physically, but this has definite spiritual overtones. Why, because David was successful in warfare, and what was it that had that tendency to set Saul off? David's success, and so now that he's gone out and secured yet another victory and such a time of volatility in Saul's life, how will he respond, or handle this?

#### Vs9-10

Here we go again, and this is what we talked about last week, David was victorious, Saul was envious, David had in his hand an instrument of worship, and Saul had in his hand an instrument of war. And as David *sang* Saul *seethed*, and David was eyeing Saul because he'd been here before, and sure enough Saul hurled that spear at David. And though David could've picked it up, and thrown in back most certainly killing Saul, he just left it pinned to the wall and fled, and it wasn't as though he wasn't used to warfare or was fearful of Saul in that way. But he wasn't going to engage Saul on his level of jealousy and animosity and throw spears at one another, he just removed himself from the situation, he was truly "spear it" led. and This spear led him right out of the house, the 3<sup>rd</sup> time is a charm and it's time for me to go, I "get the point" and lest I "get the shaft" I need to go.

#### Vs11-17

In reality David's life is spared 3 times in this chapter, once by a pleading prince, another time by a blemished bride, and then another by a profitable prophet. And I think you can see the connotations there. Now in this case we see kind of a conflict of interests in Michal, she seems to have genuine concern for David so she helps him escape, but then on the other hand in order to save her own neck she lies about him and makes him look as though he threatened her thereby forcing her to help him.

Now whether she was acting out of self-interest the whole time, working both ends against the middle or she was legitimately fearful for her life and just said what she thought she needed to, to stay alive who can know? But Saul sends his hit men after David so that as he shows his head in the morning coming out of his house they would kill him. And we don't know if Michal saw them lingering around outside there house, or if she just knew all too well the character of her father but either way she let David know that she was of the opinion that if he didn't get out there he'd be dead in the morning.

But husbands learn this lesson from David, there are times when you need to, when I need to listen to our wives, had David said, "Well, if God wants me to know he can tell me Himself", then David would've been dead and the story would've been over right here. God was telling him, through his wife, now I'm not going to say that there are some men who shouldn't have responded to their wives advise at a given point (like Ab) in the scriptures, but you should always factor in what your wife has to say and heed council that is wise and from the Lord. Now ladies recognize the fact that she didn't press him beyond what she had to say, she told him the way she saw things, and then he had a decision to make. And I have this notion that if he'd have said, "I just really need to get some sleep" that she'd have thrown back the covers for him and not fought about it all night. That's not to say that you can't reason with your husband, but just know that ultimately *he's* got a decision to make and unless it's blatantly ungodly you're to stand by him in it.

But she helped him down the wall through the window and took this idol (a teraphim) (which was obviously not David's being a man after God's own heart), (and shows you a bit of insight into what's going on in her life) and covered it up and put some goats hair around it so it looked like a man laying there and she told the guys who asked for him that he was sick. So they reported that to Saul and Saul said, "Bring him up here bed and all, so that I can kill him" I don't care if you bring him to me in bed, but get him here because today he dies.

And as they pursued him they discovered the covered idol, reported it to Saul and Saul questioned his daughter on the whole deal calling David his enemy though that was far from the truth. He may've been David's enemy, but David was not his enemy, if that was the case Saul would've been dead by now.

Vs18

And at this point if you were so inclined you could read Ps 59 because it's believed that this is the point in David's life when he wrote that particular Psalm. But David did the right thing when things got overwhelmingly difficult in his life, he sought out godly council from a trusted source, the one who anointed him and shared the Word of God with him. No doubt just wanting to make sure things were going according to plan, "I mean this man's trying to kill me, are you sure I'm to be the next king?"

Vs 19-21

Now I've got to be honest I'm not exactly sure what all this means, there's some definite ambiguity at least seemingly about this whole situation. But Saul sends his men to pursue David there with Samuel and when they get there and see this revival of sorts taking place instead of arresting David, they're arrested by the Holy Spirit and begin to prophesy themselves. Now this word "prophesy" doesn't necessarily mean they were telling the future, all it means is that they were speaking and even singing under the inspiration of the Spirit, they just broke out in spontaneous worship and praise as the Spirit of God overwhelmed them. and Really, it shouldn't be all that strange for us to see this type of thing because the Holy Spirit does this on a regular basis even here.

People who aren't believers come in here from various places, with various intentions and often times before they leave the Spirit of God has overwhelmed them and they leave this place different from when they came here having given their hearts to Christ.

And we see here that the best way to disarm people with hostile intentions towards you is to pray that the Holy Spirit would simply overwhelm them and that they might get saved. But at the very least what's happening here is that they're being disarmed. And God is sending a clear message to Saul that He (that is God) is in control here and that he needs to leave David alone. Saul has sent 3 groups of men, and 3 times they've failed, how often we *worry* when in reality we should *worship*, walking in the Spirit is the safest place we could be, just letting God take care of us, He's in control.

Vs22-24

So instead of saying, "Man God is really with this guy, I should leave well enough alone." Saul takes the mentality, "If you want something done right you have to do it yourself" and he goes personally to kill David and possibly Samuel in Ramah. But when he gets there, God arrests him to, and keeps him at bay, and even beyond that God was more than likely reminding Saul what His desire for him was, the fact that he could've been uttering words of worship rather than warfare if he'd have simply remained humble before God. But since he didn't God is having to humble him, and when it says here that he stripped off his clothes and laid down naked, that doesn't necessarily indicate that he was totally nude, but more than likely that he stripped himself of his royal garments and was humbled before God and man, he was undone and exposed for who he really was, a weak and feeble man just like the rest of us. How much better to humble ourselves rather than to have God humble us, to humble ourselves reaps benefits before God, but when God humbles us, then it's simply a hard lesson learned.

And this shows us how people can have a genuinely spiritual encounter with God, be impacted by His Spirit, and yet still there's no long term results, it's like seed sown on stony ground, there's no real root and so soon enough they're right back into the throws of the world and self-centeredness.

And the skepticism regarding Saul was there, the people were all, “Is Saul also among the prophets” You remember they said that once before, the implication being that it was one of those “no way!” kind of things. So David is on the run and will spend the next 10yrs or more of his life in exile and we’ll see the official happening of that next week in chapter 20 when Jonathon confirms David’s heart and his need to go because Saul is more determined than ever to kill him.