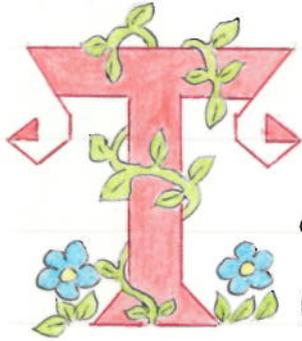


The first book of

Samuel

Chapter 20

DAVID and JONATHAN



When David fled from Naioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to kill me?"

² "Never!" Jonathan replied. "You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without letting me know. Why would he hide this from me? It isn't so!"

³ But David took an oath and said, "Your father knows very well that I have found favour in your eyes, and he has said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.' Yet as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."

4. Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you."

5.

So David said, "Look, tomorrow is the New Moon feast, and I am supposed to dine with the king; but let me go and hide in the field until the evening of the day after tomorrow."

6. If your father misses me at all, tell him,

David earnestly asked my permission to hurry to Bethlehem,

his hometown, because an annual sacrifice is being made there for his whole clan. 7. If he says, 'Very well,'

then your servant is safe. But if he loses his temper, you can be sure he is determined to harm me. 8. As for you,

show kindness to your servant, for you have brought him into a covenant with you before the LORD. If I am guilty, then kill me yourself! Why hand me over to your father?"

9. "Never!" Jonathan said. "If I had the least inkling that my father was determined to harm you, wouldn't I tell you?"

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Lidgett Park

Not ever cut off your kindness from my family - not even when the LORD has cut off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth."

10

David asked, "Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?"

11 "Come," Jonathan said, "let's go out into the field." So they went there together.

12

Then Jonathan said to David, "I swear by the LORD, the God of Israel, that I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know? ¹³ But if my father intends to harm you, may the LORD deal with Jonathan, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away in peace. May the LORD be with you as he has been with my father. ¹⁴ But show me unfailing kindness like the LORD's kindness as long as I live, so that I may not be killed, ¹⁵ and do

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¹⁶ So Jonathan made a covenant with THE HOUSE of David, saying, 'May the LORD call David's enemies to account.'¹⁷ And Jonathan had David re-affirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

¹⁸ Then Jonathan said to David, 'Tomorrow is the New Moon feast. You will be missed, because your seat will be empty.'¹⁹ The day after tomorrow, toward evening, go to the place where you hid when this trouble began, and wait by the Stone of Ezel.²⁰ I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I were shooting at a target.²¹ Then I will send a boy and say, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I say to him, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you; bring them here,' then come, because, as surely as the LORD lives, you are safe: there is no danger.²² But if I say to the boy, 'Look, the arrows are

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beyond you, 'then you must go, because the Lord has sent you away.' ²³ And about the matter you and I discussed - remember, the LORD is witness between you and me forever."

²⁴ So David hid in the field and when the New Moon feast came, the king sat down to eat. ²⁵ He sat in his customary place by the wall, opposite Jonathan, and Abner sat next to Saul, but David's place was empty. ²⁶ Saul said nothing that day, for he thought, "Something must have happened to David to make him ceremonially unclean - surely he is unclean." ²⁷ But the next day, the second day of the month, David's place was empty again. Then Saul said to his son Jonathan, "Why hasn't the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?"

²⁸ Jonathan answered "David earnestly asked me for permission to go to Bethlehem." ²⁹ He said, "Let me go, because our family is observing a sacrifice in the town and my brother has ordered me to be there. If I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away to see my brothers." That is why he has no

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Come to the King's Table."

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Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, "you son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you?" ³¹ "As long as the ^{son} of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send someone to bring him to me, for he must die!" ³² "Why should ~~we~~ he be put to death? what has he done?" Jonathan asked father ³³ But

Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. The Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David. ³⁴ Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on the second day of the feast he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father's shameful treatment of David.

³⁵ In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for his meeting with David. He had a small boy with him,

³⁶

AND HE SAID TO THE BOY, RUN AND FIND THE

ARROWS I SHOOT," AS THE BOY RAN, HE SHOT AN
ARROW BEYOND HIM. ³⁷ When the boy came

to the place where Jonathan's arrow had
fallen, Jonathan called out after him, "Isn't
the arrow beyond you?" ³⁸ Then he shouted

"Hurry! Go quickly! Don't stop!" The boy
picked up the arrow and returned to his master. ³⁹

(The boy knew nothing about all this;
only Jonathan and David knew.) ⁴⁰ Then

Jonathan gave his weapons to the boy
and said, "Go carry them back to ~~town~~
town." ⁴¹ After the boy had gone, David got up from

the south side of the stone and bowed down before
Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground.

Then they kissed each other and wept together.

but David wept the most. ⁴² Jonathan said

to David "Go in peace, for we
have sworn friendship with each
other in the name of the LORD,

saying, The LORD is witness between

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Roscoe Methodist Church

you and me, and between your
descendants and my descendants
forever." Then David left, and
Jonathan went back to the town.

1 Samuel 21

16 Lent Lunches
Nidderdale

David and the Holy Bread

1 David came to Nob to the priest Ahimelech. Ahimelech came trembling to meet David, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?" 2 David said to the priest Ahimelech, "The king has charged me with a matter, and said to me, 'No one must know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. 3 Now then, what have you at hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here." 4 The priest answered David, "I have no ordinary bread at hand, only holy bread - provided that the young men have kept themselves from women." 5 David answered the priest, "In fact women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition; the vessels of young men are holy even when it is a common journey; how much more today will their vessels be holy?" 6 So

the priest gave him the holy bread; for there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the Lord, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

7 Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the Lord: his name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's shepherds.

8 David said to Ahimelech, "Is there no spear or sword here will you? I did not bring my sword or my weapons with me, because the King's business required haste." 9 The priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah, is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod; if you will take that, take it, for there is none here except that one," David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."

David Flees to Gath

¹⁰ David rose and fled that day from Saul; he went to King Achish of Gath.

"The servants of Achish said to him,

"Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances,

'Saul has killed his thousands,
and David his ten thousands'?"

¹² David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of King Achish of Gath.

¹³ So he changed his behavior before them; he pretended to be mad when in their presence. He scratched marks on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle run down his beard. ¹⁴ Achish said to his servants,

'Look you see the man is mad: why then have you brought him to me?' ¹⁵ Do I lack madmen,

that you have brought this fellow to play the madmen in my presence? Shall I hit

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Lehrer Unches
Niederstich

fellow came into my house?

1 Samuel 22

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Leet Lanches
Niddersdale

David and his Followers at Adullam

¹ David left there and escaped to the cave of Adullam when his brothers and all his father's house heard of it, they went down there to him. ² Everyone who was in distress and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him, and he became captain over them. Those who were with him numbered about four hundred. ³

³ David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. He said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother come to you, until I know what God will do for me." ⁴ He left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. ⁵ Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; leave, and go into the land of Judah." So David left, and went into the forest of Hereth.

Saul slaughters the Priests at Nob

⁶ Saul heard that David and those who were with him had been located, Saul was

sitting at Gibeah, under the tamarisk tree on the height, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing around him. 7 Saul said to his servants who stood around him, "Hear now, you Benjaminites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds? 8 Is that why all of you have conspired against me? No one discloses to me when my son makes a league with the son of Jesse, none of you is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as he is doing today." 9 Doeg the Edomite, who was in charge of Saul's servants, answered, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech son of Ahitub; 10 he inquired of the bread for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine"

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Methodist Church

11 The king sent for the priest Ahimelech son of Ahitub and for all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob: and all of them came to the king. 12. Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." He answered, "Here I am, my lord." 13 Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, by giving him bread and a sword, and by inquiring of God for him, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as he is doing today?"

14 Then Ahimelech answered the king, "Who among all your servants is so faithful as David? He is the king's son-in-law, and is quick to do your bidding, and is honored in your house. 15 Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? By no means! Do not let the king impute anything to his servant or to any member of my father's house, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little." 16. The king said "You shall surely die. Ahimelech, you and all your father's house." 17. The king said to the guard

who stood around him, "Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because their hand also is with David: they knew that he fled, and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not raise their hand to attack the priests of the Lord. 18 Then the king said to Doeg, "You, Doeg, turn and attack the priests." Doeg the Edomite turned and attacked the priests; on that day he killed eighty-five who wore the linen ephod. 19 Now the ~~all~~ ^{all} of the priests he put to the sword, men and women children & infants, oxen, donkeys, and sheep, he put to the sword.

20 But one of the sons of Ahimelech son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. 21 Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord.

22 David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I am responsible for the lives of all your father's house. 23 Stay with me, and do not be afraid; for the one who seeks my life seeks

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your life; you will be safe with me."