

Sunday Night Message

October 20, 2019

David is on the Run

Topics – Saul; David; Jonathan; Jonathan and David

Series – *1 Samuel*

Text – 1 Samuel 20

Introduction

In Chapter nineteen, David had fled to a place called Naioth in Ramah in order to receive protection and possibly to seek advice from Samuel regarding King Saul's repeated attempts to murder him. As time goes on, Saul becomes more and more unstable. We saw in the last chapter that Saul at first wanted David dead, but then after Jonathan's intercession on David's behalf, Saul changes his mind and then reinstates David back to his former position. David is once again sent out to fight with the Philistines and is again very successful. Saul's natural jealousy of David's success coupled with a devil that is messing with him, causes him to again go after David. He throws a javelin at him but misses, and then he sends some soldiers over to David's house. With the help of Michal, David is able to escape to see Samuel.

Saul chases after David to Naioth where something very bizarre takes place. Saul strips off his outer clothing and actually begins to prophesy after the Spirit of God came upon him. Usually when the Spirit of God came upon somebody in the Old Testament, it was because the person was a yielded vessel to God and the Spirit was using him to reveal Truth. That is not the case with Saul, however. Saul is not at all submitted to God, and is in fact working against the will of God by trying to kill David. We have already seen that Saul is often tormented by devils (demons) who are also influencing him away from the will of God. So the question that I have been pondering is this: why would the Spirit of God subdue King Saul at this place and cause him to prophesy? I believe it is because God was showing Saul and everybody else that He was in complete control. Saul thought that he was calling the shots, but in reality, he was on a leash and could only do what God allowed him to do. Saul wanted David dead, but Saul would never be allowed by God to actually do it. Why? Because God is in control. This bizarre turn of events will cause two things to happen: one, it will cause Saul to once again, temporarily change his plans for capturing and killing David; and two, it will give David an opportunity to get away from Saul, and go back to Gibeah where he will consult with Jonathan.

In chapter twenty, David returns to Gibeah to seek the help of his friend, Jonathan.

I. Jonathan Confirms His Covenant with David (vs. 1 – 23)

Verses 1 – 3 reveal that Jonathan has been intentionally kept out of the loop of Saul's most recent attempts on David's life. Jonathan had already interceded to his father on behalf of David, and Saul is well aware that Jonathan had divided loyalties. Jonathan knew nothing about what had taken place at David and Michal's home, and apparently he also was unaware of what had taken place in Naioth in Ramah.

Notice in **verse 1**, David three times asks the question, “why?” He cannot understand why Saul is after him.

Practical Point – if you are living for God, the devil will be after you, and the Devil will use people to attack you.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." (2 Timothy 3:12)

Don't defend yourself; don't launch a counter-attack; just keep doing right; keep fulfilling God's will for your life. Don't let detractors become distractors.

Illustrate – Nehemiah was building the walls of Jerusalem and there were some people that were not happy about it, and two of them requested a meeting with Nehemiah to try to get him to stop doing what God wanted him to do:

"And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" (Nehemiah 6:3)

Notice David's statement in **verse 3**, *"there is but a step between me and death."* There are two things that I would like to say about that statement: First, nothing was going to happen to David unless God willed it to happen. Saul could not take David's life; only God could take David's life. David later stressed this same principle to his son, Solomon:

"And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD." (1 Chronicles 28:20)

The second thought regarding the statement is that because we don't know when our last step will be, we had better do all that we know God wants us to do. Don't waste time. Don't waste your life pursuing things that do not matter. Live for God.

I guess a third thing could be said to those who might not be saved here. "There is but a step between you and death, and that means there is a but a step between you and eternity in Hell.

In **verses 4 – 8**, David reminds Jonathan of the covenant that they made, which was recorded back in chapter eighteen:

"Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. 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." (1 Samuel 18:3-4)

David asks Jonathan to verify Saul's intentions, really for Jonathan's benefit, because David already knows that Saul is going to keep trying to kill him.

In **verses 9 – 17**, Jonathan assures David that he will reveal to him whatever he learns regarding his father's intentions, but he also reaffirms his covenant with David, and he makes David reaffirm the covenant as well.

In **verses 18 – 23**, the plan is made regarding how Jonathan would get the information to David.

II. Jonathan Comprehends That David's Fears Are Real (vs. 24 – 34)

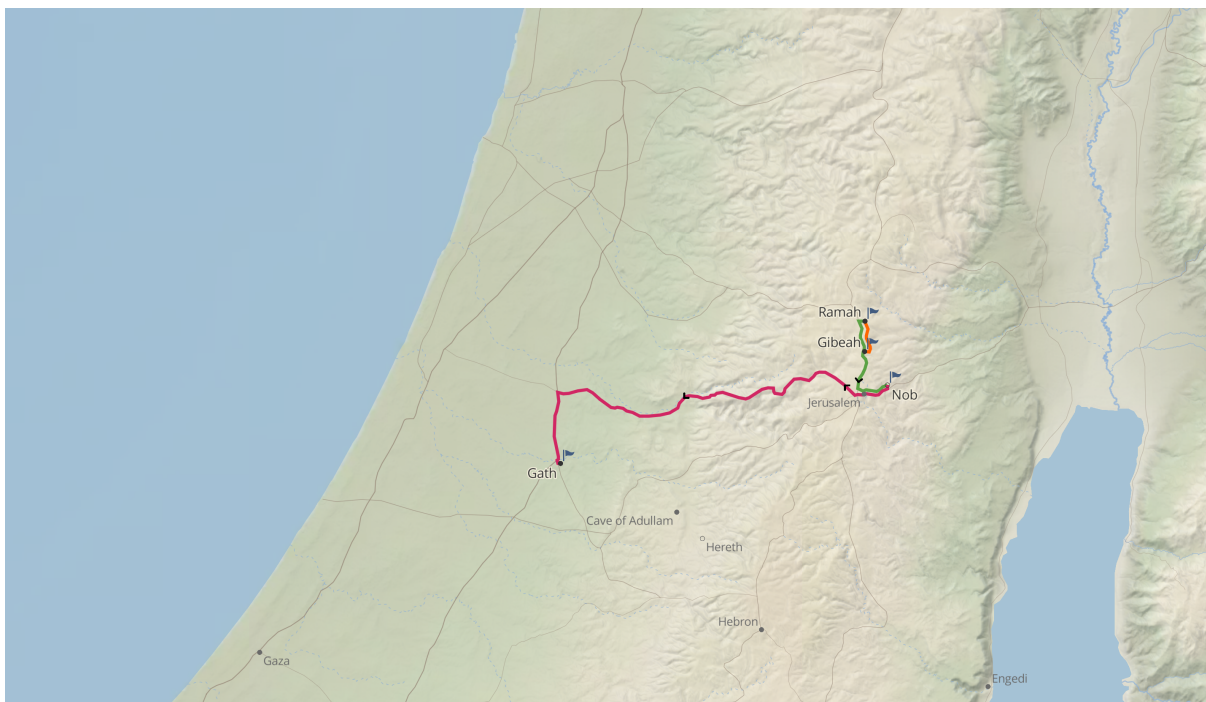
Notice that Saul wonders to himself on the first day about why David was not present, but he doesn't inquire about him until the second day. When Saul believes that Jonathan had let David leave to go to Bethlehem (which had not really happened), Saul explodes on his son, and even tries to kill him. (Thank goodness Saul is not very proficient with the javelin!)

Note – Both Jonathan and Michal have now both deceived their father trying to protect David. This proves that Saul was clearly making wrong decisions and was operating out of the will of God. Saul's children loved him, but they knew their father was completely wrong and they were willing to take the very difficult step of opposing him, and taking the side of David.

Illustrate – recently a pastor of a large ministry has come out and apologized for some of the things that took place in previous years when his father was the pastor of the church. He didn't want to go against his dad, but he wanted to make sure everybody knew that he was going to do things differently.

III. Jonathan Confirms to David That His Fears Are Real (vs. 35 – 42)

As per their prearranged plan, Jonathan reveals to David and confirms that Saul is indeed aggressively working to kill David. When the coast is clear in **verses 41 – 42**, Jonathan and David once again reaffirm their covenant to each other, and say good-bye. David is now officially "Public Enemy # 1," and will live in exile until Saul is dead.



DAVID'S FLIGHT FROM SAUL

- City
- ① Numbered movements of David
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Mizpah of Moab #5)
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Keilah #8)
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Wilderness of Maon #13)
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Ziklag #15)
- ← David's offensive actions (#16-19)
- ← David becomes king at Hebron (#20)
- ★ Battle scene

