



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Leader Series: Jonathan, loyal friend

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This study covers events over a period of a dozen years around 1000BC during the reign of Saul, the first king of Israel. Saul was jealous of young David after his defeat of Goliath and string of victories over the Philistine armies. The King's son bonded with David while Saul attempted to kill his perceived rival. Saul relentlessly pursued David throughout the wilderness, near their border with Philistia.

INTRODUCTION

King Saul started off humble, trusting God. Like many leaders in our era, he soon began distancing himself from God by not obeying His Word. As a result, God began withdrawing from Saul, leaving him to deal with personal and national problems on his own. Saul's oldest son, Jonathan, was a teenager when Saul became king. Jonathan was heir to the throne. We first read of him (1Samuel 13:3) leading an army of 1,000 that captured the Philistine outpost in northern Israel, about five miles north of Jerusalem. In retaliation, the entire Philistine army gathered outside of Jerusalem, preparing for an attack. Jonathan sought God's direction then staged a two-man commando raid. The Lord followed this with an earthquake which sent the Philistines off in disarray. Young David came into Jonathan's life during another standoff with the Philistine army (17:50). David called on the Lord; slew Goliath, and rescued King Saul and the army of Israel.

A COVENANT IS MADE

1 Samuel 18:3-4 And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow, and his belt.¹

Consider the symbolism here: Crown Prince Jonathan, giving his robe and weapons to David, the new national hero. As a worshipper of Yahweh God, Jonathan recognized that David was God's anointed to be the next king of Israel. Meanwhile, King Saul looked at David with suspicion, seeking to kill him. Are you able to be supportive of a young, talented team member without feeling personally threatened?

AN OATH OF SUPPORT

1 Samuel 20:3-4 But David answered, "Your father knows very well that I am your friend. Your father said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know about it. If he knows, he will tell David.' But as surely as you and the LORD are alive, I am very close to death." Jonathan said to David, "I will do anything you want me to do."²

It was apparent that King Saul was intent on deceiving his own son. Jonathan made the honorable choice, and vowed total commitment to David, and trust in God. This is not advocating blind support of a colleague or friend, but commitment to the righteousness of God.

CONCLUSION

God may allow you to **suffer for your growth** or for His **greater purposes**. Through this, we should look for His precious **comforts amidst suffering** and even His **ways of escape** (2Corinthians 1:4-5). David treasured the gift of Jonathan's friendship as a blessing from God (1Samuel 18:3-4; 19:1-7; 20:1-42; 23:15-18, and 2Samuel 1:25-26). Jonathan risked death several times out of love for his friend (1Samuel 23:14-18). Do you have one or more supporters, even one who has demonstrated total commitment to you, your success? **Are you committed** to one or more friends? I doubt that you will progress very far in your career or achieve significant satisfaction in life without entrusting yourself to one or more whom the Lord places in your life! Christ has made this complete commitment to you (John 15:13-15)! This has eternal consequences. However, He asks a return commitment from you.

A PRAYER

Heavenly Father, give me a Jonathan to show Your love for me during these difficult days. Comfort me during testing; even give me a way of escape if You see that I cannot bear the trial. Help me to be a comfort to others afterwards. I pray in Christ's Name. Amen.

¹ The Holy Bible, New International Version. (Biblica). 1984.

² The Holy Bible, Easy-to-Read Version. (World Bible Translation Center). 2006.

BIBLE STUDIES DURING BREAK

LEADERSHIP/STAFF/GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS: 12:05 TO 12:55 PM, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM – CAPITOL 264WEST