



# David's Escape

## Kicking It Off:

Share about a time when you had to wait for something you really wanted. What was that experience like, and how did it test or grow your faith?

## Read:

1 Samuel  
19:1-10

## Summary

In this sermon, the main focus is on trusting in God's protection, timing, and sovereignty, as exemplified through the life of David. As Christians, our response to enemies and problems should be to seek refuge in God rather than relying solely on our own abilities or resources.

David's life demonstrates that true security is found in God's protection. He understood that he was sheltered within the fortress of God's presence, even when faced with danger. Similarly, when we encounter threats or challenges, our first instinct should be to unite in prayer as believers, trusting that God will shield us from harm.

David's life also highlights the importance of waiting for God's timing. David, though anointed as king, patiently waited for God to establish him in His own time. We must learn to surrender our own timelines and trust in God's perfect plan, even when it differs from our own desires. Prayer is essential in aligning ourselves with God's timing, as it slows us down and attunes our hearts to His guidance.

Ultimately, the sermon emphasizes the sovereignty of God, which encompasses His protection, timing, and plan for our lives. Trusting in God's sovereignty means relinquishing control and embracing His will, even when circumstances seem challenging. While we may make our own plans, it is God's purpose that will always prevail, and His Kingdom is truly good and righteous.

The key takeaway is that in the face of problems and enemies, we should run to God as our ultimate source of strength and refuge. By cultivating a deeper reliance on God, seeking Him through prayer, and trusting in His sovereignty, we can find peace, courage, and purpose, knowing that God loves us deeply and is working all things together for our good.

## Discussion Questions

1. David trusted in God's protection rather than relying solely on his own abilities. He found security and refuge in the presence of God, even when faced with danger. **In what areas of your life do you tend to rely on your own strength instead of trusting in God's protection? How can you cultivate a deeper sense of reliance on God?**
2. David waited patiently for God's timing, even when it meant enduring difficult circumstances. He resisted the temptation to take matters into his own hands and instead trusted that God would fulfill His promises in due time. **Share about a time when you struggled to wait for God's timing. What lessons did you learn through that experience, and how did it impact your faith?**
3. The sovereignty of God encompasses His protection, timing, and plan for our lives. Trusting in God's sovereignty means surrendering our own desires and plans, believing that His purposes will ultimately prevail. **In what ways do you find it challenging to surrender control to God and embrace His sovereignty? How might fully trusting in God's sovereignty change your perspective on your current circumstances?**
4. In times of distress or anxiety, Paul and David both turned to prayer and sought the support of fellow believers. They understood the power of united prayer and the importance of relying on God's strength. **How has prayer and the support of other Christians helped you navigate difficult seasons in your life? What steps can you take to deepen your prayer life and build stronger connections with fellow believers?**

5. David's escape from Saul was not just about running away from danger but running to God. In the face of problems and enemies, we are called to find refuge in God's presence and trust in His love and care for us. **When you face challenges or opposition, is your first instinct to run to God or to rely on your own resources? How can you cultivate a heart that consistently seeks God as your ultimate source of strength and guidance?**

# Bible Passage

## 1 Samuel 19:1-10

<sup>1</sup> And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David. <sup>2</sup> And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. <sup>3</sup> And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you." <sup>4</sup> And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. <sup>5</sup> For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?" <sup>6</sup> And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death." <sup>7</sup> And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before. <sup>8</sup> And there was war again. And David went out and fought with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him. <sup>9</sup> Then a harmful spirit from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre. <sup>10</sup> And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.

# Outline

1. Introduction
  - a. Continuing series on King David and his heart for the Lord
  - b. David's response to enemies and problems: fight, flee, or freeze?
  - c. As Christians, how should we respond to enemies and problems?
2. God's Protection
  - a. David operated under God's protection, not his own
  - b. David understood he was in the fortress and walls of God's household (Psalm 91)
  - c. Paul asked for prayer for protection from evil men (2 Thessalonians 3)
  - d. The church should come together in prayer during times of distress, trusting in God's protection
3. God's Timing
  - a. David trusted in God's timing, even though he was anointed as king
  - b. Speaking the truth at the wrong time can be outside of God's plan
  - c. David waited for God to make His way clear to everyone
  - d. Habakkuk was told to wait for God's appointed time (Habakkuk 2)
  - e. Praying slows us down to align with God's tempo and become more sensitive to His plan
4. God's Sovereignty
  - a. God's protection, timing, and plan are all interconnected with His sovereignty
  - b. The enemy of God's sovereignty is our own perceived sovereignty
  - c. God's Kingdom is good, while our own kingdoms are ultimately flawed (Romans 8:28)
  - d. Many are the plans of man, but God's purpose will stand (Proverbs 19:21)
  - e. Surrendering our desires and plans to God leads to the truly good life
5. Conclusion
  - a. David's escape was not just running away from Saul, but running to God
  - b. In the face of problems and enemies, we should retreat and escape to God

- c. Be thankful for anxiety, as it reminds us to trust in the Lord through prayer
- d. God loves us, cares for us, and can turn all things to good for those who love Him

# Notes

I've come to understand that my true security lies not in my own strength or abilities, but in God's unwavering protection. Like David, who found refuge in the fortress of God's presence, I am learning to trust that I am forever sheltered within the walls of God's household. No matter what threats or challenges I face, I can rest in the assurance that my heavenly Father is watching over me.

The example of Paul reminds me that even the most faithful servants of God need prayer and support from fellow believers. When confronted by those who oppose me or seek to harm me, I should not hesitate to ask my brothers and sisters in Christ to intercede on my behalf. There is power in united prayer, and I believe that when the church comes together to seek God's protection, He hears and answers our petitions.

In times of distress or uncertainty, my natural inclination may be to rely on my own resources or to worry about the future. However, I am learning to resist that urge and instead turn to God in prayer, trusting that He will shield me from harm and provide for my every need. As I deepen my understanding of God's protection and learn to abide in His presence, I find renewed courage and peace, knowing that no weapon formed against me shall prosper.

I've come to realize that trusting in God's timing is essential, even when His plans don't align with my own desires or expectations. Like David, who waited patiently for God to establish him as king despite being anointed, I must learn to surrender my own timeline and trust in God's perfect schedule. I've discovered that speaking the truth prematurely, even with good intentions, can sometimes work against God's purposes. Instead, I should wait for God to clearly reveal His way forward and make it evident to others.

The prophet Habakkuk's message reminds me that God's plans often unfold gradually, and I must wait for His appointed time. When I feel impatient or anxious about the future, prayer is my anchor. As I spend time in God's presence, my heart begins to sync with His rhythm, and I become more attuned to His guidance. Praying slows me down, quiets my restless thoughts, and helps me trust that God is at work even when I can't see the full picture. As I align myself with God's timing through prayer, I find peace in knowing that He will fulfill His purposes in due season.

I've come to understand that God's sovereignty encompasses every aspect of my life, including His protection, timing, and plan for me. When I try to assert my own

sovereignty and take control, I inevitably find myself at odds with God's perfect will. The temptation to build my own kingdom and pursue my own agenda is strong, but I've learned that my kingdoms are inherently flawed and ultimately unsatisfying.

In contrast, God's Kingdom is truly good and righteous. As Romans 8:28 promises, God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Even when circumstances seem chaotic or unfair, I can trust that God's sovereign hand is guiding everything toward His perfect plan.

Proverbs 19:21 reminds me that while I may make many plans, it is God's purpose that will always prevail. Rather than clinging to my own desires and schemes, I'm learning to surrender them to God and trust in His wisdom. As I relinquish control and align my heart with His, I discover the true abundance and peace that comes from living under God's sovereign rule. Embracing God's sovereignty leads me to the genuinely good life—one that is centered on His will and marked by joy, purpose, and eternal significance.

As I reflect on the story of David's escape from Saul, I realize that the most important aspect was not simply fleeing from danger, but rather running to God. In my own life, I often face problems, enemies, and challenges that can feel overwhelming. But I'm learning that the wisest course of action is not to rely on my own cleverness or strength, but to retreat into the loving arms of my heavenly Father.

When anxiety rises within me, I'm trying to view it as a reminder to turn to God in prayer. Rather than allowing worry to consume me, I want to use it as a prompt to trust in the Lord and seek His guidance. As I pour out my heart to Him, I find that His peace begins to replace my fears, and His perspective reorients my thinking.

Above all, I am comforted by the truth that God loves me deeply and cares about every detail of my life. Even when circumstances seem bleak or confusing, I can trust that He is working behind the scenes, weaving everything together for my ultimate good. As I surrender my life to Him and seek to love Him with all my heart, I have confidence that He will redeem even the most difficult situations and use them to shape me into the person He created me to be. In the end, my hope is not in my own ability to navigate life's challenges, but in the unfailing love and faithfulness of the God who will never leave me nor forsake me.



# God's Protection

## **1 Samuel 19:1-10**

*And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David. 2 And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. 3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you." 4 And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. 5 For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the Lord worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?" 6 And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, "As the Lord lives, he shall not be put to death." 7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.*

*8 And there was war again. And David went out and fought with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him. 9 Then a harmful spirit from the Lord came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre. 10 And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.*

As I read through 1 Samuel 19, I'm struck by the powerful display of God's sovereignty in David's life. Despite Saul's repeated attempts to harm and even kill David, God's plan for David's life prevailed. No matter how hard Saul tried,

he could not succeed in thwarting God's purposes for David. This story is a testament to the fact that no weapon formed against us can prosper when we are walking in God's will (Isaiah 54:17). Even when the odds seem stacked against us and the obstacles appear insurmountable, God's sovereign plan will always prevail. He is the One who holds the world in His hands, and nothing can happen outside of His permission.

The same God who watched over David is watching over me. Even when life feels out of control and I can't see the way forward, I can trust that God is working behind the scenes, orchestrating every detail according to His perfect plan. As Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." This doesn't mean that we won't face challenges, setbacks, or opposition. David certainly did, as did many other heroes of the faith throughout Scripture. But it does mean that we can trust in God's sovereignty, knowing that He is always in control and working all things together for our ultimate good and His glory.

Alongside trusting in God's sovereignty, we must also wait on God's timing. David had to wait for God's timing to ascend to the throne, even after being anointed as the future king. In 1 Samuel 16, we see the prophet Samuel anoint a young David as king, but it would be years before he actually took the throne. In the meantime, David faced numerous trials and challenges, including being pursued by Saul and fighting battles against the Philistines. What stands out to me in this part of David's journey is his patience and trust in God's plan, despite the difficulties he encountered. David could have easily become frustrated or discouraged, wondering when his anointing would come to fruition. But instead, he chose to trust in God's timing and continue serving faithfully, even when his circumstances didn't align with his calling.

We may have dreams, callings, or promises from God that seem to be on hold or taking longer than we expected. But like David, we must learn to trust in God's timing and plan for our lives, even when it's difficult. God's ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9). He sees the bigger picture and knows the end from the beginning. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Just as there was an appointed time for David to become king, there is an appointed time for every purpose and plan

in our lives to unfold. Our job is to trust God, walk in obedience, and wait patiently for His perfect timing.

In 1 Samuel 19, we see a remarkable example of God's protection over David's life. King Saul, driven by jealousy and fear, repeatedly tried to kill David. But God intervened in a powerful way, using Jonathan, Saul's own son, to warn David and help him escape (1 Samuel 19:2-3). This story is a testament to the fact that God watches over and protects His chosen ones, even in the face of grave danger.

I find great comfort in knowing that when we dwell in the presence of the Most High, we can rest in the shadow of the Almighty. As Psalm 91:1-2 says, "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" No matter what threats or challenges we may face, we can trust that God is our ultimate protector and deliverer. So, whatever dangers or difficulties you may be facing today, know that God is your protector and your deliverer. Just as He intervened in David's life, He is watching over you and working on your behalf, even when you can't see it. Trust in His unfailing love, and rest in the assurance that He will never leave you or forsake you.

- The post highlights how God's sovereign plan prevailed in David's life, despite the numerous attempts by Saul to harm him. **Can you share a time in your own life when you experienced God's sovereignty, even in the face of challenges or opposition? How did this experience strengthen your faith and trust in God's plan?**
- David had to wait for God's timing to ascend to the throne, even after being anointed as the future king. He faced many trials and challenges during this waiting period but remained patient and faithful. **Is there an area in your life where you are currently waiting on God's timing? What lessons can we learn from David's story about trusting God's plan and timing, even when it's difficult? How can we encourage and support one another during seasons of waiting?**