

## ***Session 6 The Lord's Protection of David (1 Sam. 19; Ps. 59)***

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. David's life was threatened by Saul in four separate incidents related in 1 Samuel 19 (19:1-7, 9-10, 11-17, 18-24). Saul's attempts to kill David were stopped by Jonathan, David, Michal, and Samuel. Saul's earlier plots to kill him were not successful, so Saul directed his servants to kill David. One key message seen in 1 Samuel 19 is that David did not usurp the throne from Saul.
- B. The Lord delivered David in such different ways; each was evidence that the Lord was with him.

### **II. JONATHAN'S INTERCESSION FOR DAVID (1 SAM. 19:1-7)**

- A. There was a great contrast between the situation in 1 Samuel 18:30 and 19:1. In 1 Samuel 18:30, the Philistines attacked Israel, and David was successful in defeating them. This stirred up Saul's jealousy. Jonathan intervened to warn David of the king's plan and urged David to hide (19:1-3).  
*<sup>30</sup>Then the princes of the Philistines went out to war...David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed. (1 Sam. 18:30)*
- <sup>1</sup>Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David. <sup>2</sup>So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide. <sup>3</sup>And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father about you. Then what I observe, I will tell you." (1 Sam. 19:1-3)*
- B. Jonathan sought to bring reconciliation between David and Saul (19:4-5). Jonathan took a bold and risky stand for David. Peacemakers work to reconcile others and bring them together; their ministry is a type of intercession. The Lord will raise up intercessors for His servants as He did for David.  
*<sup>4</sup>Thus Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been very good toward you. <sup>5</sup>For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?" <sup>6</sup>So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed." <sup>7</sup>Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things. So Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as in times past. (1 Sam. 19:4-7)*
- C. ***Let the king not sin:*** Jonathan took a stand, urging the king not to sin as he convinced him of David's innocence and that David had never wronged him; reminding him of David's good work in fighting the Philistines, saving Israel and Saul's throne; and speaking of Saul's initial joy in this.
- D. ***Saul swore:*** Saul was persuaded by Jonathan's words and took an oath not to pursue his plan to harm David. The result of this reconciliation was David being reinstated in his role in the royal court in Gibeah (18:13).

### III. SAUL RENEWED HIS DETERMINATION TO KILL DAVID (1 SAM. 19:8-10)

- A. David’s success stirred up Saul’s jealousy so that the king renewed his efforts to kill David (19:8-10). Often during a war like this, considerable time passes—months, maybe even a year or two. There is an ebb and flow in how God trains us. It gets intense, and then it lifts again, in cycles.

*<sup>8</sup>And there was war again; and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a mighty blow, and they fled from him. <sup>9</sup>Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand. <sup>10</sup>Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul’s presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night. (1 Sam. 19:8-10)*

- B. **War again:** When military conflict with the Philistines broke out again, David’s success stirred up Saul’s jealousy with his fits of oppression and murderous rage.
- C. David’s military success gained national attention, which should have lead Saul to repent.
- D. **The distressing spirit:** After the reconciliation between David and Saul (19:1-7), the news of David’s fresh victory fanned Saul’s jealousy, opening the door for an evil spirit to afflict Saul again.
- E. **Playing music:** David was employed again as a musician in the royal court, and in Saul’s own house. David was so successful on the battlefield that some may have wondered why he continued playing for Saul. David was restored to the king’s court and thus he brought his harp with him.
- F. **David escaped:** Saul tried to pin David to the wall (19:10). This time David refused to remain in Saul’s court to give him another opportunity to attack him. David fled the court and went home.

### IV. MICHAL RESCUED DAVID FROM SAUL (19:11-17)

- A. When David fled the royal court and returned to his residence, Saul sent his servants to murder David (19:11). They surrounded David’s house and waited for daylight, rather than entering the house by night and risk killing a member of the royal household, or allowing him to escape in the dark. They were to slay David in the morning, when he would not be suspecting an attack. With the doors guarded, Michal urged him to escape through a window and covered up his absence (19:12).

*<sup>11</sup>Saul also sent messengers to David’s house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David’s wife, told him, saying, “If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed.” <sup>12</sup>So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped. <sup>13</sup>And Michal took an image and laid it in the bed, put a cover of goats’ hair for his head, and covered it with clothes. <sup>14</sup>So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, “He is sick.” <sup>15</sup>Then Saul sent the messengers back to see David, saying, “Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him.” <sup>16</sup>And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats’ hair for his head. <sup>17</sup>Then Saul said to Michal, “Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?” And Michal answered Saul, “He said to me, ‘Let me go! Why should I kill you?’” (1 Sam. 19:11-17)*

- B. **Sent messengers to David's house:** In demonic fury, Saul sent men to kill David (19:11). In so doing, Saul was becoming open about his plan to murder David.
- C. **Image in the bed:** Michal put an idol under the blankets to deceive Saul's men. It was a wooden block with head and shoulders, shaped to represent a person. The superstitious belief was that these images brought good luck to the house. To make the image appear even more realistic, she put "a goat's skin around its head," which looked like a man's hair from a distance.
- D. **She said, "He is sick":** Michal would not let anyone disturb David. Her intention was to give him as much time as possible to escape.
- E. **Bring him up to me in the bed:** Resolute in his plan to kill David, Saul commanded his messengers to arrest David and bring him "in his bed," so that he could finish the job himself (19:15).
- F. **Why have you deceived me?** Saul demanded an answer from Michal as to why she had deceived his men, allowing his "enemy," David, to escape. She answered him with another lie, saying that David had threatened her life. Saul could use this kind of accusation, claiming that since David had threatened the royal household, he deserved to be put to death.
- G. **My enemy:** Saul's judgment was so clouded with jealousy that he only saw David as his enemy. Jealousy produces that kind of blindness. The truth is that no one had served Saul like David.
- H. **Window:** Michal let David down through a window (Josh. 2:15; Acts 9:25; 2 Cor. 11:32-33).

**V. DAVID FLED TO SAMUEL AT RAMAH (1 SAM. 19:18-24)**

- A. After this, Saul's sixth attempt on his life, David escaped from Gibeah to stay with Samuel in Ramah (19:18-19), about twenty miles from Gibeah. David needed counsel from the prophet who had anointed him to be the future king of Israel.  
*<sup>18</sup>So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth. <sup>19</sup>Now it was told Saul, saying, "Take note, David is at Naioth in Ramah!" (1 Sam. 19:18-19)*
- B. **David fled:** David never again appeared in Saul's court. From this time, David began years of wandering as an outlaw and fugitive from Saul, who pursued him relentlessly with 3,000 soldiers.
- C. **The city of Ramah:** Ramah was Samuel's birthplace, as well as the place where he was buried (25:1; 28:3). It was the city where the elders had demanded a king of Samuel (8:4). From Ramah, Samuel went on circuit annually to judge Israel, visiting Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah (7:16). Saul probably met Samuel in this city (9:6, 10).
- D. **Naioth:** Naioth is not a city; the Hebrew word signifies *dwelling* or *habitations* or *lodgings*, referring to a religious compound near Ramah. These "dwellings" were used for the school of prophets that Samuel presided over, housing young men known as "sons of the prophets," not because their fathers were prophets, but because they were under the training of a mature prophet.

- E. Samuel was the founder and leader of this school of prophets. He invested much of his time in training others. They are reported to have chanted psalms and formed choirs.
- F. There are three possible locations of this Ramah—Ramah about 20 miles from Gibeah; Ramah about three miles south of Bethlehem; and Ramah (Rumah) in the far north of Israel.
- G. **Told him:** Reports of David's location came to Saul, who sent men to arrest his son-in-law (19:19).
- H. The Lord intervened, as the Spirit hindered the servants that Saul sent to arrest David (19:18-24).  
*<sup>20</sup>Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. <sup>21</sup>And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. <sup>22</sup>Then he [Saul] also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is at Sechu. So he asked, and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And someone said, "Indeed they are at Naioth in Ramah." <sup>23</sup>So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. <sup>24</sup>And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. (1 Sam. 19:18-24)*
- I. Saul's servants were sent to arrest David and found Samuel and a group of prophets prophesying. Before they could search for David, they were all compelled by the Spirit to prophesy. The Spirit, who had anointed David for kingship, now preserved David for his divine assignment. The Spirit moved on Saul in a similar way to when he himself had been established as king (1 Sam. 10). This time, Saul lay naked, taking off his royal robes in God's presence, signifying his rejection as king.
- J. **Leadership lesson:** The servant of God cannot die until God's work is done.
- K. David's cry to God on this occasion is written for us in Psalm 59.  
*<sup>1</sup>Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; defend me from those who rise up against me...<sup>3</sup>For look, they lie in wait for my life; the mighty gather against me, not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD. <sup>4</sup>They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me...<sup>7</sup>swords are in their lips; for they say, "Who hears?" <sup>8</sup>But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them; You shall have all the nations in derision. <sup>9</sup>I will wait for You, O You his Strength; for God is my defense. <sup>10</sup>My God of mercy shall come to meet me...<sup>16</sup>I will sing of Your power; yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. <sup>17</sup>To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy. (Ps. 59:1-17)*