

# THE RISE AND FALL OF A NATION



Lessons from Israel's First Kings

# DAVID AND JONATHAN

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More Than Friends: Brotherhood



1 Samuel 18: 1 “After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became **one in spirit** (*souls knit together*) with David, and he loved him as himself. 2 From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. 3 And Jonathan made **a covenant** with David because he loved him as himself. 4 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.”



5“Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul’s officers as well. 6 When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. 7 As they danced, they sang: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.” 8 Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?” 9 And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.”



# The Response to David's Success

- The military soldiers respected him and all of the women praised him!
- Saul was jealous and afraid of him, because God was with him. He grew to hate him!
- Jonathan loved him as a brother, because he knew God was with David.

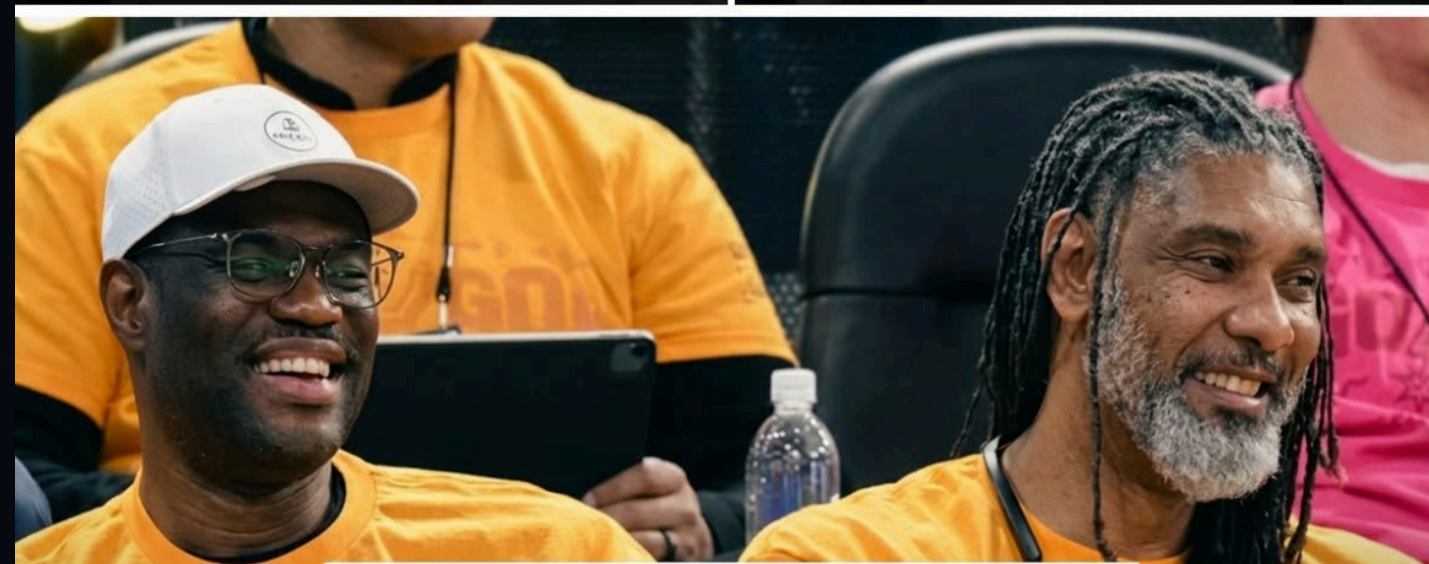
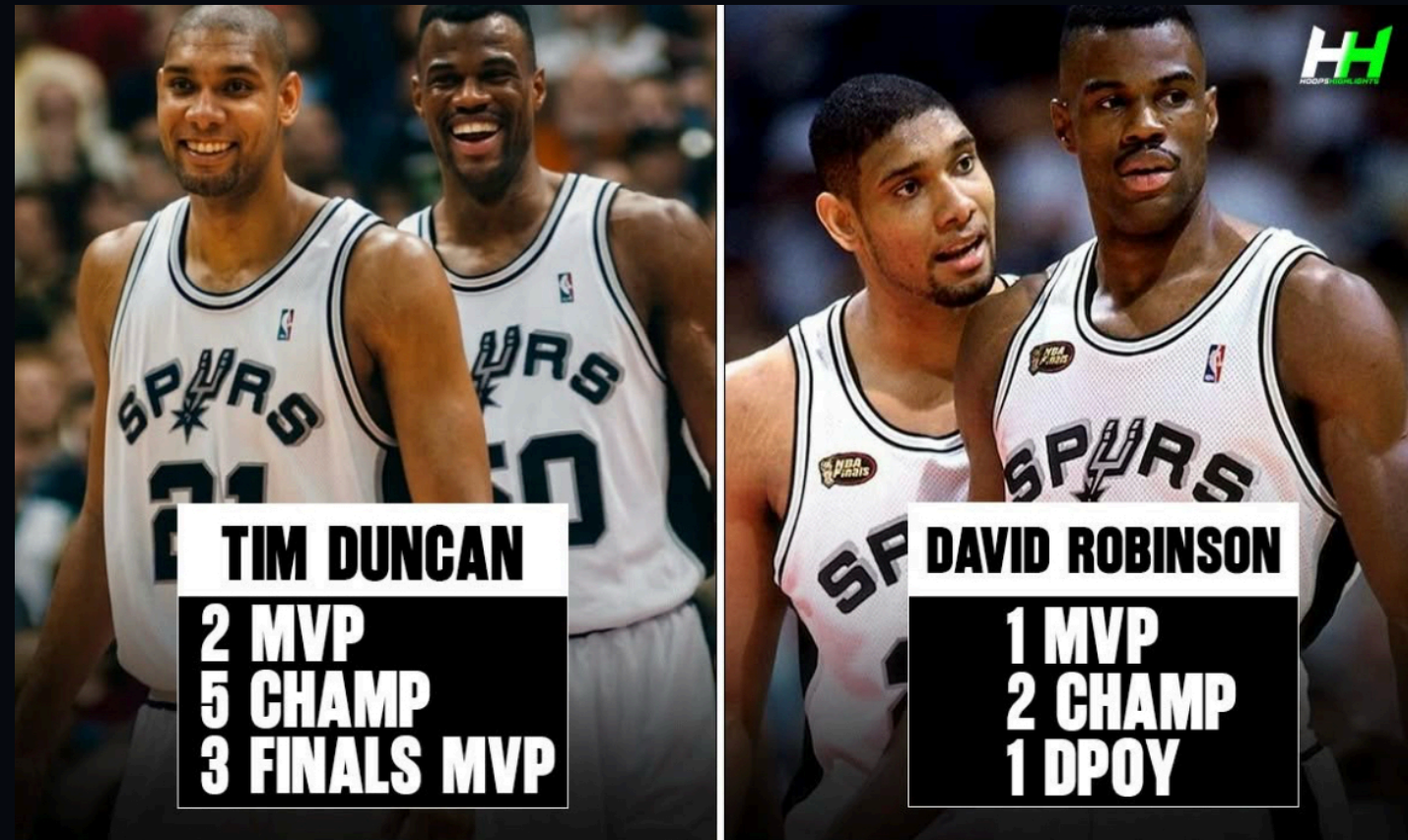
Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”



# Brotherhood is more than Casual Friendship

- It's not just hanging out, it is helping you grow closer to God.
- It gets to a heart level of transparency and vulnerability.
- It's built on faithfulness (Sempre Fi)-Faithful to God, Faithful to each other no matter how difficult things become.
- It is a sacrificial love and commitment to each other.

# Brotherhood and loyalty





Jonathan's love & loyalty was tested

1 Samuel 19:1 “Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to David 2 and warned him, “My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there. 3 I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I’ll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out.”



4 Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly.  
5 He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?”



1 Samuel 20:32 “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?” Jonathan asked his father. 33 But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David. 34 Jonathan got up from the table in fierce anger; on that second day of the feast he did not eat, because he was grieved at his father’s shameful treatment of David.”



# Brotherhood is Forever



Proverbs 18:24 “One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

1 Samuel 20: 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 you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’” Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.



# Brotherhood matters because God never calls anyone to walk alone.

- Who are your brothers? Or sisters?
- Who knows your struggles?
- Who is there for you through thick and thin? Are you there for them?
- Who is helping you follow Christ more closely?
- Pray for that type of friendship!