**Lesson 20 1 Sam 18:1-30**

**2. On Unfriendly Terms (**[**Chaps. 18-26**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18-26)**)**

**a. David's flight from Saul (**[**chaps. 18-20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18-20)**)**

(1) David's Popularity.

[18:1-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A1-7). **David,** as has been seen, was not only chosen from eternity to be the founder of the messianic dynasty of kings, but he was also providentially prepared by the Lord to undertake his royal responsibilities. David had served as a shepherd in the fields and had the loving, protective heart of a shepherd, a fitting attribute of a king. He had learned responsibility and courage by confronting and slaying wild beasts that threatened his flock ([17:34-36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+17%3A34-36)). He had learned to play the harp, a skill that would make him sensitive to the aesthetic side of life and that would help him compose the stirring psalms which extol the Lord and celebrate His mighty exploits. David had been brought into the palace of the king as musician and warrior so that he might acquire the experience of statecraft. Though an uninitiated novice at the time of his anointing, he was eminently equipped to be king of Israel at his coronation some 15 years later. But his education was not always pleasant. With his rising popularity among the people came a deterioration of his relationship with **Saul,** for the king became insanely jealous of Israel's new hero.

After David's dramatic victory over Goliath, Saul brought him into his palace once again, this time as a commander of his **army** ([18:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A5)). David's favored position in the court was further strengthened by the personal affection felt for him by **Jonathan,** Saul's oldest son ([vv. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A1), [3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A3)). So close did this friendship become that **Jonathan,** though heir apparent to the throne of Israel (cf. [20:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+20%3A31)), stripped himself of his own royal regalia and placed it on **David** in recognition of David's divine election to be king ([18:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A4); cf. [23:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A17)). More than once the covenant of friendship between the two men would work to David's advantage. Meanwhile David became so effective militarily that his exploits were celebrated in song: **Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of** **thousands.**

(2) Saul's jealousy ([18:8-20:42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A8-20%3A42)).

[18:8-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A8-16). So enraged was **Saul** at the diminishing of his glory that he, inspired by the demonic **spirit** ([v. 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A10); cf. [16:14-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+16%3A14-16); [19:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+19%3A9)), tried to **spear** David ([18:10-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A10-11); [19:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+19%3A9-10)). But God delivered **David** and gave him even greater popularity ([18:12-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A12-16)).

[18:17-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A17-30). When **Saul** then saw that he could not destroy **David** personally, he determined to let **the Philistines** kill him. This he arranged by proposing that **David** marry his oldest **daughter, Merab.** Saul had already reneged on one marital promise to David ([17:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+17%3A25)). **David** protested, however, that he was a commoner and had no sufficient bridal **price** ([18:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A25), *mōhar*, not "dowry" as in kjv and others). Before anything further could develop, **Merab... was given** to another man ([v. 19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A19)). Again **Saul** offered his second daughter, **Michal,** who at that time loved **David** ([v. 20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A20); cf. [2 Sam. 6:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+6%3A16)). But again **David** argued that he was unsuitable to be a **son-in-law** of the king because of his low status ([1 Sam. 18:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A23)). In an act of apparent generosity **Saul** waived the usual bridal payment and demanded only that David kill **100** Philistines and bring back their **foreskins** ([v. 25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A25)), a requirement he more than met by slaying **200** ([v. 27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A27)). **Saul** had been hoping, of course, that the exploit would cost **David** his life ([v. 25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A25)). As a result, Saul was again **afraid of** David ([v. 29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A29); cf. [vv. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A12), [15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A15)). But **David** became Saul's **son-in-law** by marrying **Michal** ([v. 27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A27)), and his military **success** and his popularity increased ([v. 30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A30)).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**1 Samuel 18:1-30 (NASB)**
1  Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.
2  Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father's house.
3  Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.
4  Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt.
5  So David went out wherever Saul sent him, *and* prospered; and Saul set him over the men of war. And it was pleasing in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.
6  It happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with musical instruments.
7  The women sang as they played, and said, "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands."
8  Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"
9  Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on.
10  Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and he raved in the midst of the house, while David was playing *the harp* with his hand, as usual; and a spear *was* in Saul's hand.
11  Saul hurled the spear for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David escaped from his presence twice.
12  Now Saul was afraid of David, for the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul.
13  Therefore Saul removed him from his presence and appointed him as his commander of a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.
14  David was prospering in all his ways for the LORD *was* with him.
15  When Saul saw that he was prospering greatly, he dreaded him.
16  But all Israel and Judah loved David, and he went out and came in before them.
17  Then Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife, only be a valiant man for me and fight the LORD'S battles." For Saul thought, "My hand shall not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him."
18  But David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my life *or* my father's family in Israel, that I should be the king's son-in-law?"
19  So it came about at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.
20  Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. When they told Saul, the thing was agreeable to him.
21  Saul thought, "I will give her to him that she may become a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David, "For a second time you may be my son-in-law today."
22  Then Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David secretly, saying, 'Behold, the king delights in you, and all his servants love you; now therefore, become the king's son-in-law.'"
23  So Saul's servants spoke these words to David. But David said, "Is it trivial in your sight to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and lightly esteemed?"
24  The servants of Saul reported to him according to these words *which* David spoke.
25  Saul then said, "Thus you shall say to David, 'The king does not desire any dowry except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" Now Saul planned to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.
26  When his servants told David these words, it pleased David to become the king's son-in-law. Before the days had expired
27  David rose up and went, he and his men, and struck down two hundred men among the Philistines. Then David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. So Saul gave him Michal his daughter for a wife.
28  When Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and *that* Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him,
29  then Saul was even more afraid of David. Thus Saul was David's enemy continually.
30  Then the commanders of the Philistines went out *to battle,* and it happened as often as they went out, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul. So his name was highly esteemed.

**Open it**

1. What were some of the characteristics of your "best friend" relationships as a child?
 **We thought alike, did the same things, were close as brothers**

2. How would you describe your feelings about someone you know for whom everything seems to go right?
 **Good for them!**

**Explore it**

3. How does this passage describe the bond between David and Jonathan? ([18:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A1))
 **Their souls were knit together and they loved each other as himself**

4. How did Jonathan cement the covenant between David and himself? ([18:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A4))
 **Gave him his royal robe and armor**

5. What refrain was heard in the streets when Saul and David returned from the battle in which Goliath was slain? ([18:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A7))
 **Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands**

6. How did Saul feel about David’s popularity? ([18:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A8-9))
 **Saul was angry and suspicion of what he thought David was doing**

7. When did Saul make his first attempt on David’s life? ([18:10-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A10-11))
 **The next day, during while David was playing for him**

8. Why was Saul afraid of David? ([18:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A12))
 **The Lord was with David and had left Saul**

9. What was Saul’s reaction to David’s successes? ([18:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A15))
 **He dreaded it,**

10. How did "all Israel" feel about David the general? ([18:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A16))
 **They loved David**

11. What was David’s attitude about the rewards and honors offered him by King Saul? ([18:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A18))
 **Whom and I and my family that I should be the king’s son in law**

12. How was David persuaded to pursue the "price" of Saul’s second daughter? ([18:21-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A21-25))
 The servants said that **Saul wanted David to kill Philistines and bring back their foreskins**

13. What two facts galled Saul most about David? ([18:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+18%3A28))
 **That the Lord was with David and his daughter Michal loved him**

**Get it**

14. What traits might have made Jonathan and David feel as if they were "one spirit"?
 **How they thought the same and did the same**

15. Why might we just wish for something bad to happen to a rival rather than choosing actually to harm him or her ourselves?
 **Not my fault that happened**

16. Why was Saul afraid of David even though Saul was king?
 **The people supported David as general**

17. What were some evidences that "the Lord was with David"?
 **Dodged the spear, not hurt during battle**

**Apply it**

18. What token of lasting friendship could you offer a friend this week?
 **My hand and word**