### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 18

[Editor note: This chapter contains many parts that don’t appear in the oldest Greek Septuagint manuscripts. These additions were probably added later, taken from folk tales or some other account of David’s life. Removing these additions makes the account flow much better and it clears up a few contradictions.]  
  
  
1Well, as Saul was speaking, [the heart of his son] JoNathan became bound to David… He loved him as he loved his own life.  
  
2Then Saul took him back that day, and he wouldn’t allow him to return to the house of his father thereafter. 3Also, because he loved David as he loved his own life, [Saul’s son] JoNathan made a sacred agreement with David…  
  
4And he took off the [royal] robes that he wore and put them on David… His uniform, his broadsword, his bow, and his belt.  
  
5Well after that, David went wherever Saul sent him, and Saul put him in charge of his entire army. So, all the people were very pleased with David, as were Saul’s servants.  
  
6[A while later,] one day, when David was returning to the city from a war with the Philistines, the people came from all the cities of IsraEl to meet Saul, joyfully singing and dancing with tambourines and cymbals... 7And the women (that were out in front) were singing and playing:  
  
 ‘Saul has cut down his thousands,  
 And David’s cut down his ten thousands.’  
  
8Well, this made Saul very angry… In fact, he considered it [treasonous]!  
  
So he said:  
  
 ‘They gave David tens of thousands and they only gave me thousands!  
  
 ‘What’s left for him now other than my kingdom?’  
  
9And as a result, Saul was suspicious of David from that day on.  
  
10Then the very next day, the fearsome Spirit of God came over Saul and he started prophesying there in his house. So David picked up [his harp] and played it for him throughout that whole day.  
  
Well, it so happened that Saul’s wooden spear was [nearby], 11and he picked it up and shouted:  
  
 ‘I’m going to pin David to the wall!’  
  
As a result, David had to run from him twice! [spurious text]  
  
12For Saul had come to fear David, since he realized that Jehovah was with him… So David again had to [leave Saul]. 13And after he left, Saul demoted him from his position as the commander over 1,000 men.  
  
However, he still [marched in victories] before the people; 14for David was capable in everything that he did, because Jehovah was with him. 15But since Saul recognized this, he was always very cautious when dealing with [David].  
  
16Meanwhile, all of IsraEl and Judah had come to love David, because he was always [marching in victory] before them.  
  
17Then Saul said to David:  
  
 ‘Look, I’ll give you my eldest daughter MerAb to be your woman, so you can become a powerful son to me, and then you can [be in charge of] the battles of Jehovah!’  
  
But Saul [was really thinking]:  
  
 ‘This way I won’t have to kill him… I’ll let the Philistines do it for me.’  
  
18However, David gave this reply to Saul:  
  
 ‘Who am I and how important is the life of my father in IsraEl, that I should be an in-law of the king?’  
  
19Well thereafter, Saul gave his daughter MerAb (whom he’d promised to David) to AdriEl the MehoLathite to be his woman. [spurious text]  
  
20Now, Saul’s daughter Michal was in love with David, and when this was reported to Saul, he was very pleased, 21for he [thought]:  
  
 ‘Then I’ll give her to him, because she’ll always be a trap to him and she’ll drive him into the hands of the Philistines.’  
  
So Saul said to David:  
  
 ‘I want you to form a marriage alliance between you and me today.’  
  
22And Saul also gave orders to his servants, telling them to talk to David in private and say:  
  
 ‘Look, the king really wants you, and [he wants] all of his servants to love you; so, form a marriage alliance with the king!’  
  
23But when Saul’s servants spoke to David about these things, David asked them:  
  
 ‘Do you really think it’s right for me to form a marriage alliance with the king? I’m just a commoner and I’m unworthy of such an honor!’  
  
24Well, Saul’s servants went back and reported everything that David said.  
  
25And Saul told them:  
  
 ‘Then, tell David that the king is asking a dowry for her… What he wants is the foreskins of 100 Philistines as vengeance against his enemies!’  
  
However, Saul’s plan was just to put David into the hands of the Philistines, 26and that’s why he told his servants to say these things to him.  
  
However, what they said to him sounded good to David, so he decided to form a marriage alliance with the king. And when the time came, 27David gathered his men and went out to fight the Philistines… And he brought back the foreskins of 200 of their men and carried them to the king.  
  
28Well, when Saul saw this, he knew for sure that Jehovah was with David, and that his daughter Michal and all IsraEl loved him.  
  
29So, throughout the rest of his life, Saul was afraid of David.  
  
30And the rulers of the Philistines also came to realize that David was the most important of Saul’s servants and that he was highly regarded by the people. [spurious text]