

1 SAMUEL WEEK SEVEN – “The Fall of Saul”

January 28, 2021

This section puts Saul’s oldest son Jonathan in the spotlight. Jonathan is the son who in chapter 14 unwittingly ate honey after his father’s order to fast, thus incurring the penalty of death until the troops protested and Saul relented. As if that incident wasn’t a sign that Saul was already coming unhinged, we’re now entering into a part of the story that shows exactly how unstable and insecure he is and why Israel needs a new King.

Questions for 1 Samuel 18-20

1. What do you suppose it means when the writer says, “the soul of Jonathan was bound to the soul of David, and Jonathan love him as his own soul?” (18:1)
2. Since a covenant involves two parties, what was the nature and conditions of the covenant that Jonathan made with David. What was the inspiration for this covenant?
3. How does David’s relationship with Jonathan impact his relationship with Saul?
4. How does the evil spirit come back into play for Saul? What is the impact of the evil spirit’s presence? Who is responsible for the evil spirit?
5. Why did Saul offer his daughter Merab as a wife? What was David’s response and how did this impact Saul’s attitude toward David?
6. What was the motivation behind Saul offering his daughter Michal to David? How did the arrangement work out? What was David’s expectation of this marriage?
7. Why would David bring Philistine foreskins to Saul after he defeated the 100 Philistines? Do you suppose he made a wreath out of them?
8. What was the turning point where Saul went from loving to hating David? What does this say about Saul?
9. Why do you suppose Saul would trust Jonathan to kill David knowing the nature of their friendship? Do you suppose it was a test of loyalty?

10. What was Jonathan's response to Saul when Saul asked him to kill David? How is Saul's "kingship" jeopardized by this incident?
11. How does Michal's betrayal help or complicate matters for David?
12. Does it seem strange that Michal used an idol to help David escape? Do you think this has a special meaning, or is an idol just an idol in this case?
13. What do you suppose a "company of prophets in a frenzy" looks like? Why do you suppose Saul also fell into a prophetic frenzy?
14. How does the relationship between David and Jonathan change once Saul intensifies his campaign to kill David?
15. How do you think David feels now that he's estranged from Saul and on the run?
16. How would you feel if you were called, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman!"? What was Saul's intent when he said that to Jonathan?
17. What feelings do you have when David and Jonathan have to part ways with each other at the end of chapter 20?