

**October 28**

**Scriptures:** Read 1 Samuel 18 & 19

**Key Verse:** “And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him.”  
(1 Samuel 18:14)

## **Overview**

In these chapters, we learn of the special care God took over David’s life. After defeating Goliath, David was taken into the fulltime service of king Saul because he was a mighty man of valour (14:52), and it was only fitting that the king’s future son-in-law should learn the ways of the royal court (cf.17:25). This was part of God’s plan to prepare him for his future kingship.

When Jonathan first saw David and heard him speaking with his father, he felt a close bond with him (18:1). The two had a kindred spirit, for they both loved God and had great faith in Him. This made their union very strong (14:6; 17:47). Jonathan took the initiative to make a covenant with David, thus they were under a legal commitment of not only love and a deep friendship, but also loyalty, support, and protection forever.

The covenant was sealed by Jonathan’s gift of his robe and armour to David, indicating that David became as Jonathan himself. They were one in the bond of love and faith, since their relationship, which had been planned by God, was centred in Him. Jonathan was a godly man who came to recognize that David’s divine appointment to the throne took priority over his own birthright as his father’s successor.

Because of David’s military accomplishments, wisdom, and personality, his popularity among all the people grew greatly. The songs the women sang, giving David higher praise than Saul, caused great jealousy in Saul’s heart. Feeling his position as king threatened, he was constantly suspicious and kept a close eye on David (18:8-9). On two occasions, when Saul was suffering from the “distressing spirit”, he attempted to kill David while he was playing music to calm him (18:11; 19:10). It is likely that he often sat with his spear as a king would hold a sceptre to symbolize authority. However, God, who is the ultimate authority, saved David both times from Saul’s spear. Surely Satan, on these attempts and others, was trying to destroy God’s chosen instrument. God had a plan and a purpose for the life of David, and therefore no attacks could bring him any harm. The continuing line of David, from which God would send His Messiah, was not to be destroyed.

As well as being a treacherous and violent person, Saul was dishonourable and dishonest. He broke his vow about not trying to kill David; this was a serious offense against God, because the vow had been made in the name of God (19:6). He also broke his promise twice by not giving his daughter in marriage to David (17:25; 18:19). When another daughter was eventually given to him as a wife, it was with the hope that she would be “a snare to him” (18:21). But she, like Jonathan, loved David and helped him to escape her father’s evil intentions (19:11-17).

Each time he sent David to fight the Philistines, it was with the hope that he would not return, yet each time God gave David victory, and he returned to gain more popularity and came even closer to the kingship. When many attempts to destroy David were not successful, Saul took a more

open and direct action to personally kill him in Ramah. This was Samuel's hometown, where he led the school of the prophets (Naioth; 19:22). Once again, the Spirit of God intervened and, like the other messengers before him, Saul himself was overwhelmed by the Spirit of God and could not carry out his evil plan (19:23).

Just think how the plan of God worked in the saving of David's life. God is truly sovereign in every area of one's life, if one is truly committed to Him. Nothing happens by chance in the believer's life. Just as God controlled these circumstances in David's life, so too He will lead us as we walk daily trusting in Him.

## **Prayer**

Lord, as David behaved wisely, so we desire the same. You promised through James that You would give us wisdom if we would ask You. We're asking You and we're believing Your promise. Thank you for wisdom.