

231011-4 1Sa 20, Saul's Desire to Kill David Confirmed—CThurman

In the previous chapter, Saul conspired to have David killed, but Jonathan reminded his father, Saul that David had only done good to him and the nation of Israel. Saul being convinced to turn away from his wicked purpose, then allowed David to stand in his presence as he had before. Then there followed another war with the Philistines, and David with his thousand men soundly defeated them. After this an evil spirit came upon Saul again, and to comfort him David was brought in to play the harp. But Saul was again turned to kill David. He took a javelin to kill him, but he managed to slip away, and the javelin went into the wall. David then went to his house, but Saul sent messengers to keep watch over his house so that in the morning they might kill him as soon as he came out. But Michal knew of her father's plot to kill David, so she warned him to flee during the night, which David did. And he went up to Ramah where the old prophet Samuel lives. In the mean-time Michal fixes David's bed so that it appeared as if he was in it sleeping and recovering from an illness. When David didn't come out of the house in the morning Saul sent messengers to take David, but she told them that he is sick. After this Saul sent other messengers to bring David to him, bed and all, so that he might kill him. It was then that he found out that David had already fled to Ramah to see Samuel. So, Saul sent messengers to apprehend David there, but the Spirit of the LORD overcame them and turned them rather to prophesying. This same happened to the second and third groups of messengers, so that they too were turned away from apprehending David to prophesying. Then Saul decided to come up to take David himself, but even before he arrives to the place where he is the Spirit of the Lord came upon him so that he prophesied all that day and all that night. And this gives David the opportunity to return to Saul's city of Gibeah so that he might convince Jonathan that his father has turned again to slay him.

Chapter 20

Verses 1-23 is the discussion between David and Jonathan on the last day of the month. The day following (v.24) is the new moon, or beginning of a new month.

1 ¶ And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what [is] mine iniquity? and what [is] my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

seeks out, requires

seeketh, Piel part. of the verb **שָׁקַט**, *to seek, to seek out, to require, to question, to make inquisition*. The Piel verb carries the idea of busily seeking, constantly seeking out, doggedly making inquisition.

2 And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die:
(Jonathan) far be it

God forbid, **הָלֵלֵךְ**, an interjection, also tss. *be far, be it far, far be it, forbid*. (1Sa.2.30; 12.23; 14.45; 20.2, 9; 22.15; 24.6)

behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew
reveal
advertise

will shew, Qal fut. of the verb **הִגִּיל**, tss. *to shew, to reveal, to advertise, to open, to lead away captive, to discover, to uncover, to remove*; **1Sa.20.2, 12, 13; 22.8 (twice), 17**.

it me: and why should my father hide this thing
the matter (to) my ear keep this matter close

should ... hide, Hiphil fut. of the verb **סָתַר**, tss. *to hide, to absent, to keep close, to be secret*; **vss. 2, 5, 19, 24**.

from me? it [is] not [so].

Jonathan finds it very difficult to believe that his father is trying to kill David again. But David has discerned that Saul knows that he and Jonathan are dear friends.

3 And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth

sware, of the verb **שָׁבַע**, tss. *to swear, to adjure, to charge with an oath.*

that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this,
(Saul)

lest he be grieved:
hurt, sorry
'twisted into knots'

grieved, Niphal (simple pass.) fut. of the verb **עָצַב**, tss. *to displease, to grieve, to be sorry, to be hurt, to be vexed, to wrest; vss. 3* (Niphal fut.), **34** (Niphal pret.).

Saul does know that he and Jonathan are closest of friends.

v.30, (Saul speaking to Jonathan) ... *do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion ...*

but truly [as] the LORD liveth,
(as David continues speaking to Jonathan) surely

but truly, the conj. **אֵלֶּם**, tss. *but, but truly, howbeit, surely, wherefore.*

and [as] thy soul liveth, [there is] but a step between me and death.
(single) stride

step, **פָּשַׁע**, a masc. noun is once in the OT; the verb **פָּשַׁע**, is also once, *to go*. H. W. F. Gesenius', *to stride*.

More than twice Saul threw a javelin at David to kill him. He set an ambush at his house. He sent messengers to take him in his supposed *sick-bed*. He sent messengers up to Ramah three times to apprehend him. And finally came there himself, but the Spirit intervened and David escaped. David is sure that the king is trying to kill him.

roughly, the adj. קָשָׁה, tss. roughly, cruel, hard, stubborn, churlish, obstinate, sore, sorrowful; the verb קָשָׁה, is tss. much the same, cruel, sore, hard, fiercer, a hard thing, stiffened, grievous.

11 And Jonathan said unto David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

12 And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded
tried, found out

sounded, Qal fut. of the verb חָקַר, tss. to search, to seek, to search out, to sound, to try, to find out.

my father about to morrow any time, [or] the third [day], and, behold, [if there be] good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee;
reveal, advertise

will shew, Qal fut. of the verb גָּלַה, tss. to shew, to reveal, to advertise, to open, to lead away captive, to discover, to uncover, to remove; 1Sa.20.2, 12, 13; 22.8 (twice), 17.

13 The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father
so add

[to do] thee evil, then I will shew [it] thee,
reveal, advertise (the matter) in your ear

and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the חֲסֵד
kindness
do mercy, pity, lovingkindness
vss. 8, 14, 15

of the LORD, that I die not:

15 But [also] thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever:
mercy, pity, lovingkindness

no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

It would seem to me that Jonathan has some sense or possibly knows that David is the Lord's anointed to be Israel's next king.

16 So Jonathan made [a covenant] with the house of David, [saying], Let the LORD even require [it] at the hand of David's enemies.

If any of the house of Jonathan should prove to be David's enemies, then this covenant does not apply to them.

17 And Jonathan caused David to swear again ,
added (to) cause –

because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

18 Then Jonathan said to David, To morrow [is] the new moon: and thou shalt

be missed, because thy seat will be empty.
wanted, lacked, empty, numbered lacking, missing

19 And [when] thou hast stayed three days, [then] thou shalt go down quickly,
[after] – three days –

and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business
vss. 2, 5, 19, 24

was [in hand], and shalt remain by the stone E'-zel.
sit, abide, dwell, tarry with, beside, near 'Separation'
'Departure'

Ezel, noun אֵזֶל, only this once in the OT; see אָזַל, tss. to go up, to go.

Ezel means 'departure' or 'separation.' (cf. Young's Concordance, Smith's Dict. of the Bible; Cruden's Concordance, 'going abroad.') There was a stone nearby to which David would come, hide and wait for the final word from

Jonathan. Very likely this stone received the name Ezel, after this event, marking their departure or separation from each other. And so, these two would remain separated, but for one secret meeting (cf. 1Sa.23.16) to the day of Jonathan's untimely death.

20 And I will shoot three arrows on the side [thereof],

of (that) (stone where
you will hide)

as though I shot at a mark.

21 And, behold, I will send a lad, [saying], Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows [are] on this side of thee, take them;

... and so indication to David that it is safe for him to come in.

then come thou: for [there is] peace to thee, and no hurt; [as] the LORD liveth.
(David)

22 But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows [are] beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away.

... so indicating that there is danger and he must flee.

23 And [as touching] the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD [be] between thee and me for ever.

24 ¶ So David hid himself in the field:

vss.2, 5, 19, 24

Obviously, this was a private conversation between Jonathan and David, but as far there are with David several men that very likely might be able to obtain provisions to sustain them along the way. (cf. 1Sa.21.4 ... *the young men*; 22.2 ... *about four hundred men*; and the number increases, 1Sa.23.13, 600)

and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat.
consume food

מושב, masc. noun

25 And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, [even] upon a seat
place, habitation

קיר, masc. noun

by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat
side

צד, masc. noun

by Saul's side,
beside Saul

פקד

and David's place was empty.
lacking or wanted (his presence)

26 Nevertheless Saul spake not any thing that day: for he thought,

*any thing, מאומה, a fem. noun tss. any thing, ought, thing, ought,
fault, somewhat; 1Sa.20.26, 39; 21.2. 25.7, 15, 21; 29.3.*

– מקרה, masc. noun –

Something hath befallen him, he [is] not clean; surely he [is] not clean.
happened (to)

**27 And it came to pass on the morrow, [which was] the second [day] of the
month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son,**
lacking, wanted

Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day?
the meal

**28 And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked [leave] of me [to go] to
Bethlehem:**

**29 And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city;
and my brother, he hath commanded me [to be there]: and now, if I have found**

– מלט, Niphal fut. –

favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren.
be delivered, escape

שֻׁלְחָן, masc. noun

Therefore he cometh not unto the king's

table.

(always tss. with the English Table)

30 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou

עָוֵן, Niphal part.

son of the perverse

wicked, troubled,
troubled, crooked

מַרְדּוּת, fem. noun, only here

rebellious [woman],

verb, מָרַד, to rebel.

The Special Billy Graham Crusade Edition of the Bible, called the *Living Bible*, employs the use of profanity at this point.

בִּשְׁתָּה, fem. noun

do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion,
shame

עֲרֹוּת, fem. noun

and unto the confusion of thy mother's
shame

nakedness?
uncleanness

the verb עָרָה, to be bare, uncovered,
discovered, emptied, destitute.

David knew that Saul was aware of his friendship with Jonathan. (cf. v.3)

31 For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be

כִּוֵּן, Niphal pret.

established, nor thy kingdom.

stable, established, set forth

Saul lives in a state of denial. It was because of his sin that the kingdom was given to another. But now Saul shifts the blame to be the fault of Jonathan for failing to help him kill David. But whether Saul knows it to be a fact or not, his suspicion is that David is the man the LORD has chosen to be Israel's next king.

1Sa.18.8 ... [what] can he have more but the kingdom?

The LORD revealed through Samuel to Saul that the LORD gave the kingdom to another man, a better man.

1Sa 15:28 *And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, [that is] better than thou.*

Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.
he is a son of death
(Perhaps, 'he is marked to die.')

So the fears of Samuel were justifiable. Saul would have killed Samuel for anointing another man to be king.

1Sa 16:2 *And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear [it], he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.*

32 And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore
Why

shall he be slain? what hath he done?
should killed?

33 And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew
spear

cast, Hiphil fut. of the verb לָטַח, tss. to cast (1Sa.18.11; 20.33), to carry away, to cast forth, to cast down.

that it was determined of his father to slay David.
the utter end, full end

was determined, כְּלָהּ, fem. noun tss. altogether, consumption, a full end, an utter end, riddance.

34 So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat
consume

no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David,
food hurt, sorry
'twisted into knots'

grieved, Niphal (simple pass.) pret. of the verb עָצַב, tss. to displease, to grieve, to be sorry, to be hurt, to be vexed, to wrest; vss. 3 (Niphal fut.), 34 (Niphal pret.).

because his father had done him shame.
a disservice or dishonored him

had done him shame, Hiphil (causative act.) pret. of the verb כָּלַם, tss. to be ashamed, to blush, to be confounded, to put to shame, to hurt, reproach; the fem. noun כְּלָמָה, is tss. reproach, shame, dishonor, confusion.

35 ¶ And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field
proceeded

at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.
for the meeting (assembly)

at the time appointed with, of the masc. noun מוֹעֵד, tss. season, set time, congregation, in the time, the feasts, solemn feasts, set feasts, synagogues, solemnities, an assembly, solemn assembly.

36 And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot.

Jonathan will shoot three. (v.20)

[And] as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

37 And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had

הָלְאָהּ, adv.

shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, [Is] not the arrow beyond thee?
forward, yonder, thenceforth

עָמַד, Qal fut.

38 And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not.
stand

make speed, מְהֵרָה, a fem. noun, tss. quickly, hastily, make speed, swiftly, speedily, with speed, shortly.

haste, Qal imper. of the verb שָׁחַח, tss. to haste, to be ready.

Jonathan hurrying up the lad to collect the arrows and return to him and distracting perhaps from discovering David, who was hiding nearby.

אָדוֹן, and so אָדוֹנָיו

And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master.
lord

39 But the lad knew not any thing: only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

any thing, מְאוּמָה, a fem. noun tss. any thing, ought, thing, ought, fault, somewhat; 1Sa.20.26, 39; 21.2. 25.7, 15, 21; 29.3.

40 And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him,
weapons

artillery, כְּלֵי, a masc. noun tss. weapons, jewels, sacks, vessels, stuff, furniture, pot, kins, armour, carriage, bag, instruments.

Go, carry [them] to the city.

41 [And] as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of [a place] toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times:

David is not presently in the office of king. Jonathan is the son of Israel's king. David honored him by bowing himself to the ground these three times.

and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

wept, Qal fut. of the verb **יָכַח**, tss. *to weep, to mourn, to bewail*.

1.10; 30.4, Qal infin.; 1.7, 8, 10; 11.4, 5; 20.41; 24.16; 30.4, Qal fut.

David wept longer than Jonathan.

לְשָׁלוֹם

42 And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn
Proceed

both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

It has been proved now that Saul is out to kill David. David now goes into hiding.