

1 Samuel 20

Jonathan's Covenant

1. 20:1-10 – David Appeals to Jonathan

- a. 1 - The 4th time David “fled” (19:10, 12, 18), he appeals for help/justice.
- b. Justice requires formal charges, hearing evidence, defense, impartial judgment
- c. A system of judges required by law – Deu 16:18-20, 17:8-11, 19:15
- d. Where is David’s judge? To whom does David appeal of the king?
- e. In Psalm 7:1-5, David speaks about his unjust persecution – Psa 7:8-10
- f. 2-4 - Saul: 19:6 -“as the LORD liveth...” David: 20:3 “as the LORD liveth...”
- g. 5 - “*the new moon*” - A solemn feast every month –Num 10:10, 28:11, Ps 81:3, Col 2:16
- h. 6-7 – If Saul gets angry at David’s absence to go to his family, he wanted to hurt him
- i. David suggests this plan to convince Jonathan to believe him - Matt 12:39, 16:4,21
- j. 8-10 - In 18:3 Jonathan made a covenant with David, here it is invoked and tested.

2. 20:11-17 – Jonathan’s Covenant

- a. 11-13 - Jonathan’s vow shows knowledge that Saul’s house to be cut off – Heb 8:13
- b. “*the LORD be with thee, as he hath been...*” - Jonathan knew David would be king.
- c. The first three kings of Israel picture the LORD’s covenants of blessing with Israel.
- d. 14-15 – The covenant requires David’s kindness during Jon’s life and forever
 - i. This worked out after Jon dies for his son Mephibosheth - 2 Sam 9:6-7
 - ii. Jon (faithful remnant) enters eternal covenant of blessing w/ anointed king
 - iii. When does he enter this covenant? When Saul is trying to kill him.
 - iv. “*when the LORD hath cut off the enemies...*” during day of judgment/wrath
- e. 16-17 – This covenant one of love and required even at the hand of enemies (cross)

3. 20:18-23 – The Boy and Arrows

- a. 18 - “*tomorrow*” – David is absent, and hides three days, then returns to this place.
- b. 19 - *trans.* Changed to “stone heap” “stone pile” though “the meaning is uncertain”
- c. Ezel is where his way is shown, departure, but also where Saul swore not to kill him
- d. 20-22 – Why the boy and arrows? To hide communication from potential watchers.
 - i. Would Saul repent of what he did? Would the anointed return? Acts 3:19-20
 - ii. Why three? For multiple witnesses – Peter arrested 3x before Israel’s fall.
- e. 23 - “*LORD be between thee and me for ever*” – No matter what, the promise endures.

4. 20:24-34 – Absent from the Feast

- a. 24-26 – Day 1 – The plan executed; Saul gives David an excuse of being unclean.
- b. 27-29 – Day 2 – Jonathan gives his father the excuse and test’s his favor of David.
- c. 30 - “*Thou son of a...*” - An insult characterizing Jonathan by referring to his mother.
- d. “*thou hast chosen...*” – Saul sees Jonathan as betraying and shaming the royal family
- e. Due to Jonathan’s loyalty to David, the Queen would never have a son be king.
- f. 31 - “*as long... thou shalt not*” – Saul thinks his son to be as greedy of the throne as he
- g. 32-34 – Jonathan begins as before... but is shamed by his father, grieves for David.
- h. Saul (Satan) angry at David (Christ) and those that join with him (Jonathan)

5. 20:35- 42 – David Departs

- a. 35 – *“in the morning”* – the third day... as foretold and as planned.
- b. 36-38 – Jonathan executes the plan to communicate David should leave.
- c. 39-40 – *“the lad knew not an thing”* – The reason for the ploy.
- d. 41 – David rose up and bowed to the faithful prince who kept his promise.
 - i. He wept at being rejected (as the Lord did) – Luke 19:41-44, Matt 23:34-39
- e. *“kissed one another, and wept”* – Only the depraved mind think this is a sign of a lewd relationship and not love – Ge 45:15, Ruth 1:9, Act 20:37, 2Co 13:12, Luke 15:20, 22:48
 - i. These two men were warriors for the LORD, but also shared God’s heart.
- f. *“David exceeded”* – As he would lose more: wife, home, country, friendship, etc.
 - i. They would only meet one more time (1 Sam 23) until Jonathan dies.
- g. 42 – *“Go in peace...”* – Jonathan and his seed and David’s seed would be joined forever in the LORD (the seed/son of David)