

# David and Jonathan:

*Loyalty and Support for a Chosen Leader*

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# What We Will Learn

- Jonathan admired David for bravery, leadership, and faith in God
- He became a close and reliable friend to David even in times of trouble
- He believed David will be king of Israel
- Offered to serve with future king David as 2<sup>nd</sup> in command



## What We Will Learn cont'd

- Jonathan's father, king Saul, advised him that David was a threat to his kingdom
- However, Jonathan remained a loyal and supportive friend to David
- While serving faithfully with Saul
- 1 Samuel 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 23
- 2 Samuel 1 and 9

# Understanding Jonathan

- Son of 1<sup>st</sup> king of Israel, Saul
- 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command to Saul
- Battalion commander in Saul's army
- 1 Samuel 13:2

1 Samuel 13:2 Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Micmash and in the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. The rest of the men he sent back to their homes.



# Understanding Jonathan cont'd

- Witnessed Philistine humiliation of Israelite army under Saul
- Philistines setup at Micmash to fight Israel
- Israelites were frightened by the enemy's number and apparent superiority
- Hid wherever they could to avoid the enemy
- 1 Samuel 13:5–7



## 1 Samuel 13 (NIV)

5 The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Micmash, east of Beth Aven.

6 When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns.

7 Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.



# Understanding Jonathan cont'd

- Several Israeli soldiers left the battle
- Those that remained didn't have weapon
- 1 Samuel 13:15 & 22

15 Then Samuel left Gilgal and went up to Gibeah in Benjamin, and Saul counted the men who were with him. They numbered about six hundred.

22 So on the day of the battle not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them.

# Understanding Jonathan cont'd

- Jonathan attacks the Philistines
- Accompanied only by his armor-bearer
- And faith in God
- He defeated Philistine outpost
- Caused panic within Philistine camp
- Israelites pursued and defeated Philistines
- 1 Samuel 14:1, 6–7, 13–15, and 20–23





## 1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

1 One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father.

6 Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

7 "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."



## 1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

13 Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him.

14 In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre.

15 Then panic struck the whole army—those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties—and the ground shook. It was a panic sent by God.





## 1 Samuel 14 (NIV)

20 Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords.

21 Those Hebrews who had previously been with the Philistines and had gone up with them to their camp went over to the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

22 When all the Israelites who had hidden in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were on the run, they joined the battle in hot pursuit.

23 So the LORD rescued Israel that day, and the battle moved on beyond Beth Aven.

# What We Learned About Jonathan

- Witnessed Philistine humiliation of Israeli army under Saul
- Invoked his faith in God to attack Philistines
- Defeated Philistines through a miracle
- Israeli army followed through to defeat the Philistines



# What We Learned About David

- Witnessed Philistine humiliation of Israeli army under Saul
- Philistines led by Goliath
- Invoked his faith in God to fight Goliath
- Defeated Goliath through a miracle
- Israeli army followed through to defeat the Philistines

# David and Jonathan Similarities

- Brave men
- Strong faith in God
- Believed that God will fight for Israel
- Believed Israeli army is invincible
- Witnessed Saul failing to take advantage of this strength of the Israeli army



# What Jonathan Saw in David

- David and Jonathan shared similarities
- But David was superior in every respect
- Jonathan admired David for these qualities
  - Bravery
  - Leadership
  - Faith in God
- He saw David as a chosen leader
- And decided to support and be loyal to him

# Covenant of Friendship

- After David returned from killing Goliath
- David and Jonathan bonded in spirit
- Made a covenant of friendship
- 1 Samuel 18:1 and 3–4

1 After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.

3 And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself.

4 Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.



# Acts of Friendship

- Saul plots to kill David
- Jonathan warns David about the plot
- Convinced Saul to stop plotting to kill David
- 1 Samuel 19:1–7



## 1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

1 Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David

2 and warned him, "My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there.

3 I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I'll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out.",

4 Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly.

5 He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The LORD won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?"





## 1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

6 Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be put to death."

7 So Jonathan called David and told him the whole conversation. He brought him to Saul, and David was with Saul as before.

## Acts of Friendship cont'd

- After Saul's 5<sup>th</sup> attempt on David's life
- David complained to Jonathan
- David and Jonathan devised a plan to determine if Saul intended to kill David
- 1 Samuel 20:1–7





## 1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

1 Then David fled from Natioth at Ramah and went to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What is my crime? How have I wronged your father, that he is trying to take my life?"

2 "Never!" Jonathan replied. "You are not going to die! Look, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without confiding in me. Why would he hide this from me? It's not so!"

3 But David took an oath and said, "Your father knows very well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said to himself, 'Jonathan must not know this or he will be grieved.' Yet as surely as the LORD lives and as you live, there is only a step between me and death."

4 Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you want me to do, I'll do for you."



## 1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

5 So David said, "Look, tomorrow is the New Moon festival, and I am supposed to dine with the king; but let me go and hide in the field until the evening of the day after tomorrow.

6 If your father misses me at all, tell him, 'David earnestly asked my permission to hurry to Bethlehem, his hometown, because an annual sacrifice is being made there for his whole clan.'

7 If he says, 'Very well,' then your servant is safe. But if he loses his temper, you can be sure that he is determined to harm me.



## Acts of Friendship cont'd

- David and Jonathan re-affirmed covenant
- Jonathan began to address David like the next king of Israel
  - May the Lord be with you as he has been with my father
  - Asked David to be kind to him and his family
- 1 Samuel 20:12–17



## 1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

12 Then Jonathan said to David: "By the LORD, the God of Israel, I will surely sound out my father by this time the day after tomorrow! If he is favorably disposed toward you, will I not send you word and let you know?"

13 But if my father is inclined to harm you, may the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away safely. May the LORD be with you as he has been with my father.

14 But show me unfailing kindness like that of the LORD as long as I live, so that I may not be killed,

15 and do not ever cut off your kindness from my family--not even when the LORD has cut off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth."





## 1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD call David's enemies to account."

17 And Jonathan had David reaffirm his oath out of love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

# Acts of Friendship cont'd

- Saul advised Jonathan that David was a threat to his kingdom
- But Jonathan remained loyal friend to David
- 1 Samuel 20:27–33





## 1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

27 But the next day, the second day of the month, David's place was empty again. Then Saul said to his son Jonathan, "Why hasn't the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?"

28 Jonathan answered, "David earnestly asked me for permission to go to Bethlehem.

29 He said, 'Let me go, because our family is observing a sacrifice in the town and my brother has ordered me to be there. If I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away to see my brothers.' That is why he has not come to the king's table."

30 Saul's anger flared up at Jonathan and he said to him, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I know that you have sided with the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of the mother who bore you?"



## 1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

31 As long as the son of Jesse lives on this earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Now send and bring him to me, for he must die!"

32 "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?" Jonathan asked his father.

33 But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David.



## Acts of Friendship cont'd

- Jonathan now knows Saul was determined to kill David
- He met with David in the field to inform him and exchange goodbye
- David departed from Saul's service
- 1 Samuel 20:41–42



## 1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

41 After the boy had gone, David got up from the south side [of the stone] and bowed down before Jonathan three times, with his face to the ground. Then they kissed each other and wept together—but David wept the most.

42 Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.' " Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town.



## Acts of Friendship cont'd

- David was on the run from Saul
- Jonathan met with David in the wilderness
- To comfort him and re-affirm their covenant
- Don't be afraid
- My father will not lay a hand on you
- You will be king over Israel and I will be second to you
- 1 Samuel 23:15–18



## 1 Samuel 23 (NIV)

15 While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life.

16 And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God.

17 "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this."

18 The two of them made a covenant before the LORD. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.



# Acts of Friendship cont'd

- David laments Jonathan's death
- I grieve for you Jonathan my brother
- You were very dear to me
- Your love for me was wonderful
- More wonderful than that of women
- 2 Samuel 1:26

# Acts of Friendship cont'd

- After David settled down as king of Israel
- He located Jonathan's son Mephibosheth
- Restored all Saul's land to Mephibosheth
- Admitted him to eat at the king's table

2 Samuel 9:6 When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "Your servant," he replied.

7 "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table."





# What We Learned

- David made a positive impact on Jonathan
- Jonathan admired him for his bravery, leadership, and faith in God
- David admired Jonathan for same qualities
- David and Jonathan made and lived by a covenant of friendship
- Jonathan saw David as a chosen leader
- And decided to support and be loyal to him