

Promising Path Terminates
while Waiting for God
The King and the People Series

Dr. Goodluck Ofoegbu
Prof. Oby Ofoegbu
Banking Blessings Ministry
San Antonio, Texas
USA

What We Will Learn

- Abrupt end to David's career in Saul's army
- Because Saul sought to kill David
- David consulted with Samuel
- Then with Jonathan
- And departed from Saul thereafter
- Service in Saul's army as path to kingship
- Terminated without reaching the objective
- 1 Samuel 19 and 20

bankingblessing.org

Saul Determined to Kill David

- Saul ordered attendants to kill David
- Changed his mind on account of Jonathan
- Renewed his decision later
- Chased David to his house
- David escaped, assisted by wife Michal
- 1 Samuel 19:1–17 [selections]

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

1 Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to 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.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

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.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

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?"

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

- But Saul's problem with David didn't end

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

9 But an evil spirit from the Lord came on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand. While David was playing the lyre,

10 Saul tried to pin him to the wall with his spear, but David eluded him as Saul drove the spear into the wall. That night David made good his escape.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

11 Saul sent men to David's house to watch it and to kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't run for your life tonight, tomorrow you'll be killed."

12 So Michal let David down through a window, and he fled and escaped.

bankingblessing.org

David Consults with Samuel

- David visited with Samuel
- To consult him regarding the development with Saul
- Saul went after David there
- People Saul sent to capture David were distracted by the Holy Spirit
- 1 Samuel 19:18–24 [selections]

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

18 When David had fled and made his escape, he went to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went to Naioth and stayed there.

19 Word came to Saul: "David is in Naioth at Ramah";

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 19 (NIV)

20 so he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, the Spirit of God came on Saul's men, and they also prophesied.

21 Saul was told about it, and he sent more men, and they prophesied too. Saul sent men a third time, and they also prophesied.

- Saul went by himself and did the same

bankingblessing.org

David Consults with Jonathan

- David consulted with Jonathan
 - To complain about Saul seeking his life
 - To determine if he could return to his position
- Jonathan determined that Saul indeed wanted to kill David
- David departed for good
- 1 Samuel 20:1–42 [selections]

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

1 Then David fled from Naioth 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 kill me?"

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

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

- David and Jonathan agreed Jonathan should find out whether Saul wanted to kill David

12 Then Jonathan said to David, "I swear by the Lord, the God of Israel, that 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?"

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

13 But if my father intends to harm you, may the Lord deal with Jonathan, be it ever so severely, if I do not let you know and send you away in peace. May the Lord be with you as he has been with my father.

- David and Jonathan devised a plan to determine Saul's intention
- And communicate to David

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

18 Then Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow is the New Moon feast. You will be missed, because your seat will be empty.

19 The day after tomorrow, toward evening, go to the place where you hid when this trouble began, and wait by the stone Ezel.

20 I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I were shooting at a target.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

21 Then I will send a boy and say, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I say to him, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you; bring them here,' then come, because, as surely as the Lord lives, you are safe; there is no danger.

22 But if I say to the boy, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you,' then you must go, because the Lord has sent you away.

bankingblessing.org

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.

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

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?"

bankingblessing.org

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 someone to bring him to me, for he must die!"

35 In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for his meeting with David. He had a small boy with him,

bankingblessing.org

1 Samuel 20 (NIV)

- Jonathan communicated with David according to their agreed secret code
- Then he sent the boy away

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.

bankingblessing.org

Path Ends for David

- Recognized he was not safe near Saul
- Did not want to abandon army carrier
- Took human action to determine what to do
- Consulted with Samuel
- Then with Jonathan
- Determined he could not remain within proximity of Saul
- Reluctant to leave but resolved to leave

bankingblessing.org

What We Learned

- Service in Saul's army ended abruptly but benefits of the experience will live with David
- God guides a person incrementally toward his objective, even if a path ends abruptly
- David tried to save his carrier but departed when he determined he wouldn't be safe
- When God allows a path to end, he opens another path [will be evident subsequently]

bankingblessing.org