

MARCH 26

Read 1 Samuel 18–19

CHAPTER 18

AND it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

2 And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that *was* upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

5 ¶ And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, *and* behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

6. And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of

all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

7 And the women answered *one another* as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *but* thousands: and *what* can he have more but the kingdom?

9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

10 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and *there was* a javelin in Saul's hand.

11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall *with it*. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

12 ¶ And Saul was afraid of

David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

14 And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD *was* with him.

15 Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

17 ¶ And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.

18 And David said unto Saul, Who *am* I? and what *is* my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?

19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.

20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in *the one of the twain*.

22 ¶ And Saul commanded his servants, *saying*, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.

23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you *a light thing* to be a king's son in law, seeing that I *am* a poor man, and lightly esteemed?

24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David.

25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred fore-skins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired.

27 Wherefore David arose and

went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.

28 ¶ And Saul saw and knew that the LORD *was* with David, and *that* Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

29 And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

30 Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, *that* David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

CHAPTER 19

AND Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

2 But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret *place*, and hide thyself:

3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where

thou *art*, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.

4 ¶ And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works *have been* to thee-ward very good:

5 For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest *it*, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

6 And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.

7 And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan shewed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past.

8 ¶ And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

9 And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his

hand: and David played with *his* hand.

10 And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

11. Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.

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

13 And Michal took an image, and laid *it* in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' *hair* for his bolster, and covered *it* with a cloth.

14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He *is* sick.

15 And Saul sent the messengers *again* to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.

16 And when the messengers were come in, behold, *there was* an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' *hair* for his bolster.

17 And Saul said unto Michal,

Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

18 ¶ So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth.

19 And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David *is* at Naioth in Ramah.

20 And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing *as* appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

21 And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.

22 Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that *is* in Sechu: and he asked and said, Where *are* Samuel and David? And *one* said, Behold, *they be* at Naioth in Ramah.

23 And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on,

and prophesied, until he came to Naiioth in Ramah.

24 And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before

Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, *Is Saul also among the prophets?*

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

In chapters 18—21 we see the transition between David's service in Saul's court and his exile as a fugitive. David's greatest test of faith was not when he faced Goliath, but when he had to serve daily in Saul's court. These chapters explain how he was moved from being Saul's favorite to Saul's foe. The main issue is David's faith and we can see how this man of God all but lost his confidence in God because of the trials that came to his life.

The love between David and Jonathan was beautifully silhouetted against the dark background of Saul's demonic jealousy and his base treachery toward David with regard to his daughters, Merab and Michal. However, Michal did become David's wife, in spite of the trap set for David in arranging the marriage. It is unfortunate that David married Michal, for the union was never a happy one. David lost her to another man while he was in exile, but gained her back when he started to reign at Hebron. However, his attitude toward David led to a complete separation later on.

Saul's plan to murder David is no longer a secret, for now the servants are commanded to slay him. Saul even tried to get Jonathan to kill him. Then the deranged king, in spite of his oath to Jonathan, was overwhelmed by his mania and tried to pin David to the wall with his javelin. Michal saved David's life and he fled to Samuel. This was perhaps the wisest move David made, for Samuel would be able to pray for him and counsel him. Note that Samuel defeated Saul, not with lies or weapons but with the Spirit of God! By using spiritual weapons Samuel delayed Saul and gave David opportunity to get away.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation" (Proverbs 26:26).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 13: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 7.

HYMN FOR TODAY

WE ARE CLIMBING JACOB'S LADDER Negro Spiritual

This delightful children's song was inspired by the account of Jacob's dream at Bethel as recorded in Genesis 28:10-22. In this dream, Jacob saw a stairway or ladder resting on earth with its top reaching to heaven, with God's angels or messengers ascending and descending on it.

From Jacob's dream we learn that the gap between earth and heaven can be bridged. Although God revealed Himself in times past to various individuals as He did to Jacob, His full self-revelation required a God-Man—the Son of God in all of His deity and the Son of Man in full humanity to span the mighty gulf. Jesus Christ became the "ladder" for man to reach heaven and to enjoy even now a restored fellowship with the heavenly Father.

In times past, God used dreams to speak to people, as He did to Job (Job 33:15), Joseph (Genesis 37:5-9), Solomon (1 Kings 3:5,15), Daniel (Daniel 7) and the wise men (Matthew 2:11-12). But with the completion of the Bible, our divine guidance is much more reliably known through the Holy Spirit's illumination of the Scriptures than through dreams and visions that we may experience. In fact, God's word clearly warns against this kind of instruction (Jeremiah 23:16). It is this claim to extra revelation that forms the basis of all cults.

As is true of all real spirituals and folk songs, there is no known author or composer of "Jacob's Ladder." It was first heard about 1825, and it has been a favorite with young and old since.

*We are climbing Jacob's ladder;
we are climbing Jacob's ladder;
we are climbing Jacob's ladder, soldiers of the cross.*

*Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Sinner, do you love my Jesus?
Sinner, do you love my Jesus? soldiers of the cross.*

*If you love Him, why not serve Him?
If you love Him, why not serve Him?*

*If you love Him, why not serve Him?
soldiers of the cross.*

*We are climbing higher, higher;
we are climbing higher, higher;
we are climbing higher, higher, soldiers of the cross.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1513

PONCE DE LEON DISCOVERED FLORIDA.

There are many wonderful Christians in the state of Florida. There are many good churches and fine preachers. Our attention is drawn to them today. May we be drawn together in praying for God's work in Florida.

1875

THE BIRTHDAY OF SYNGMAN RHEE.

1892

THE DEATH OF WALT WHITMAN.

WHY NOT TRY TO DO A KIND DEED FOR ANOTHER TODAY?

Oh, let us bless the Lord today for so many wonderful things that God has given, and let us do something kind for someone else!

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1831

DEATH OF RICHARD ALLEN (71), who was nominated by author Vernon Loggins for the title "Father of the Negro."

1872

THOMAS J. MARTIN AWARDED PATENT FOR FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

1910

WILLIAM H. LEWIS APPOINTED ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL of the United States.

1937

WILLIAM H. HASTIE CONFIRMED AS JUDGE of Federal District Court in Virgin Islands and became the first black federal judge.

The Treasure Path to Soul Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS:

THE NEW CONVERT'S RESPONSIBILITY

(Assignment 13)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning" link back on the DailyKJV.com page.)

Be identified with his Lord in Baptism.

() Romans 6:4 (Acts 8:36; 16:33)

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Attend the Lord's house every Lord's day.

() Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Tell what great things the Lord hath done.

() Mark 5:19

Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Like Andrew, bring nearest kin to Jesus.

() John 1:41 (John 1:40, 42)

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Diligently study to meet new Master's approval.

() 2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.