

The Kingdom of David
1 Samuel Chapter 19
3/14/10

Saul again tries to kill David

V8 -10 (V8) *And there was war again. And David went out and with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him. (V9) Then a harmful spirit from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre. (V10) And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.*

1. *And there was war again. And David went out and with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him*
 - A. Details are not provided, but apparently another incursion by the Philistines.
 - i. Were a nation of 5 cities, each ruled by a prince. Were idolaters. Very war-like.
 - ii. Were never conquered at the time of Joshua. Continually gave Israel trouble.
 - iii. Were eventually controlled by David, and during Solomon's reign, they paid Solomon tribute.
 - B. David is victorious over the Philistines
2. *Then a harmful spirit from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre.*
 - A. Similar to the episode of [1 Sam 16:14](#), but with a significant difference - *his spear in his hand*
 - i. Important to note that this was one of several other attacks - [1 Sam 16:23](#)
3. *And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.*
 - A. Although there were other episodes of Saul being tormented by the evil spirit, this is apparently the first time that he tries to kill David.
 - B. David flees and escapes by night.

V 11-13 (V11) *Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, told him, "If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." (V 12) So Michal let David down through the window, and he fled away and escaped. (V 13) Michal took an image and laid it on the bed and put a pillow of goats' hair at its head and covered it with the clothes. (V 14) And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick."*

1. *Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning.*
 - A. After escaping from Saul's spear, David goes to his home. Saul sends his agents to kill him.
 - B. The occasion of [Ps 59](#)
2. *But Michal, David's wife, told him, "If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." So Michal let David down through the window, and he fled away and escaped.*
 - A. A woman's intuition?
 - B. A sign of her love for her husband
 - C. Let down through a window
 - i. Other similar episodes
 - a. The spies - [Jos 2:15](#)
 - b. Paul - [Acts 9:24](#), [2Co 11:32](#)
 - D. Escapes into the night.
3. *Michal took an image and laid it on the bed and put a pillow of goats' hair at its head and covered it with the clothes.*
 - A. Michal took an image
 - i. Image is a household idol
 - a. Similar to the episode of Rachel in [Gen 31:19, 34-35](#)
4. *And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick."*
 - A. An obvious lie.
 - i. Even in such a trying situation, lying is sin
 - ii. Led to another lie (v 18).

V 15-17 (V15) *Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." (V16) And when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats' hair at its head. (V17) Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go. Why should I kill you?' "*

1. *Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him."*
 - A. Apparently, the messengers in V14 believed Michal and did not try to take David at that time. Reported this to Saul
 - B. Saul's response - *Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him.*
 - i. Such cruelty confirms that God had indeed rejected him ([1 Sam 15:10-11](#), [23-24](#), [1Sam 16:1](#))

2. *And when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats' hair at its head. Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go. Why should I kill you?'"*

- A. The deception is found out, and Saul confronts his daughter
- B. She lies, apparently to protect herself ([1 Sam 22:17](#)).
 - i. Other examples of 'protective' lies
 - a. Pharaoh's midwives - [Ex 1:17-19](#)
 - b. Rahab and the spies - [Josh 2:1-7](#)

V 18 *Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth.*

- 1. *Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah*
 - A. Ramah is located north of Jerusalem (see attached map)
 - i. The long time home of Samuel
 - a. As a judge - [1 Sam 7:15-17](#)
 - b. Where the elders came when they requested a king - [1 Sam 8:4](#)
 - c. Where Samuel retired after Saul was rejected - [1 Sam 15:23, 34](#)
 - B. Samuel must have still been a revered leader
 - i. He judged Israel 'all the days of his life' - [1 Sam 7:15](#)
 - ii. After anointing David, Samuel returned to Ramah ([1 Sam 16:1](#)). There is no mention of David meeting Samuel again until this account., nor is there mention of any subsequent meetings. The next mention of Samuel is his death, which is recorded in Chapter 25.
- 2. *and told him all that Saul had done to him.*
 - A. This is the only mention of a meeting between David and Samuel after David was anointed by Samuel, but David's confiding in Samuel would suggest that there was a relationship between the 2 men that was more than superficial.
- 3. *And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth.*
 - A. The location of Naioth is uncertain
 - i. Was the location of a school of prophets ([1 Sam 19:20](#))
 - ii. Referred to in v 19 and 22 as 'Naioth in Ramah', and may have been a place within the city or region.

V 19-21 *And it was told Saul, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah." (V20) Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. (V21) When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied.*

1. *And it was told Saul, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah."*
 - A. Details are lacking, but one can imagine that Saul has put out an 'all points bulletin' looking for David. A person who would reveal David's location could possibly ingratiate himself with the king and thereby receive special treatment. ([1 Sam 21:7](#); [22:9](#), [1 Sam 17:25](#))
2. *Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.*
 - A. A somewhat strange account, but not unprecedented in Scripture - [Num 11:1-30](#)
 - B. NT on 'prophesying' - [2 Pet 1:21](#)
 - i. ** Perhaps key in understanding what is going on. In the presence of God's Spirit (the company of prophets), God takes some of that spirit and applies it to Saul's agents.
3. *When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied.*
 - A. So, we have 3 different groups of messengers that have been sent out to take David, and the result is the same.
 - B. ** David as a type - a similar occurrence to Christ in [John 7:32-45](#)

V 22 *Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" And one said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." (V23) And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. (V24) And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"*

1. *Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" And one said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah."*
 - A. No knowledge of the 'great well that is in Secu'. Why does the Spirit include details that are obscure to the present?
2. *And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah.*
 - A. Now Saul himself is under the control of God's Spirit, in spite of being rejected by God. Nebuchadnezzar is called 'my servant' ([Jer 25:1-9](#))

3. *And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"*
 - A. Saul's behavior under the Spirit of God apparently even more remarkable than that of his messengers.
 - B. The matter was made known to all in the kingdom, and thus the proverb. See [1 Sam 10:9-13](#)

Application

1. Our understanding of David and his kingdom will give us insight into our Christ and His kingdom.
2. There is a very grave price to pay for disobeying and rejecting the Lord - consider in addition [Acts 5:1-7](#)
3. There is a continuous, ongoing spiritual battle - [Mt 4](#), [Luke 10:17-20](#), [Eph 6:12](#), [John 12:31](#); [16:11](#), [Dan 10:13](#)
4. God's Spirit is fully able to and sometimes does indeed overcome wicked people in a very powerful exhibition of His power.
5. God is faithful to his promises and will deliver his people - [Ps 37](#), [59](#)