

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF 1 SAMUEL

[PART 40]

DODGING SPEARS AND CHASING ARROWS

Reading: 1 Samuel 20: 1 - 11

Introduction

- This chapter continues to chronicle the despicable attitude of king Saul towards David.
- Saul is insanely jealous of David considering him to be a threat to him and his reign.
- The underlying theme of the chapter is '**covenant**'.
- In Scripture a '**covenant**' was a solemn binding agreement between 2 people or between God and people.
- Jehovah was called to be a witness to the covenant made between people.
- [Malachi 2:14] teaches us that marriage is a covenant.
- An example of a covenant God made with people would be the one He made with Noah [Genesis 8:8 - 17].
- David's covenant of friendship with Jonathan was originally made in [18:3 - 4].
- Covenants were usually sealed with the shedding of blood of a sacrifice i.e. [Genesis 15]
- [Vs 1 - 10] David before Jonathan at Gibeah.
- [Vs 11 - 23] David and Jonathan in the field.
- [Vs 24 - 34] Jonathan at Saul's table.
- [Vs 35 - 42] David and Jonathan back in the field.

1 David And Jonathan At Gibeah [vs 1 - 11]

- Saul's hatred of David is no longer a secret.
- David has had to flee and he's running out of places to hide.
- His life is falling in around him. Is there anywhere safe?

- He believes there is safety in the '**covenant**' so he goes to Jonathan.
- He's mystified concerning why Saul hated him.
- He's wondering has he done something wrong?
- Just because things are caving in that doesn't mean you've done anything wrong.
- Jonathan is naive regarding his father's intentions re: David.
- David is in a panic. [Vs 3].
- David has forgotten God's promises to him and God's call on his life.

2 David And Jonathan In The Field [vs 11 - 23]

- In this portion of the text the covenant gets elaborated upon.
- Jonathan will '**suss out**' his father regarding his intentions toward David.
- They pledge to show each other 'the kindness of the Lord.' [vs 14].

3 Jonathan At The Table [vs 24 - 34]

- Jonathan attempts to excuse David's absence from the feast and Saul '**explodes**'.
- Jonathan realises Saul is serious about killing David.
- Saul reminds Jonathan that David is a threat to him being on the throne.
- Jonathan is seeking a different kingdom. [Matthew 6:33].
- What Kingdom are you seeking? The kingdom of '**you**' or the kingdom of God?

5 David And Jonathan Back In The Field

- Jonathan, in line with the pre-arranged signal, fires an arrow beyond David hiding in the field.
- This indicates Saul is set on killing David.
- David was a wanted man.
- Jonathan should have went with David and been wanted men together.

Finally

- David and Jonathan were '**covenant**' men.
- The true Christian is a '**covenant**' person.
- In [Jeremiah 31: 31 - 34] God tells of a '**new covenant**'.
- This new covenant was sealed/cut at Calvary.
- We remember it each time at the communion table. [Matthew 26:28].
- When Jonathan and David made their covenant of friendship in [18:4] Jonathan gave David his robe.
- The Lord Jesus is our heavenly Jonathan and He has given us His robe of righteousness.
- Hallelujah, there is safety in the '**covenant**'.

Teaching Biblically • Thinking Biblically • Living Biblically

Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle 837-869 Shore Road Belfast BT15 4HS
 Tel: 028 9077 7074 Email: info@whitewell.church
www.whitewell.church