

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James

December 28, 2025

1 Samuel 20

Jonathan Helps David
[\(Psalm 59:1-17\)](#)

1And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what *is* mine iniquity? and what *is* my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

There could be two views of this entire issue of Saul seeking to kill David. From Saul's perspective either having been told David would replace him or a demon simply put it in his mind to kill David not really knowing why is what Saul was facing.

From David's perspective he knows he is going to be King someday or at least he knows he was told that and anointed by Samuel. He is obviously aware of the threat due to the two attempts and Jonathan and Mical telling David that their father wants to kill him.

His confusion as to why is a challenge to understand but this was a different time than we live now. The relationships were much

more intense and were face to face. No cell phones, no email, if anything happened it was pretty much face to face. Danger was always close.

2And he said unto him, God forbid; thou shalt not die: behold, my father will do nothing either great or small, but that he will shew it me: and why should my father hide this thing from me? *it is not so.*

The love of a son for his father is strong in belief in the father. Jonathan wanted to believe in his father even against evidence of what his father had returned to; to kill David.

3And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, *there is but a step between me and death.*

David can see that his friend is being swayed by his love for his father, which is understandable, not valid but understandable. Jonathan like most son's would take their dad's word as his word and would be sorely disappointed.

David recognizes that in his friend but tells his friend that he feels close to death.

4Then said Jonathan unto David, Whatsoever thy soul desireth, I will even do *it* for thee.

Jonathan sets the bar at where his allegiance would be and it is to be with David even over his own father and King.

5And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow *is* the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third *day* at even.

God had established a number of celebrations based on various lunar and solar events. This particular event is the “new moon”, the beginning of a Jewish new month. The King and his family would celebrate as would most of Israel by having a meal in celebration of the new moon and in obedience to God.

Numbers 28:11 And in the beginnings of your months ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot;

David would of course be expected, which King Saul knew and had planned accordingly to kill David. David known this plans a method of finding out if Saul's heart had changed as his son Jonathan believed.

The plan follows.

6If thy father at all miss me, then say, David earnestly asked *leave* of me that he might run to Bethlehem his city: for *there is* a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.

David uses the celebration with his family as a ruse to be absent from the King's table. This excuse would only be used if the King asked where David was at.

7If he say thus, *It is well*; thy servant shall have peace: but if he be very wroth, *then* be sure that evil is determined by him. 8Therefore thou shalt deal kindly with thy servant; for thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the LORD with thee: notwithstanding, if there be in me iniquity, slay me thyself; for why shouldest thou bring me to thy father?

David lays the plan out to Jonathan and explains if the King is angry at David's absence after Jonathan explains why then David knows the King still intends to kill him. If not then the King's heart has changed and David will return.

David goes on to say that if the King is angry the Jonathan should just kill David, why should he allow his father the King to kill David. Supposing Jonathan would show him mercy and kill him quickly.

9And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee: for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee? 10Then said David to Jonathan, Who shall tell me? or what *if* thy father answer thee roughly?

Jonathan reiterates his commitment to David over his father the King. He assures David that he would tell David if his father King Saul intended to hurt or kill him.

Jonathan and David Renew Covenant

11And Jonathan said unto David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

Now Jonathan offers an additional plan to let David know of the King's feelings toward David.

12And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about to morrow any time, *or the third day*, and, behold, *if there be* good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee; 13The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father *to do* thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

14And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not: 15But *also* thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth. 16So Jonathan made *a covenant* with the house of David, *saying*, Let the LORD even require *it* at the hand of David's

enemies. **17**And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

18Then Jonathan said to David, To morrow *is* the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty. **19**And *when* thou hast stayed three days, *then* thou shalt go down quickly, and come to the place where thou didst hide thyself when the business was *in hand*, and shalt remain by the stone Ezel. **20**And I will shoot three arrows on the side *thereof*, as though I shot at a mark. **21**And, behold, I will send a lad, *saying*, Go, find out the arrows. If I expressly say unto the lad, Behold, the arrows *are* on this side of thee, take them; then come thou: for *there is* peace to thee, and no hurt; as the LORD liveth. **22**But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows *are* beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away. **23**And as *touching* the matter which thou and I have spoken of, behold, the LORD *be* between thee and me for ever.

24So David hid himself in the field: and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat. **25**And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, *even* upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty. **26**Nevertheless Saul spake not any thing that day: for he thought, Something hath befallen him, he *is* not clean; surely he *is* not clean. **27**And it came to pass on the morrow, *which was* the second *day* of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day? **28**And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked *leave* of me *to go* to Bethlehem: **29**And he said, Let me go, I pray

thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me *to be there*: and now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table.

Saul Seeks to Kill Jonathan

30 Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious *woman*, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness? **31** For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die. **32** And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done? **33** And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David. **34** So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and did eat no meat the second day of the month: for he was grieved for David, because his father had done him shame.

35 And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him. **36** And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. *And* as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. **37** And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, *Is not the arrow beyond thee?* **38** And Jonathan cried after the lad, Make speed, haste, stay not. And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and came to his master. **39** But

the lad knew not any thing: only Jonathan and David knew the matter. [40](#)And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry *them* to the city. [41](#)And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a *place* toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded. [42](#)And Jonathan said to David, Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever. And he arose and departed: and Jonathan went into the city.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James