

Saul's Jealousy

1 Samuel 18

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Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a high-ranking commander in his army. But one day Saul heard some people singing a song of victory, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

This made Saul very angry. "They credit David with more than me. Next they'll be making him their king." He was jealous.

The next day Saul was in one of his moods, so David was playing the harp for him. Saul suddenly hurled a spear at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David eluded him twice. Saul's anger turned to fear. He realized God had left him and was now with David. David continued to succeed in everything he did, and all Israel loved him, except Saul, whose fear grew stronger.

Meanwhile, Saul's daughter Michal had fallen in love with David. Saul was delighted. "Here's the chance I've been waiting for. I can use her as bait and send him to be killed by the Philistines."

When Saul offered David his daughter, David replied, "What can a poor man offer in exchange for the daughter of a king?"

But Saul said, "All I want is vengeance on my enemies. Bring me a hundred Philistine foreskins."

David and his men went out and killed two hundred Philistines. David presented all their foreskins to Saul, who then had no choice but to give his daughter Michal to David to be his wife.

Saul's fear of David continued to grow, while David had one military success after another and became very famous.