

**People of the Promise:
David, Part 2: Hated, Hunted, and Safe
1 Samuel 18-31**

Introduction

Last Time: David, Part 1: Chosen to Lead

1. God-Centered Heart (13, 15)
2. Anointed and Empowered (16)
3. Providential Direction (16)
4. God-driven Courage (17)
5. Public Acclaim (18)

1. Hated (18-20)

1 Samuel 18: Saul envies and fears David because Yahweh is with him.

1 Samuel 19: Saul tries to kill David. He flees.

1 Samuel 20: Jonathan's covenant with David

1 Samuel 18:8-16

⁸ And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" ⁹ And Saul eyed David from that day on.

¹⁰ The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. ¹¹ And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice. ¹² Saul was afraid of

David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul. ¹³ So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. ¹⁴ And David had success in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him. ¹⁵ And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. ¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

1 Samuel 18:28-29

²⁸ But when Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him, ²⁹ Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually.

1 Samuel 19:1, 4-10

¹ And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David.

⁴ And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. ⁵ For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against

innocent blood by killing David without cause?" ⁶ And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death." ⁷ And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before. ⁸ And there was war again. And David went out and fought with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

King Saul had rejected the word of the Lord, so the Lord rejected Saul. Saul's suffering was judgment on him from the Lord. David's success was because the Lord was with him. Public favor, military success, the love of Saul's son Jonathan and Saul's daughter Michal, all came from the Lord's blessing on David. That is why Saul envied, feared, and hated David enough to kill him.

Do not think that if you love the Lord and the Lord blesses you, everyone's going to love you and treat you well. It's not uncommon for

those who serve the Lord to experience hatred and hardship instead.

2. Hunted (21-22)

Saul's war against David harms hundreds of others, too. From them God builds a band of loyal followers for David.

1 Samuel 21: Priests in Nob help David. Doeg the Edomite watches. David flees to Gath.

1 Samuel 22: Shelter in a cave, gathering of a small army. Saul slaughters all the priests and their families except Abiathar.

1 Samuel 22:1-2, 5

¹ David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. ² And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men. ⁵ Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

3. Safe (23-31)

Saul will hate and hunt David for many years. David will also make blunders that could have destroyed him. While some help him, others

betray him. But through it all, God intervenes to keep David safe for the purpose that He promised.

1 Samuel 23: Direction and protection from God

1 Samuel 23:6-14, 26b-29

6 When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand. **7** Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, "God has given him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars." **8** And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. **9** David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." **10** Then David said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. **11** Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down." **12** Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you." **13** Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from

Keilah, he gave up the expedition. ¹⁴ And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.

^{26b} As Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them, ²⁷ a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid against the land." ²⁸ So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went against the Philistines. Therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape. ²⁹ And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.

1 Samuel 24: David refuses to kill Saul. Saul: "Now I know that you shall surely be king."

1 Samuel 24:1-7, 15-20

¹ When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." ² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. ³ And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. ⁴ And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will

give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.” Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. ⁵ And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. ⁶ He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed.” ⁷ So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

¹⁵ May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand.” ¹⁶ As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. ¹⁷ He said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. ¹⁸ And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. ¹⁹ For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. ²⁰ And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.

How we respond to evil done against us honors the Lord and often brings conviction to the hearts of those who hate us.

1 Samuel 25: David and Abigail, wife of Nabal—protected from foolishness

1 Samuel 26: David spares Saul a second time. Saul repents again.

1 Samuel 26:21-25

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great mistake." **22** And David answered and said, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. **23** The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the LORD's anointed. **24** Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the LORD, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation." **25** Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Encouragement from the Lord can come from the most unlikely sources.

1 Samuel 27: David joins Philistines for protection.

1 Samuel 28: Saul goes to witch of En-dor.

1 Samuel 29: Philistines tell David to leave.

1 Samuel 30: Amalekites take David's wives with the families of his army. David and army recover them.

1 Samuel 30:1-6

¹ Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire ² and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way. ³ And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. ⁴ Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. ⁵ David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶ And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

When everything and everyone seems to have turned against you, turn to the One famous for His steadfast love and faithfulness.

1 Samuel 31: Death of Saul and Jonathan

Conclusion

1. Hated (1 Samuel 18-20)
2. Hunted (1 Samuel 21-22)
3. Safe (1 Samuel 23-31)

The story is not over, but David has come through many dangers, toils, and snares since Samuel anointed him to be king. He's 30 now. And the throne is about to be his.