

Deliverance (1 Samuel 19)

1. **David is Delivered from Saul by Jonathan's Brokerage and Common Grace (v.1-7)**
 - The last time Jonathan was mentioned, he established a covenant with David (18:1-3). Several months, or perhaps years, have transpired since then. This covenant will be tested after Saul commands Jonathan, and all his servants, to kill David.
 - Saul has reached a new state of depravity; Saul had once loved David (16:21), but then became angry and envious of him (18:8). He experienced murderous thoughts toward David and attempted to kill him (18:11). Unable to kill David, Saul transitioned from being afraid of him (18:12) and fearful (18:15) to even more afraid (18:29). Saul's hatred towards David, which had previously been concealed, is now exposed; his sin went from private to public. Previously, Saul's wickedness had been contained within his own heart and mind. Now, he is recruiting others.
 - Jonathan is in a seemingly difficult spot: his father is the king, who has now commanded him to murder an innocent man and violate the oath he had made with David. Saul may be unaware of this covenant.
 - Jonathan warns David and informs him of Saul's plan (19:2), becoming an advocate for David before Saul. He uses rhetoric to appeal to common grace:
 - Rational: David has done Saul only good. Saul even rejoiced (v.4-5).
 - Moral and Theological: David has not sinned against Saul but has instead served him faithfully (v.5). The LORD has worked through him. In killing David, Saul would have shed innocent blood (Deut. 27:25; Jer. 22:3) and would have procured God's wrath (Gen.9:6).
 - While in common grace, Saul's evil was restrained but not conquered. Jonathan's brokerage on behalf of David was successful ... at least for now.
2. **David is Delivered from Saul Through Common Sense (v.8-10)**
 - David will continue to serve Saul in war against the Philistines and in his court as a musician until Saul's reckless sin drives him out.
 - Saul's jealousy, hatred, and envy returns (harmful spirit from the LORD) and Saul picks up a spear again (18:10-11) in an attempt to kill David as he is playing the lyre. David evades Saul and returns home (19:10-11). This will be the last time that David serves in Saul's court; he will be a fugitive until all three sons of Saul (Jonathan included) are slayed while fighting the Philistines (31:6) and he is installed as king.
3. **David is Delivered from Saul by Michal's Deception (v.11-17)**
 - David flees Saul's house and returns home (v.11), followed by Saul's messengers.
 - Michal somehow knows that Saul is planning to kill him tomorrow. Saul may have told her in a similar manner as he had told his son, Jonathan (19:1). She warns David, and he escapes "through a window" (Josh. 2:15; Acts 9:25; 2 Cor. 11:32-33).
 - After David escaped (v.12), she created a mannequin from a teraphim (v.13). "Teraphim" occurs 15 times in the OT and typically refers to "household gods" or "statues of ancestors." They varied in size, as Jacob's wife, Rachel, had a teraphim beneath her saddle (Gen. 31:9). In this narrative, it may have been close to life-size. The teraphim are condemned in Scripture and seem to indicate that they were used in divination (Ez. 21:21; Zech. 10:2).

- Saul's comment of Michal being a "snare" to David may have been that he knew her to be a pagan (18:21). Michal and David never had any children together and never rejoiced together over the LORD (2 Sam. 6:16-23).
- The narrator thematically connects Michal with Jacob's wife, Rachel (Gen. 31:33-35). Each woman had a greater commitment to her husband than her father, and used deception to demonstrate it.
- Michal creates a make-shift mannequin using garments of clothing and goat's hair. She outfoxed her own father as David escapes through the window; both Rahab and Michal lied and deceived the king (Josh. 2:1-7) to protect an innocent party.
- Once it was reported that David was sick, Saul ordered that his messenger carry the supposedly "sick" David up to him, so he could be killed, even while recovering in a bed. Saul is eager to murder a sick, incapacitated, bed-ridden, innocent man.
- Michal lied and deceived Saul's messengers twice:
 - Lie #1 (v.14): "David is sick." Included in this deception was the goat-haired mannequin fashioned to resemble David.
 - Lie #2 (v.17): "David threatened to kill me."
- Michal and Jonathan love David (18:1, 20) and were used by the LORD to deliver him. Saul assumed that his children would show partiality to him. Instead, they both show a greater allegiance to David. In contrast, Michal was either unwilling, or unable to be an advocate for her husband, David. Additionally, she lied twice; the first could be argued as being justified. The second can't. The first lie (and staged mannequin) was to protect an innocent man; the latter was to protect herself.

4. **David was Delivered from Saul through the Spirit of God (v.18-24)**

- After David escaped from Gibeah, he fled to Ramah (2 miles north) where Samuel is. We do not know how much interaction David had with Samuel since his anointing (16:13). Samuel would have been able to relate to David's complaints (v.16:1; 19:18). Samuel, likewise, suffered from extreme disappointment and discouragement in Saul.
- Saul discovers that David is not at his house, but instead has fled to Ramah. Samuel and David go to Naioth (v.18). While we do not know where this is, it may refer to "pastures" or "dwellings."
- Samuel is with a band of prophets prophesying as Saul sends three separate companies to arrest David. All of them come under the influence of the Spirit of God and prophesy as well; they all are involved in this speaking activity.
- When Saul's three sets of messengers do not return (v.20-21), Saul himself went to arrest David. Saul, unlike his servants, did not even make it as far as Naioth before he began to prophesy also; he was entranced well before arriving there.
- Saul, along with his messengers, were in a "spiritual trance." Saul undresses himself and lies naked in a self-humiliating act. He disarms and brings reproach on himself (Gen. 2:25; 9:21). He no longer has the badges of rank and honor that mark him out as the king. The next time Saul's garments are removed will be after the Philistines decapitate him (31:8).
- The LORD has the authority and the power to use any agent, under any circumstances, to protect, provide, and deliver His people.