



# Church of God Sunday School

## A FRIEND AND AN ENEMY

1 Samuel 17:55 — 20:42

God helped David kill the mighty Philistine giant, Goliath. When King Saul learned who David was, he took David home with him "and would let him go no more home to his father's house." Jonathan, King Saul's son, and David became very good friends. Jonathan loved David as much as he loved himself. He made a covenant (a promise) with David. Jonathan took his own royal robe and gave it to David. Jonathan also gave David his sword and his bow and his belt.

King Saul put David in charge of the men of war after he had killed the giant. All the people accepted David, and they loved him. When David and King Saul returned home from battling the Philistines, the women came out of the cities of Israel, singing to one another: "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." Saul was very angry to hear them say that David had killed more of their enemies than he had! He became jealous of David.

The next day, Saul was troubled by the evil spirit God had allowed to come on him. David played his harp, as he had before. A javelin, a type of spear, was in Saul's hand. As David played the harp, Saul suddenly threw the javelin at David. This happened two times, but David was able to avoid being struck.

Saul was afraid of David. He knew God was with David. During all this, "David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him." Saul tried to set traps for David. Saul offered to give his daughter Michal (*MI-kuhl*) to be David's wife, if David could kill 100 Philistines. Saul thought surely David would be killed in the fight. But he wasn't! David killed 200 Philistines, and King Saul had to honor his promise to give David his daughter for his wife.

Then Saul wanted Jonathan and his servants to try to kill David. Jonathan talked to Saul, and Saul promised not to kill David. Soon David was back in Saul's

presence as before.

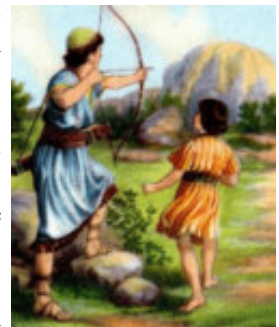
But the evil spirit came back on Saul, and once again, as David was playing his harp, Saul had a javelin in his hand. Saul threw the javelin at David! He wanted to pin David to the wall! The javelin missed David, and he escaped and hid. Saul sent men to David's house to kill him, but they did not find him. Michal helped David escape through a window. David fled to the Prophet Samuel "and told him all that Saul had done to him."

After David left, Michal stuffed his bed to make it look like David was in bed and lied, telling the king's men that he was sick. The men were fooled at first, but later discovered that David had fled.

When Saul learned that David was with Samuel, David had to flee again. David met with Jonathan and asked him: "What have I done? . . . what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?" Jonathan said that Saul always told him of his plans. He would have known if Saul was planning to kill David. But David knew Saul better than that. He told Jonathan, ". . . there is but a step between me and death." Jonathan promised to do whatever David wanted him to do.

David said, "To morrow is the new moon, and I should . . . sit with the king at meat: but let me . . . hide myself in the field unto the third day at even [evening]." (If Saul became angry at David's absence, Jonathan would know that his father really did intend to harm David.) Then the two friends went out into the field. Jonathan said, "Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty."

Jonathan told David that after hiding for three days in



the field, he should come to the Ezel (*eh-ZELL*) stone and hide behind it. Jonathan said he would take his bow and arrows to the field. He told David that he would shoot three arrows. If he told the young lad with him "the arrows are on this side of thee," then David would know that Saul did not plan to kill him.

However, if Jonathan said, "the arrows are beyond thee," David would know that Saul intended to kill him.

On the second day of the feast, when Saul realized that David was not there, he questioned Jonathan about it. Then Saul became so angry that he threw a spear at Jonathan! Jonathan knew then that his father really meant to kill David. Jonathan left his father. He felt very angry at Saul for wanting to kill David.

In the morning, Jonathan and a young boy went to the field where David was hiding. Jonathan shot an arrow beyond where the boy stood and called to him, "Is not the arrow beyond thee?" When Jonathan was finished shooting arrows, he sent the boy back to town

with the bow and arrows.

David had heard Jonathan say the arrows were beyond the boy, so he knew Saul really meant to kill him. David came out from where he was hiding and bowed three times to Jonathan. Both young men were very sad. They cried much because Saul wanted to hurt David.

Jonathan looked at his dear friend David and said, "Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn [promised] . . . saying, The LORD be between me and thee, and between [my children] and [your children] for ever." Then David left to hide from King Saul, and Jonathan went into the city.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him."*

—1 Samuel 18:14