

David's Heir: David Returns to Duty as Colonel and Court Musician, 1 Sam 19:7-9; Principles from 1 Sam 19:1-9: Jonathan & Army Officers Put between Scylla & Charybdis when Ordered by Saul to Kill David; Jonathan Opts to Tell David Since Saul Has Violated Mosaic Law's System of Jurisprudence; Jonathan Testifies to David's Innocence, v. 5; Saul Withdraws the Kill Order, v. 6; Demon Influence Causes Saul to Execute Assassination Attempt #6, vv. 9-10; Saul Advances into the Hatred Complex of Cosmic Two

1 Samuel 19:7 - Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these words. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as formerly.

27. Jonathan reports Saul's proclamation and David is apparently deceived by it as well.
28. David returns to the king's headquarters, goes out on an operation against the Philistines and defeats them – again – then returns to his duties as court musician:

1 Samuel 19:8 - When there was war again, David went out and fought with the Philistines and defeated them with great slaughter, so that they fled before him.

v. 9 - Now there was an evil spirit from the Lord on Saul as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand, and David was playing the harp [lyre] with his hand.

28. But David does have reason to distrust Saul. The man has tried to murder him five times. A man with the wisdom of David would be willing to forgive Saul, but it will be a long time before he would trust him again.
29. David has successfully defended the colors. He has routed the enemy. The client nation is safe from predator nations once again. Women sing paeans and the people's love for David continues to grow.
30. As the people's love for David grew, Saul's anger with David increased accordingly. So before we move on to the next assassination attempt, let's draw some principles from the first nine verse of chapter 19.

PRINCIPLES FROM 1 SAMUEL 19:1-9:

1. Verse 1 reveals Saul's fifth assassination attempt on David as he instructs Jonathan and his officers "to put David to death."
2. It is widely known that David has been anointed by Samuel. Consequently, these men are put in jeopardy between Scylla and Charybdis.¹ Killing David is Scylla while not doing so is Charybdis.
3. Thus, to paraphrase another classic, "To kill David or not to kill David, that is the question" with apologies to Hamlet and Shakespeare.

¹ "Scylla and Charybdis: in Greek mythology, two immortal and irresistible monsters who beset the narrow waters traversed by the hero Odysseus in his wanderings. Scylla was a supernatural creature, with 12 feet and 6 heads on long, snaky necks, each neck having a triple row of sharklike teeth, while her loins were girt with the heads of baying dogs. From her lair in a cave she devoured whatever ventured within reach, including six of Odysseus' companions. Charybdis, who lurked under the fig tree a bowshot away on the opposite shore, drank down and belched forth the waters thrice a day and was fatal to shipping. Her character was most likely the personification of a whirlpool. The shipwrecked Odysseus barely escaped her clutches by clinging to a tree until the improvised raft that she swallowed floated to the surface again after many hours. To be 'between Scylla and Charybdis' means to be caught between two equally unpleasant alternatives" (*The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia* [Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2010], 10:576). See: Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Samuel Butler, Great Books of the Western World 4 (Chicago: Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1952), 250-52.

4. They can execute the orders of King Saul and execute an innocent man who is the Lord's anointed, or they can defy the king and be in violation of their duty to him.
5. Jonathan decided to take sides with his best friend, David, while betraying his father.

1 Samuel 19:2 - So Jonathan told David saying, "Saul my father is seeking to put you to death. Now therefore, please be on guard in the morning, and stay in a secret place and hide yourself.

6. Quite a tightrope act. Jonathan has defied his father who is king in order to warn David. Did Jonathan make this decision because David was his friend or because he was the Lord's anointed?
7. Jonathan knows that his father has lost the endowment of the Holy Spirit, that as a result he has fits of depression during which he either attempts to murder David or tries to manipulate circumstances so that he will be killed in battle.
8. Jonathan knows that David is the Lord's anointed and that he possesses the endowment of the Holy Spirit by which he has been successful in all his ventures.
9. The "constitution" of the Jewish people is the Mosaic Law and in this case the salient passage is Exodus 20:13, commandment number six: "You shall not murder."
10. There is a provision for executing a person guilty of a crime. This is called capital punishment in our society and such was practiced in Israel.
11. However, under the Mosaic Law, it was not to be practiced without cause which required the testimony of two witnesses:

Witness: The main use of the word is forensic, and from this use all other applications are naturally derived. Important legal agreements required the attestation of witnesses.

The Mosaic Law insisted on the absolute necessity of witnesses in all cases which came before a judge, especially in criminal cases. Not only in criminal cases but in all cases, it was necessary to have at least two witnesses to make good an accusation against a person (Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; cf Numbers 35:30; Matthew 18:16; John 8:17; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19).²

12. Jonathan is convinced that David is innocent of any and all charges and expresses this to Saul in 1 Samuel 19:5. His father has brought no formal charges against David nor called witnesses before a judge to testify against him.
13. Therefore, Jonathan is justified in making the decision to inform David of Saul's nefarious, demon-influenced plot to have David killed.
14. Note that neither Jonathan nor David brought charges against Saul. Each disagreed with the king, but both honored the king, in fact, David still refers to him as "the Lord's anointed."
15. Jonathan became David's witness testifying to his innocence and loyalty to the crown by expressing these things before Saul in verses 4 and 5.
16. Saul recanted in verse 6, but his mental attitude is exposed as duplicitous, blasphemous, and meaningless. Although David returned to duty at the king's headquarters, he was still in harm's way.

² Paul Levertoff, "Witness," in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, gen ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 4:3099.

17. The truth came out during a lyre concert when demon influence captured the soul of Saul inspiring him to move yet again into murder lust. We see assassination attempt number 6 in:
- 1 Samuel 19:9 -** Now there was an evil spirit from the Lord as he was sitting in his house with his spear in his hand, and David was playing the harp [lyre] with his hand.
- v. 10 -** Saul **(16)** tried to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, so that he stuck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.
18. Saul has just informed us in 1 Samuel 19:6 by means of an oath before the Lord that David "shall not be put to death." Saul then informs David that he may resume his duties as battalion commander and court musician (v. 7).
19. Before performing a concert for Saul, David and his battalion deploy on another mission that results in the Philippians made victim of a "great slaughter":
- 1 Samuel 19:8 -** When there was war again, David went out and fought with the Philistines and defeated them with great slaughter, so they fled before him.
20. The news of David's recent valor and victory on the battlefield sends Saul into another bout of depression which leads him to once more move into murder lust.
21. Why are we not surprised? Because we know the principle: "As a man thinks within himself, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7a, NASB).
22. Saul is in reversionism. He is functioning in both complexes of the cosmic system. His thinking is self-centered so that he never considers that he is involved in compound sins while ignoring rebound. He is living on the Dark Side and all his decisions are motivated by various levels of fear, anger, and hatred.
23. We recently did synopses of the eight stages of reversionism and the twelve categories of Cosmic One Arrogance. Saul advance into darkness requires that we do a quick review of Cosmic Two Hatred.