

1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 20

¹ And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came into the presence of Jonathan; and he said, "What have I done, and what is my fault, and how have I sinned before your father, that he seeks my life?" ² And Jonathan said to him, "Far be it from you! You shall not die! Behold, my father will not do anything great or small without first telling it to me. And why should my father hide this matter from me? This thing is not so." ³ And David answered Jonathan and said, "Your father surely knows that I have found favor in your sight, and he said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he refuse his consent.' But as the Lord lives, and your soul lives, as I said, there is but *a step* between me and death." ⁴ And Jonathan said to David, "What does your soul desire, and what shall I do for you?" ⁵ And David said to Jonathan, "Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I shall not on any account sit down to eat, but you shall let me go, and I will hide in the plain till the evening. ⁶ And if your father in any way inquires about me, then shall you say, 'David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all his family.' ⁷ If he should say, "Fine,"—then all is safe for your servant: but if he should answer harshly to you, know that evil is determined by him. ⁸ And you shall deal mercifully with your servant; for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the Lord with yourself. And if there is iniquity in your servant, then kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?" ⁹ And Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! For if I surely know that evil is determined by my father to come upon you, although it should not be against your cities, I will tell you." ¹⁰ And David said to Jonathan, "Who can tell me if your father should answer roughly?" ¹¹ And Jonathan said to David, "Go, and stay in the field." And they went out both into the field.

¹² And Jonathan said to David, "The Lord God of Israel knows that I will search out my father as I have an opportunity, three times, and behold, *if good* should be determined concerning David, and I do not send to you in the field, ¹³ may God do so to Jonathan and more, also! As I shall also report the evil to you, and make it known to you, and I will let you go; and you shall depart in peace, and the Lord shall be with you, as he was with my father. ¹⁴ And if indeed I continue to live, then shall you deal mercifully with me; and if I indeed die, ¹⁵ you shall not withdraw your mercy from my house forever, And if you do not, when the Lord cuts off the enemies of David, each from the face of the earth, ¹⁶ *should it happen* that the name of Jonathan be discovered by the house of David, then let the Lord seek out the enemies of David." ¹⁷ And Jonathan swore yet again to David, because he loved the soul of him that loved him. ¹⁸ And Jonathan said, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be inquired about, because your seat will be observed as vacant. ¹⁹ And you shall stay three days, and watch an opportunity, and shall come to your place where you may hide yourself in the day of your business, and you shall wait by the stone Ezel. ²⁰ And I will shoot three arrows, aiming them at a mark. ²¹ And behold, I will send a lad, saying, 'Go find me the arrow.' ²² If I should expressly say to the lad, 'The arrow is here, and on this side of you, take it'; then come, for it is well with you, and there is no reason *for fear*, as the Lord lives. But if I should say thus to the young man, 'The arrow is on that side of you, and beyond'; go, for the Lord has sent you

away. ²³ And as for the word which you and I have spoken, behold, the Lord is witness between me and you forever."

²⁴ So David hid himself in the field. And the new month arrived, and the king came to the table to eat. ²⁵ And he sat upon his seat as in former times, even on his seat by the wall, and he went before Jonathan. And Abner sat on one side of Saul, but David's place was empty. ²⁶ And Saul said nothing on that day, for he said, "Something has happened to him, and he is not clean, because he has not purified himself." ²⁷ And it came to pass on the next day, on the second day of the month, that David's place was empty; and Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has not the son of Jesse attended both yesterday and today at the table?" ²⁸ And Jonathan answered Saul and said to him, "David asked my permission to go to Bethlehem, his city. ²⁹ And he said, Let me go, I pray, for we have a family sacrifice in the city, and my brothers have sent for me. And now, if I have found favor in your eyes, I will go and see my brothers. Therefore he is not present at the table of the king." ³⁰ And Saul was exceedingly angry with Jonathan, and said to him, "You son of a traitorous woman! For do I not know that you are an accomplice with the son of Jesse to yourself, and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? ³¹ For as long as the son of Jesse lives upon the earth, your kingdom shall not be established: now then send and take the young man, for he shall surely die!" ³² And Jonathan answered Saul, "Why is he to die? What has he done?" ³³ And Saul lifted up his spear against Jonathan to kill him, so Jonathan knew that this evil was determined on by his father to kill David. ³⁴ And Jonathan sprang up from the table in great anger, and did not eat bread on the second day of the month, for he grieved bitterly for David, because his father determined *to do evil* against him.

³⁵ And morning came, and Jonathan went out to the field, as he appointed to do for a signal to David, and a little boy *was* with him. ³⁶ And he said to the lad, "Run, find me the arrows which I shoot." And the lad ran, and *Jonathan* shot an arrow, and sent it beyond him. ³⁷ And the lad came to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan shot; and Jonathan cried out after the lad and said, "The arrow is on that side of you, and beyond you." ³⁸ And Jonathan cried out after the lad, saying, "Make haste, and do not delay." And Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows, and brought the arrows to his master. ³⁹ And the lad knew nothing; only Jonathan and David knew. ⁴⁰ And Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to his lad, "Go, enter into the city."

⁴¹ And when the lad went in, then David arose from the stone Ezel, and fell upon his face, and bowed down to him three times, and they kissed each other, and wept for each other, for a great while. ⁴² And Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, and as we have both sworn in the name of the Lord, saying, 'The Lord shall be witness between me and you, and between my seed and your seed forever'—*even so let it be.*" And David arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.