

## 1 Samuel 19

4 deliverances:



1. Jonathan reasons with Saul 1-7
2. David dodges Saul's spear 8-10
3. Michal helps David escape 11-17
4. The Spirit of God stops Saul and his men 18-24

Setting:

Saul is currently king, although he has violated God's commands, and is stubbornly refusing to step down. He has refused to be led by God and is therefore unfit to lead God's people.

He is presently under divine judgement. (Romans 1 - those who refuse to submit to God are eventually "given up" to their passions and desires and God allows them to do what their greatest desire is - live in complete freedom and autonomy from Himself, with disastrous and damning consequences.) Saul only has his own self delusions, self obsession and approval/applause of the crowds to keep him satisfied. And as we see in this chapter and in others, it is not enough.

Also- another dimension is that in rejecting God, he has grieved His Holy Spirit, causing Him to withdraw and now, as a consequence the only other kinds of spirits that exist are unholy spirits, and Saul is visited by these spirits sporadically.

The term "**Tortured soul**" is a phrase that is often used to describe painters, playwrights, poets and misunderstood artists. Perhaps there is merit to this, but if you want to truly see a "tortured soul" look no further than the rebellious, God-rejected and therefore God-rejected monarch of Israel, Saul, the son of Kish.



King Saul continues to sit as king over the nation of Israel, and one of his subjects, David, has risen up in the ranks of his army. He has shown himself to be a man of faith, a man of courage and a man of great skill, both on the battlefield and upon the harp. As we saw last Sunday, he was winning the hearts of nearly everyone in the kingdom. "Everyone loves David"

In chapter 18 we saw that Jonathan, Saul's firstborn son, loved David.

The soldiers who were in Saul's army loved David.

The women singers who danced and sang with their tambourines loved David.

Saul's daughter Michal loved David and they were married.

Chapter eighteen ends with the summary statement that "his name was highly esteemed"

So it definitely could be said that "Everyone loves David" - but there was one notable exception, Saul hated David.

He couldn't stand the thought of other people cheering for him - he was driven by the soul destroying sin of envy to hate him. Last week we defined envy as intense displeasure at the promotion or blessing of someone other than you. Saul feels that in a big way, and his hatred for David doesn't relent for the rest of his life.

He has made two attempts on David's life in chapter 18, and we are going to see 4 more assassination attempts this morning.

And although, on the surface, this seems like a distant account of a powerful madman's insecure clawing for power, I encourage you not to see it as such. This is God's holy and powerful word, and it has something in here for you today. God has been speaking powerfully and plainly to us the past few weeks, so let's enter into this chapter prayfully, with our hearts open before Him.

[Pray]

Deliverance



Something that a postman or a pizza guy does,

A creepy film with a banjo,

Something that a pregnant woman is looking forward to for 9 months

To some degree those are valid understandings, but there is so much more, deliverance is something that God does, and He uses all sorts of unusual and unexpected means to deliver David in this chapter.

## Deliverance number one. 1-7

The rational arguments of Jonathan are used to reason with Saul.

V1 changes things, previously - Saul's hatred has been behind closed doors and impulsive, now it is public, strategic, and official kingdom policy.

Jonathan is put in a very difficult place. He and David had a wonderful bond of friendship between them, sealed by a covenant. [it seems as if ] They had promised to look after one another, they had this deep *anam cara* sort of relationship, and now King Saul asks the crown prince Jonathan to go against that.

Not only Jonathan, but all the servants of Saul were said to love David, (18:5) but we see that Jonathan is the only one that did something to deliver David out of the hands of his father.

V2 - He speaks to David and warns him.

He disobeys the king and his father in order to obey God and protect his friend. The Bible emphasises the importance of submitting to godly authority, but occasionally the godliest and bravest thing to do is to disobey man in order to obey God.

**Now Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father:** Jonathan did more than secretly help David with information he also **spoke well of David to Saul his father**. Jonathan let Saul know, "Father you have a certain opinion of David. But I don't share that opinion. I love and support David. You should also." That took a lot of courage, and it was the right thing for Jonathan to do. Far from being a threat, Jonathan shows that David has been a support both to Saul personally and to the nation. He talks sense into Saul, using logic and reason but we see later on that Saul is Unreasonable.

For a brief moment, all is restored to how it should be. We see in this, an imperfect picture of the work that Jesus does for us. He is our advocate, He goes before the Father and ushers us into His presence.

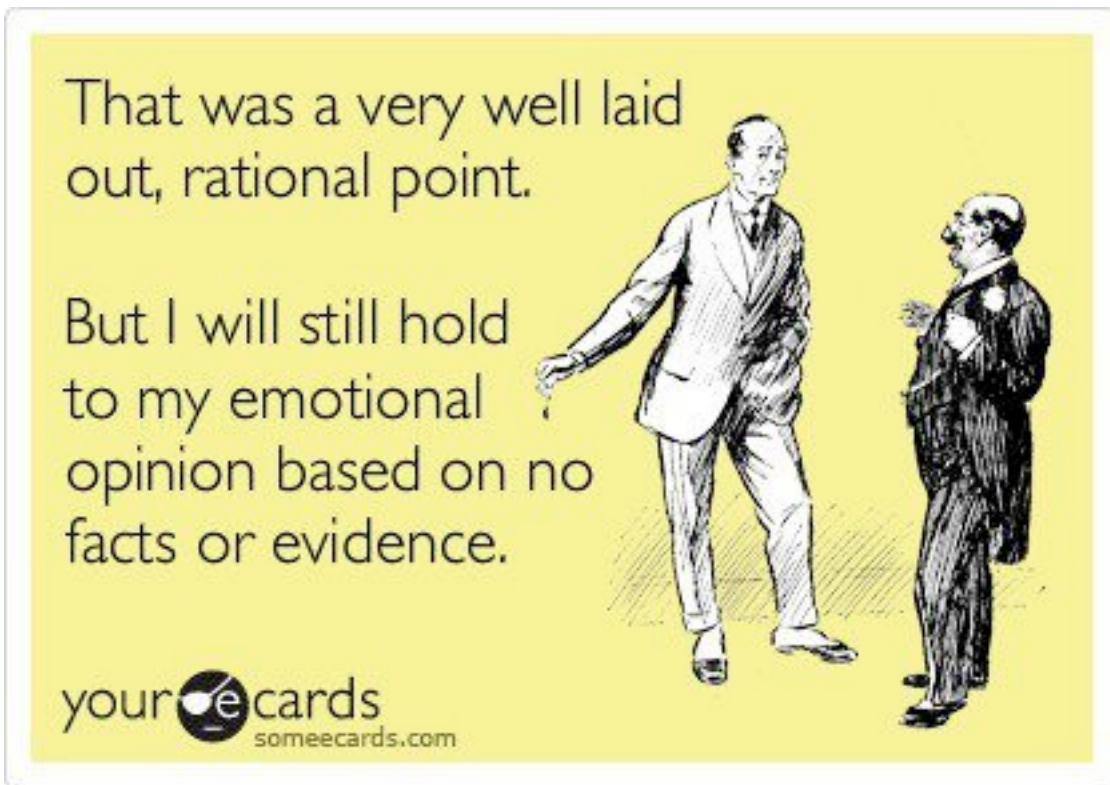
Obviously the analogy is flawed, but for this brief moment, we see a picture of our advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ.

## Deliverance number two 8-10

The short lived peace is interrupted by Saul's spear, David is delivered by his own quick reflexes.

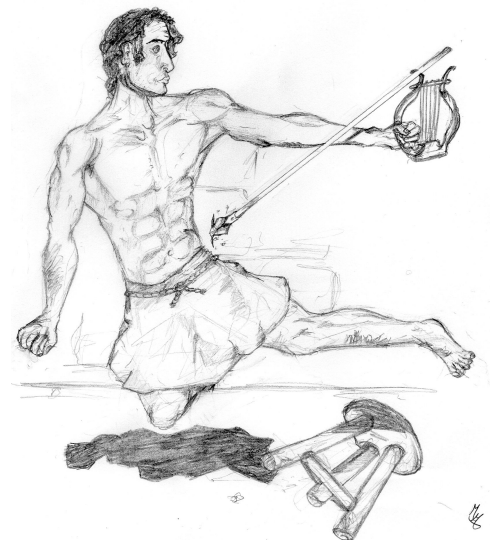
David was again successful and then the envious insecure cycle resumed. Saul's oath had not been strong enough to keep his animosity from returning. Fleshly resolve can only last so long. We can be cajoled or pressured into something, but it will never last. (New Years Resolutions?)

I often say when I'm sharing the gospel with someone that I'm not trying to talk someone into believing, because if they can be talked in, then they can be talked out. I'm trying to point people towards Jesus, and allow Him to work on them, change them and save them.



So David is playing the harp, and Saul is holding his harpoon.

V8 struck down the Philistines and they fled, in v10 Saul tries to strike down David so he is forced to flee. (same Hebrew verbs) treating a friend like an enemy. That is what insecurity and envy causes someone to do.



## **Deliverance number three 11-17**

David is delivered from Saul's troops by Michal's resourcefulness.

This isn't a violent fit, but a premeditated plot. His daughter Michal is either privy to his plans, or knows him well enough to assume what happens next. (Saul's son Jonathan and Daughter Michael are both intervening on behalf of David).

“Down the window” - Rahab and the spies in Joshua 2 (Hebrews 11) Paul - Acts 9:24-25



David is sick, (man flu, sick as a goat)

Household statue, is this an idol? Interesting if that's the case.

David is on the run, and he stays on the run until Saul's death.

Sometimes the clearest evidence that God has not deserted you is not that you are successfully past your trial, but that you are on your feet in the middle of it. - Ralph Davies.

Psalm 59 shows what is in the heart and mind of David during this time.

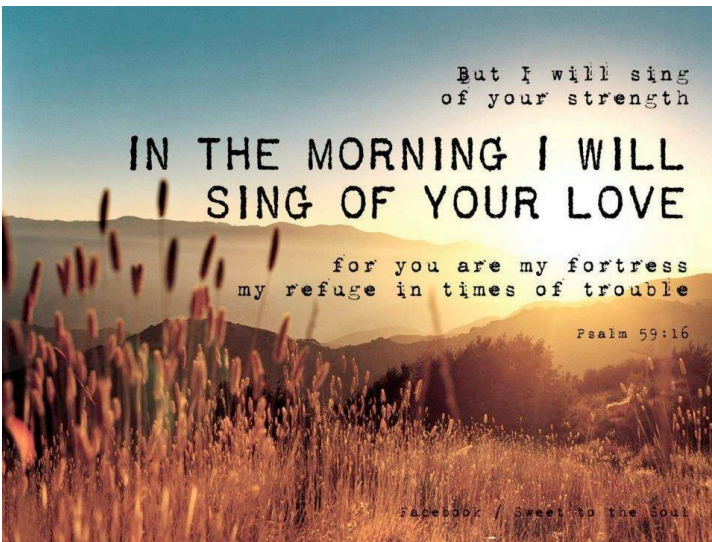


But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; Yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning, for You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of my distress.



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Psalm 59:16



But I will sing  
of your strength

IN THE MORNING I WILL  
SING OF YOUR LOVE

for you are my fortress  
my refuge in times of trouble

Psalm 59:16

Facebook / Sweet to the Soul

## Deliverance number four 18-24

David is delivered from Saul's troops and Saul himself by a unique act of the Holy Spirit.

Runs to Ramah, about an hour away. This is where Saul first met Samuel (ch9) and now it is where David seeks refuge from David.

Naked isn't necessarily without clothes, but the removal of the royal robes. - Just like how Jonathan did in ch 18, recognising that David is the real king.

We've seen the Spirit come upon Saul to empower him to do brave acts of deliverance (ch10-11) but now He is humbling him, to allow David to be delivered from his hand.

God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (NT 2x) this very act is God resisting the proud.

In a surprising variety of ways and instruments, God shows his deliverance and protection to David.

God shows His deliverance to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.