**1 Samuel 19 — David’s Nine Lives**

September 11, 2022

Background

In this chapter, we learn the way God watches over our lives   
in ordinary and extraordinary ways.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.   
Psalm 34:7 (ESV)

1. David was saved by Jonathan.

And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David… 1 Samuel 19:1a (ESV)

How can Saul ask Jonathan to kill his best friend? Those who are gripped by evil lose all objectivity and are consumed by evil. They can only imagine that everyone else feels and thinks the way they do.

…But Jonathan, Saul’s son, delighted much in David. 1 Samuel 19:1 (ESV)

How should we deal with conflicting loyalties? Loyalty to God’s Word comes above loyalty to family. Children may have to disobey their parents if their parents ask them to sin.

And Jonathan told David, “Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you.” 1 Samuel 19:2–3 (ESV)

And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?” 1 Samuel 19:4–5 (ESV)

“But if anyone hates his neighbor and lies in wait for him and attacks him and strikes him fatally so that he dies, and he flees into one of these cities, then the elders of his city shall send and take him from there, and hand him over to the avenger of blood, so that he may die. Your eye shall not pity him, but you shall purge the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, so that it may be well with you. Deuteronomy 19:11–13 (ESV)

And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, “As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death.” 1 Samuel 19:6 (ESV)

And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before. 1 Samuel 19:7 (ESV)

2. David was saved by quick reflexes.

And there was war again. And David went out and fought with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him. 1 Samuel 19:8 (ESV)

Then a harmful spirit from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre. 1 Samuel 19:9 (ESV)

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Ephesians 4:26–27 (ESV)

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:31 (ESV)

And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.   
1 Samuel 19:10 (ESV)

3. Saul was saved by Michal.

Saul sent messengers to David’s house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning… 1 Samuel 19:11a (ESV)

Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; protect me from those who rise up against me; deliver me from those who work evil, and save me from bloodthirsty men. For behold, they lie in wait for my life; fierce men stir up strife against me. For no transgression or sin of mine, O LORD, for no fault of mine, they run and make ready. Awake, come to meet me, and see! You, LORD God of hosts, are God of Israel. Rouse yourself to punish all the nations; spare none of those who treacherously plot evil. Selah Psalm 59:1–5 (ESV)

…But Michal, David’s wife, told him, “If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed.” 1 Samuel 19:11 (ESV)

So Michal let David down through the window, and he fled away and escaped.   
1 Samuel 19:12 (ESV)

Michal took an image and laid it on the bed and put a pillow of goats’ hair at its head and covered it with the clothes. 1 Samuel 19:13 (ESV)

And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, “He is sick.”   
1 Samuel 19:14 (ESV)

Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, “Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him.” 1 Samuel 19:15 (ESV)

And when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats’ hair at its head. 1 Samuel 19:16 (ESV)

Saul said to Michal, “Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?”… 1 Samuel 19:17a (ESV)

…And Michal answered Saul, “He said to me, ‘Let me go. Why should I kill you?’ ”   
1 Samuel 19:17 (ESV)

Saul thought, “Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.”… 1 Samuel 18:21 (ESV)

As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart. 2 Samuel 6:16 (ESV)

4. David was saved by the Holy Spirit.

Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth.   
1 Samuel 19:18 (ESV)

And it was told Saul, “Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah.” Then Saul sent messengers to take David,… 1 Samuel 19:19–20 (ESV)

…and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. 1 Samuel 19:19–20 (ESV)

When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied. 1 Samuel 19:21 (ESV)

Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, “Where are Samuel and David?” And one said, “Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah.” And he went there to Naioth in Ramah… 1 Samuel 19:22–23a (ESV)

…And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. 1 Samuel 19:23b (ESV)

And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night… 1 Samuel 19:24 (ESV)

Applications

1. God protected David’s life in ordinary and extraordinary ways. While we are not an anointed king like David, as His children, God does have a good plan for us. He will protect us in ordinary and extraordinary ways until our work for Jesus is done and God brings us home to be with Him in heaven.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Psalm 34:7 (ESV)

1. David, as God’s chosen servant, was not insulated from danger but he was protected by God in the danger. In a similar way, God promises that Christians will have trouble in this world. The good news is that God is greater than any trouble in the world.

…In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (ESV)

1. All of this points to Jesus. David, as God’s anointed king, faced Saul's attempts to take his life, because he didn’t want David to reign. That opposition was pointless because God was protecting him. In Psalm 2, David writes about the similar kind of opposition that Jesus will experience from the kings of the earth that do not want Him to reign. That opposition is also pointless because God will protect and establish His Son.

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.” Psalm 2:1–6 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. What is one thing you didn’t understand from the message? What from the message stuck out as important for your life?
2. Like David, we can look back and see ways God protected our life and how God used other people or split-second decisions to do it. Share some of those times with your life group, and spend time thanking God for his protection.
3. We often think of God’s protection as only happening by extraordinary means, such as God using a Holy Spirit force field, a Holy Spirit tractor beam, or a Holy Spirit stun gun. How did this chapter help you better see God’s care for your life in ordinary ways?
4. It has been said that Christians are immortal until their work is done. How does that saying help us face life’s difficulties?
5. Read Psalm 59. This Psalm was written by David to describe what he was going through when he was trapped in his house and Saul’s hit men were outside planning to take his life. What can we learn about how to handle hard times from this Psalm?
6. Read Psalm 2. The Holy Spirit inspired David to write this Psalm describing the kind of opposition Jesus would experience and the foolishness of those who oppose Him. What about this Psalm tells us it is about Jesus? Where in this Psalm do we learn what makes Jesus good news for some but bad news for others? and she conceived and bore Cain,…   
   Genesis 4:1 (ESV)

If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them. Leviticus 20:13 (ESV)

Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul. 1 Samuel 18:3 (ESV)

A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24 (ESV)

And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt. 1 Samuel 18:4 (ESV)

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. Proverbs 18:1 (ESV)

Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”   
1 Corinthians 15:33 (ESV)

Saul promoted David.

And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father’s house.   
1 Samuel 18:2 (ESV)

“When Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he attached him to himself” 1 Samuel 14:52b

And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war… 1 Samuel 18:5 (ESV)

David was loved by the people.

…And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants. 1 Samuel 18:5 (ESV)

Saul was jealous of David.

As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, “Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands.” 1 Samuel 18:6–7 (ESV)

And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?” 1 Samuel 18:8 (ESV)

And Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.   
1 Samuel 15:28 (ESV)

And Saul eyed David from that day on. 1 Samuel 18:9 (ESV)

The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand.   
1 Samuel 18:10 (ESV)

Saul tried to kill David.

And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, “I will pin David to the wall.” But David evaded him twice. 1 Samuel 18:11 (ESV)

Saul was afraid of David because the Lord was with him but had departed from Saul.   
1 Samuel 18:12 (ESV)

Saul put David in the military, hoping he would die in the line of duty.

So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people. And David had success in all his undertakings, for the Lord was with him. And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him. But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them. 1 Samuel 18:13–16 (ESV)

Saul gave David risky military missions hoping he would die in the line of duty.

Then Saul said to David, “Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the LORD’s battles.”…” 1 Samuel 18:17 (ESV)

…For Saul thought, “Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him.” 1 Samuel 18:17 (ESV)

And David said to Saul, “Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father’s clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?” 1 Samuel 18:18 (ESV)

But at the time when Merab, Saul’s daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife. 1 Samuel 18:19 (ESV)

Saul gave David ultra-high-risk missions hoping he would die in the line of duty.

Now Saul’s daughter Michal loved David… 1 Samuel 18:20 (ESV)

…And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. 1 Samuel 18:20 (ESV)

Saul thought, “Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” … 1 Samuel 18:21 (ESV)

…Therefore Saul said to David a second time, “You shall now be my son-in-law.”   
1 Samuel 18:21 (ESV)

And Saul commanded his servants, “Speak to David in private and say, ‘Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king’s son-in-law.’ ” 1 Samuel 18:22 (ESV)

And Saul’s servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David said, “Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king’s son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?” 1 Samuel 18:23 (ESV)

And the servants of Saul told him, “Thus and so did David speak.” Then Saul said, “Thus shall you say to David, ‘The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king’s enemies.’ ”…   
1 Samuel 18:24-25 (ESV)

…Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.   
1 Samuel 18:25 (ESV)

And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king’s son-in-law… 1 Samuel 18:26 (ESV)

…Before the time had expired, David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines… 1 Samuel 18:26–27 (ESV)

…And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife. 1 Samuel 18:27 (ESV)

But when Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal, Saul’s daughter, loved him, Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David’s enemy continually. Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed. 1 Samuel 18:28–30 (ESV)

Applications

1. Jonathan and Saul are a contrast. How will we relate to an individual or church that God chooses to raise up and use in a way that is great than us? Will we celebrate what God is doing like Jonathan, even if it means we are made less, or will we undermine what God is doing like Saul and find ourselves trapped in jealousy and fighting against God?
2. David and Saul are a contrast between someone who loves the Lord and God is with them compared to someone who has left the Lord, and God is fighting against them. David’s life was not easy, but the Lord watched over him through his troubles, even giving him a close godly friend. Saul’s life was filled with envy, bitterness, loneliness, suspicions, and broken relationships. Saul even found himself doing what he never thought he could have done by attempting murder.
3. If we find ourselves in the position of Saul, repentance, forgiveness, and restoration are always offered when we come to God, no matter what we have done. The story of Manasseh in 1 Chronicles 33 is an example.

Life Group Questions

1. Of the three applications at the end of the sermon, which one is most important to you?
2. Are there times when children should rightly take a stand against their adult parents like Jonathan did when he chose loyalty to David over his father?
3. Why do we need close godly friends? What should we look for in friends? What should we avoid? What are the benefits and dangers of friendship through social media?
4. Since Jesus is the perfect friend, what can we learn about friendship from him?
5. God protected David from numerous plans to destroy his life. Has God protected your life from the destructive plans of others? It is said Christians are immortal until God says their work is done. How does that thought encourage you when you face life’s difficulties and dangers?
6. What did you learn about envy from this chapter? What should we do when we experience those feelings?