

1 Samuel 19 — David's Nine Lives

September 11, 2022

Good morning CrossWinds! My name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors.

Before we get to this morning's study, I have a few quick announcements.

1. Today we have international students with us. They are from the University of Nebraska. They are visiting the Clay Country Fair this weekend to learn a little more about farming, agriculture, and life in Iowa. If you are an international student, we are thrilled to have you as our guests.
2. Next week our Sunday morning programs begin. We will stay at the 8:15 and 10:00 AM service times for the rest of the year. During the 8:15 worship service, 6 to 12 grade will have classes in the Commons basement. During both worship services, nursery to grade 5 will have their Christian education time offered in place of children's church during the worship service. Beginning next week, children from nursery to grade 5 will be dismissed during the preaching time for their classes. You can choose to let your children attend their classes during the preaching, and you can stay in the service. At the opposite service, you can attend an adult class, and your children can attend age-appropriate teaching. You can slice it and dice it the way that works best for your family. One thing you can do to help us prepare for next week is on the church app on the Spirit Lake page is the CWU survey button. This week, take about 15 seconds to fill out the survey to let us know what classes you and your children plan to attend.
3. I also want to update you on the progress of the new Spencer Campus. We have as many as ten folks working there almost every night. The dry-wallers

are still working. The electricians are working. A company from Minneapolis is building the stage. Paint is making progress. We will not make our October 1 goal. We will move in some time after that date. Thankfully the First Christian Church, where we are currently renting space, will allow us to continue renting from them on a month-to-month basis.

4. I also want to update you on the finances for the Spencer project. The original goal for our Spencer remodel was \$640,000. We met that goal. We let you know that because of the increased costs in the materials market, we needed to increase the goal of our capital campaign to \$800,000. Since our appeal, another \$40,000 has come in, leaving us with \$682,000 received. We are cutting our expenses any way we can to keep costs reduced, but as the Lord leads you to give above and beyond your regular giving, the capital campaign remains a need.
5. Lastly, I want to remind you how to give. You can always put cash or a check in the offering boxes at the back of the main exit door in the worship space. A much easier way for you and a better way for us is to have you give using the Church Center app. You can download our church app by scanning the QR-Code in your bulletin. The church app is the way we do some of our best communication. It also allows you to give using a credit card, debit card, or directly from a bank account. Giving directly from your bank via the app saves the office a lot of paperwork and time since the accounting process is automated. With everything that is going on, especially with the Spencer build, anyway we can save time around the office is helpful.

With those announcements out of the way, let's get to our study in the Word of God. We are studying our way through the book of 1 Samuel. Today we are in 1 Samuel 19. Take out your Bible and your sermon notes. You can also get those notes electronically in the church app.

Background

We have reached the point in 1 Samuel where God rejected king Saul as king. The prophet Samuel was directed by God to privately anoint David as the next king. David was anointed as king in 1 Samuel 16. Even though David was anointed as the next king, there weren't any notable changes in his life or the life of the nation until the next chapter. 1 Samuel 17 is the story of David and Goliath. Even though David was less than 20 years old, meaning he wasn't old enough to be in the army, he stepped forward to fight a Philistine named Goliath. Goliath was a giant. He was 9-foot-6-inches tall, covered in metal armor, and held metal weapons. The only thing that was bigger than Goliath was his ego. David used one well-placed stone from his shepherd's sling to strike Goliath in the head and send him crashing to the ground. Then David used Goliath's sword to hack off his head. Overnight, David went from complete obscurity to insane popularity. Everyone knew and loved David.

Last week, in 1 Samuel 18, we saw that everyone loved David except for one person. That was King Saul. King Saul was jealous of David's popularity. This jealousy first surfaced when the army returned from the battle with the Philistines, where Goliath bit the dust. Some women were singing about David slaying ten thousand and Saul slaying thousands. When David was given more prominence in that song than Saul, Saul was filled with jealousy. The truth is that

Saul should have been grateful they mentioned him in the song. Saul didn't slay anybody. For forty days, he was a complete chicken who hid from the enemy.

Saul didn't repent of his jealousy of David, but instead, he leaned into it. He kept thinking about it in his mind. He kept rolling it over and basting it with hatred. Leaning into jealousy changed Saul.

First, he became an irritable, peevish, depressed, whining, evil man. Instead of being grateful for all the good things God had done for him in his life, he was consumed with destroying David.

Second, he became an enemy of a person that was a loyal friend. David risked his life for the nation. He had always been loyal to King Saul. David was one of Saul's most valuable assets. Instead of being grateful for David, his envy made him a bitter enemy of David.

There is a lesson for us. If we lean into jealousy instead of gratefulness, we can become just like Saul. We become bitter, whining, depressed, evil people who are not grateful for what we have and what God has done for us. In our minds, we can turn people who are friends into bitter enemies.

This out-of-control envy in Saul's life led him to try and murder David twice. It led him to set David up to die in the military three times. Saul repeatedly sent David on extremely risky military missions hoping David would not return. The problem was that every attempt to kill David backfired, and David's success only made him more famous. God was protecting David as his anointed king.

In 1 Samuel 19, the story continues. Saul will try to kill David four more times. This chapter is four simple but brilliant escape stories showing us how God

saved David in a variety of ways from Saul's plans to kill him. Some of the ways God saves David are very ordinary, others are extraordinary.

In the first three stories, we see how God rescued David from death using his invisible hand. God rescued David in what we would consider ordinary ways. In the last story, God uses his visible hand. God protects David in awesome supernatural ways. It doesn't matter if God rescued David's life using his visible hand with awesome supernatural signs or if God used his invisible hand and he worked behind the scenes. God protected the life of David, his anointed king.

We are not the next anointed king of Israel, but those of us who know Jesus are sons and daughters of God. We are adopted brothers and sisters of Jesus. We can rest assured that God will protect our life with both his invisible and visible hand until our work is done and God is ready to call us home to be with Jesus.

David learned about this and wrote about this in the Psalms.

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

Let's look at these rescue stories.

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)

In the last chapter, Saul kept his plans to kill David and his attempts on David's life a secret. About two years passed since Saul began hatching plans to bump David off. It hadn't worked. At this point, Saul was becoming desperate. His private plans to kill David became public at one of his staff meetings. He tried to enlist the help of his son Jonathan and the rest of his servants to kill David.

If you were with us last week, you know a little about Jonathan, Saul's son. Jonathan was an incredibly godly man. Just as David risked his life facing Goliath, the Philistine giant, earlier in this book we saw Jonathan face an entire Philistine army by himself. God gave both of these men victory.

Two years before this, after David killed Goliath, Jonathan and David became best friends. Saul was now asking his son Jonathan for his help in killing his best friend. The first question that comes to my mind is, "How could Saul ask Jonathan to help him kill his best friend?" I think the answer is that those who are gripped by evil are so consumed by evil that they can only imagine that everyone else feels and thinks the way they do. Isn't this true? Haven't you met someone who is so consumed by an issue or a political viewpoint that they can't imagine anyone not feeling the same way as themselves about a subject?

This is what happened to Saul. He lost all sense of objectivity because he allowed himself to be consumed by jealousy. What a great reminder to us that we, too can become so consumed by things, such as envy, that we also will not be able to think straight.

Remember why Saul hates David. It is what we learned in the last chapter. David was just too successful in battle against the Philistines. Saul was jealous of David's success, even though that success was for Saul, the army, and the nation. This jealousy is misplaced.

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

Immediately we see the problem. The problem with Jonathan bumping David off is that they were best friends.

Here is another thought. In this situation, we have conflicting loyalties. Will Jonathan be loyal to his father, who is the king, and help him murder David, or will Jonathan be loyal to his God and his friend and do what is right? Jonathan knew that crossing his father, or even disagreeing with his father, meant he might lose his life. Earlier in this book, Saul tried to kill Jonathan because Jonathan unknowingly violated Saul's silly oath and ate a little honey before sundown.

Here we see Jonathan knows that not murdering an innocent man is more important than obeying his father. As a courageous and godly man, he was willing to risk his life to stand up against his father.

Children, there may be times when your parents ask you to sin. You will have to choose to honor your God rather than your parents. Violating what your parents tell you to do may be costly, but honoring God is more important.

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)

As soon as Jonathan knew his father planned to take David's life, Jonathan went about protecting David's life by moving David into a hiding spot. Jonathan also decided to risk his life and talk to his father respectfully and privately about his plans to kill David. Remember that Saul had been stewing on plans to kill David for the last two years. Changing the plans in Saul's heart would be very difficult. It was risky. Saul already tried to kill Jonathan once for not obeying him.

When Jonathan met with his father, it seems clear from what we read that Jonathan had thought about what he would say. He planned the logic. He crafted

the words in what was a respectful, logical, and forceful approach, he attempted to talk his father out of murdering David, his best friend.

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)

Look at the logic.

First, Jonathan spoke well of David to his father. I am sure Saul didn't want to hear anything good about David, especially from David's best friend. Second, Jonathan directly told his father that his plans to murder David were a sin. It wasn't a bad choice on Saul's part., it wasn't a lapse in judgment on Saul's part. Jonathan boldly told his father that his plans were sinful. One of the last times we heard about sin in this book was the sin of Hophni and Phinehas. God struck them dead for sleeping with the young women who helped with the ark of the covenant. Jonathan was saying, “Dad, do you want to go there? Do you want to put yourself in the same category as Hophni and Phinehas with their sin?”

Third, while Saul was seeking to sin against David by murdering him, Jonathan reminded Saul that David had done nothing but good for him. David even risked his life against Goliath and won.

Fourth, if Saul were to take David's life, it would be shedding innocent blood. That phrase, “shedding innocent blood” has special connections with Old Testament law. Shedding innocent blood was dealt with especially harshly in God's law.

“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)

In the Old Testament, there were cities of refuge. These were cities someone could run to if they killed someone accidentally. In those cities, they would be safe from someone seeking to get revenge for the death of their loved one. If someone ran to a city of refuge after shedding blood intentionally, the elders of that city would hand that person over to be killed. There was no safe place for the one who shed innocent blood.

Jonathan reminded his father that if Saul killed David, he would put himself in that category. There was no place in the land he could go to protect his life.

Amazingly, Jonathan’s prepared speech to his father was effective. It changed his father’s heart against David, at least temporarily.

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)

Saul promised on oath to Jonathan that he would not kill David. Before we get too excited about this, we have seen before that Saul often doesn’t keep his oaths, but at least this is a step in the right direction.

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)

Jonathan is the hero in the story. He courageously went against his father’s wishes to kill David. He risked his life to talk to his father about saving

David's life. He put David into hiding. He carefully researched and prepared his arguments for his speech and courageously spoke with his father.

Who saved David's life from certain death in this story? Was it Jonathan... or was it God? The immediate saving of David's life came from Jonathan and his courage but the ultimate protection of David's life came from God. God used Jonathan to save David's life. It was God's invisible hand working behind the scenes that saved David's life in the story.

Today, when there is conflict in the church between people, and you step in to bring reconciliation between parties, that is God at work. When you do the hard work of planning your communication, risking your reputation, and sacrificing time to restore a relational rift between people, that restoration comes from your hard work. Still, ultimately it is God and his grace working behind the scenes with his invisible hand just as He was at work saving David's life in this story, but using Jonathan to do it.

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)

We do not know how many days, weeks, or months transpired between verses 7 and 8. The peace between Saul and David lasted a while, but it didn't stick. What brought that peace to an end was the return of war with the Philistines. Of course, there was the return of war with the Philistines. The Philistines are like pesky flies that, even though they are swatted, keep coming back and won't leave Israel alone. The problem was that when they went to war

with the Philistines, David and his men were always far more effective at destroying the Philistines than Saul or anyone else in the army.

You can guess what happened. Saul once again became jealous of David. He was filled with envy of David and his military success.

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)

This is the third time we have heard of a harmful spirit from the Lord afflicting Saul. We read about this harmful spirit in 1 Samuel 16:14-23 and 1 Samuel 18:10-11. Why was Saul finding himself tormented by a harmful spirit from the Lord at this point? We don't know. It does seem this harmful spirit from the Lord shows up in Saul's life after he has been fixated on his anger and envy for long periods of time. There is a lesson for us here.

The Bible warns us of the long-term danger of anger and jealousy.

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)

After more than two years of murderous jealousy, Saul gave the sun many opportunities to set on his jealousy. He gave the devil plenty of opportunities. As judgment for this fixation on sin, God began allowing a harmful spirit to torment him. Let's see what that led to in his life.

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)

That was a close one. This harmful spirit led Saul to attempt to murder David, his best warrior, for the third time.

Earlier we read about God protecting David from Saul by Jonathan brokering a peace deal. In this case, God protected David by giving him quick

reflexes. David was playing music for Saul when he looked up at just the right moment to see Saul lunging at him with a spear. God gave David good athletic abilities, so he could slip away from the spear, and it ended up in the wall instead of his stomach.

At first, it looks like David saved himself with his athletic abilities. There is more to the story. Who gave David those athletic abilities? Who prompted David to look up from his playing to see Saul lunging with the spear at just the right time? If David had looked up a fraction of a second later, he would have been dead. This was God rescuing David using his invisible hand. God is at work behind the scenes protecting David, we just don't see him.

While reading this in my study, I kept thinking of one time before Cindy and I met, when I was still in seminary in Pennsylvania. I was driving down route 309. The traffic on that highway is usually packed, and they move fast.



For some reason, on that windy highway, the traffic occasionally comes to a complete stop when the road is congested.

This was when I had my black 1985 Camaro. It was a fun car. I was driving in traffic, and I looked down to change my radio. When I looked up, the cars in front of me slammed on their brakes. I was between 50 and 60 mph, and I was about to rear-end the car in front of me. There was no time to brake. I knew the left lane was open. I turned hard to the left, and the car was facing the guard

rail on the side of the road. I turned hard to the right, and the car straightened out. I was in that open left lane. I hit the brakes and brought the car to a stop.

I couldn't help myself. I kept saying out loud about twenty times, "God, thank you for saving my life." If I had looked up from the radio a split second later, it would have been too late. If that left lane weren't open, I would have nowhere to go. If I driving a Hyundai instead of a Camaro, I would have lost control. I ultimately survived not because I was a good driver or because I was driving a good car but because the invisible hand of God graciously protected me. As you look back on your life, can you think of times when God's invisible hand protected you by last-second maneuvers in traffic?

David 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 \(ESV\)](#)

After evading Saul's spear, David went home to tell his wife about his day. After all, where else would you go? However, David was not safe at home. Saul sent messengers to watch him and kill him in the morning. These were not messengers like mailmen in the postal service. They were trained mercenaries and assassins. Saul missed killing David, but the assassins would not miss.

David wrote Psalm 59 to describe what this time was like when he was locked in his home and saw Saul's executioners outside his window waiting to take his life.

[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)

In this Psalm, you can tell David was scared. David was stressed. He saw the bloodthirsty men outside his home waiting for him. He was praying for God to intervene and save his life. How would God rescue him? God already rescued David from a logical and persuasive friend. God rescued David through athletic ability and split-second timing. How would God save him now?

...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)

If you were with us last week, you know Michal is King Saul's daughter. She was married to David. Like Jonathan, her older brother, her loyalties were tested. Would she be loyal to her father or her husband? Will she collude with her father and his murderous plan or will she please God and save her husband's life?

Michal had the plan to get her husband to safety. Once again, it looks very ordinary, but God was behind it.

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

The men were watching for David outside his house. They had the doors covered. Apparently, there was an unguarded high back window. Either Michal had a rope, or she tied the bedsheets together to make a rope to lower David to the ground so he could run for his life.

In order to give David more time to escape, she had another plan.

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)

The word for image is a *teraphim*. That is a life-size idol that looks like a body. She put it on the bed and dressed it in David's clothes. She used a pillow of goat hair at the top to simulate hair. Then she made up a lie.

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

In the morning, when David did not come out of the house, the murderous men knocked on the door. Michal greeted them with the smell of Vicks Vapor Rub in the air and a thermometer in her hand. David was sick. It is contagious. You don't want to come in.

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)

When the messengers told this to Saul, he didn't have time for sickness. Bring David to me in bed and I will kill him on the bed. I don't care that he is sick.

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)

The trained killers finally broke down the door and went into David's bedroom. There they discovered the body double, the decoy. She tricked them. David got away. Once again, God protected David's life, but it was in a very ordinary way. It was his wife letting him out the window and using a body double as a decoy in bed. Can you imagine how Saul felt about his daughter helping David escape?

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)

Unlike Jonathan, who won his father over with a persuasive speech, Michal deceived her father for David to escape. Look what she does next. She says a bold-faced lie.

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

Did David force Michal to let him go? Did David threaten to kill his wife? Absolutely not! She helped him escape! His escape was her plan!

This is where things get interesting. While Jonathan was a man of incredibly godly character, apparently, Michal was not. What was she doing with a *teraphim* idol at her home in Israel? Traditionally those idols were used for contacting the dead. Why was that in her home? In the last chapter, when Saul offered to give her to David as a wife, look what he said about her.

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)

Saul considered his daughter a snare. He thought she would be a drag on David’s life that would slow him down, not build him up. I have a daughter, When I give her away to her husband at the altar, I don’t want to tell her future husband that she will be a snare to him. I plan to tell him she will be a blessing to him. She deceived her father about David being sick. She flat-out lied about David threatening her life. She kept a foreign idol in her home. Later in 2 Samuel, when Michal sees David dancing for joy to the Lord in the streets, she despises his worship.

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)

Michal may not have been a believer. If she was a believer, she wasn’t that godly of a woman. Here is the lesson for us. Just as God saved David’s life through Jonathan, a godly friend, God now saved David’s life through Michal, a far less godly woman.

God's invisible hand is at work not just in the lives of believers like Jonathan but also in far less godly people like Michal.

David was saved by the Holy Spirit.

The fourth and final escape story is the most remarkable of all. Of course, we expect to see God's hand at work protecting David. Before this, we saw God's invisible hand at work, which is one of the ways God worked to protect people then, and still works now. Now we will see God's visible hand very much at work.

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)

For obvious reasons, David fled for his life. The break from Saul is permanent at this point. David will never come back to be with Saul. When David went to Samuel at Ramah, he did not have far to go. Ramah was only 2 miles from Saul's town of Gibeah. If David hurried, he would have been there in 30 minutes.

David spilled his guts to Samuel about all Saul had done to him and the many times he tried to take his life. I am sure there were many tears from both Samuel and David. David and Samuel ended up staying at Naioth in Ramah. We do not know where that was located.

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)

It didn't take long for Saul to hear about David's new address. As expected, Saul sent his henchmen, that is, his special operations team, to take care of business. This should be easy. Samuel was an elderly prophet of God, he

couldn't defend himself, and David was without his men. The military operation should be easy. Boy, were these guys in for a surprise.

...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)

We don't know a great deal about what took place. In 1 Samuel 10:5, we read about a company of prophets who were prophesying to the accompaniment of musical instruments. That may or may not have been what they were doing with old Samuel as the head of them. The Hebrews word for prophesying can mean different things based on the context where it is used.

While exactly what happened is ambiguous, what happened to these men is clear. They came under the influence of power from outside of themselves. Against their will, they stopped trying to arrest or kill David and began prophesying for God. The Holy Spirit was a force field around David. When they came too close to David, their will was overpowered, and they prophesied instead of taking David by force.

Saul tried again.

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)

You would think Saul would begin to catch on to the fact that the Holy Spirit was powerfully and visibly protecting David. Unfortunately, Saul is slower than molasses on this one. Two more groups of green berets were sent to arrest David. The Holy Spirit force field overpowered their wills. They prophesied for God and left.

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 19:22–23 (ESV)

Saul seems to have finally said if you want something done right, you have to do it yourself. Not learning from his repeated failures, he heads to Ramah to kill David himself.

Interestingly, before Saul gets to Naioth when he stopped to ask directions to Naioth at a well in Secu, the Holy Spirit comes overpowers him. He starts prophesying.

...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)

How the Holy Spirit is not working like a force field. It was working like a tractor beam from Star Wars. The Holy Spirit overpowered Saul's will and then began reeling him into Naioth like a fish on a hook. Look what happens when he finally arrives.

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)

When the Holy Spirit reels him in, it makes him strip buck naked and lets him prophecy more. Then, like a taser, the Holy Spirit knocks Saul out, leaving him naked on the ground for the next 24 hours. Put yourself in that situation. Saul was completely embarrassed. God shamed the almighty king. Is there any question about who is really in charge? God or Saul?

Is there any question about who has been protecting David all along? Is there any question that Saul, with his army, stands completely helpless in the face of God's will and power?

Applications

1. In each of these stories, God protected David's life. In the first three stories, God did that in very ordinary ways. In the last story, God did it in an extraordinary way. We are not chosen by God to be the next king of Israel. We also do not have king Saul trying to take our life. We do know this truth. As Christians, we are loved by God. Are lives are also protected by God's invisible and visible hand until we have finished accomplishing all the work God has given us to do in this life. Then, and only then, will God bring us home to be with Jesus our savior? In Psalm 34, David wrote about what he had learned in his experience.

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

2. David, as God's chosen servant, was not insulated from danger, but he was protected by God in danger. As Christians, do not fall into a trap of thinking God owes you an easy life. That was not true for David. It was not true for Jesus. God sustained David and Jesus in danger. He didn't take away all suffering and danger. The same is true for you and me. Jesus put it this way.

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

3. David was Israel's anointed king. David was pointing to a greater king over Israel, Jesus, the Lord's anointed. In Psalm 2, David was inspired to write about how the kings of the earth will rage against Jesus, just like Saul raged against him. Just as all of Saul's opposition to David was pointless, in the same way, the world's opposition to Jesus is pointless too. None of that will dethrone Jesus, who is our Lord and Savior.

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)



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, and time with his family. Feel free to contact him at www.Christ2RCulture.com (www.c2rc.com)

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