

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 19:17b (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)

2. David, as God's chosen servant, was not insulated from danger but he was protected by God in danger. Similarly, 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)

3. 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?