

Whose Hand Was Really on David?

I Samuel 18:14-30

Intro:

- David has just defeated the great Philistine warrior Goliath and his fame is spreading around Israel. How did David deal with all of this popularity? He handled it well according to verse 14. He remained humble and submissive to Saul.
- (1Sa 18:1-4) The friendship between David and Jonathan.
- Jonathan was a lot like David. They were approximately the same age. They both were bold, both were men of great trust in God, and both were men of action. Most of all, both had a real relationship with God.
- At the same time, Jonathan and David were different. Jonathan was the first-born son of a king and David was the last-born son of a farmer
- Then Jonathan and David made a covenant: Two men, each on track for the same throne – yet they made a covenant of friendship that would prove stronger than jealousy, than envy, than ambition.
- When Jonathan gave David the robe and his armor, he said by this action, “You will be the next king of Israel
- To be under the hand of someone: Often put of strength, power; so to be "in the hand" of any one, is to be in his power. The hand of God is the symbol of his power: its being upon one denotes favour (Luke 1:66) or punishment.

I. The Hand of Saul

- a. (1Sa 18:5-9) Saul’s jealousy of David.
- b. Folks songs- Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands: David became unexpectedly popular. When the people of Israel started singing everyone knew David was more popular than Saul.
- c. V. 14- When you are praised and popular, it isn’t wise to let it go to your head. When people speak evil of you- don’t believe them, when people speak well of you- don’t believe them either!
- d. Saul’s anger- v. 8 Knowing his character, we are not surprised by Saul’s reaction

- i. Saul attempted to kill David twice- v. 11
 - ii. Thrusts a javelin at David playing the harp
 - iii. This same music ministry once soothed Saul, and made him refreshed and well, giving him relief from the distressing spirit (1 Samuel 16:23). Now, it is of no effect at all; Saul had gotten worse
 - e. Saul's envy
 - i. Envy is a dangerous sin- Joseph's brothers, Cain and Abel
 - f. V. 10- This was not messages from God- they were vain babblings of a madman
 - g. Fear- v. 12, 29
 - i. Opposite of David who walked with God and trusted in God
 - ii. Ultimately, he feared David because the Lord was with him- illustr- Mary, Queen of Scots said of John Knox "I fear his prayers more than all the armies of Europe!"
 - iii. There is another dynamic at work in Saul: a guilty conscience. He remembered the prophet Samuel told him, "The Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel." Saul knew his sin disqualified him from being king, and he clung to the throne in the energy of his flesh. An honorable man would step down. Instead, Saul constantly worried, "When will God cast me off the throne? Who will He raise up to replace me?"
 - h. Saul hatches a plan to get back at David-v. 20, 21, 25, 17
 - i. Switcheroo with Merab and Michal
 - ii. Gave David a seemingly impossible task
 - iii. Saul was manipulative and carnal
- II. The Hand of the Philistines- v. 17
 - a. Saul's dowry
 - i. How would taking Merab in marriage bring the Philistines against David? Because of the dowry that Saul would demand. In that day, a dowry was required whenever a man married. The dowry would be paid to the bride's father, and the more important and prestigious the bride and her family, the higher the dowry price would be. The purpose of the dowry was twofold. First, it compensated the bride's family for the loss of a family "worker." Second, the father held a dowry as life insurance or "alimony in advance." That is, if the

husband died or divorced his wife, and she had to go back to her father's household, there would be something to support her. Since David was a man from a humble family, there was no way he could pay the monetary value for a daughter of a king. Saul knew this, and would demand that David kill 100 Philistines as a dowry. Saul figured that the job was too big and dangerous for David, and he would be killed gaining the dowry to marry a king's daughter. Saul sets a trap!

- ii. David was glad to be the King's son in law, and the price did not faze him
- iii. These Philistines were already mad because David had defeated their champion; this would be a truly difficult challenge
- iv. "The Philistine spears and swords are just as sharp as mine. I can let them do the work for me." From a fleshly standpoint, this was a pretty smart plan on Saul's part.

b. No contest- v. 27

- i. God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble
- ii. If God be for us, who can be against us?- Romans 8:31
- iii. David easily conquered the enemy

c. There are many times we wish we had a visual Bible, or could see Biblical events exactly as they happened. This is one instance where we are happy the Bible is not illustrated.

III. The Hand of God- v. 28-29

I Peter 5:6- Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Isaiah 59:1- Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

Psalms 110:1- The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Psalms 89:13- Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, *and* high is thy right hand.

Psalms 95:4

In whose hand are the depths of the earth, The peaks of the mountains are His also.

Job 12:10

In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?

a. God's presence

- i. All of us are in God's hand, but not all of us have God's hand upon our lives
- ii. David had the touch of God upon his life which made a clear difference
- iii. God was with him- v. 14
- iv. We have an even greater privilege because God lives in us!- I Cor. 3:16

- v. We must walk in the Spirit, or in the conscious presence of God
 - vi. All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One come down!
 - vii. V. 28-30- The closer David got to the Lord, the further he got from Saul and Saul was still more afraid of David.
- b. When Jonathan gave David the robe and his armor, he said by this action, “You will be the next king of Israel. You should be dressed and armed as the crown prince. God’s hand is on you and these rightfully belong to you.”
- c. God’s power
- i. Enemies: the world, the flesh, the devil are no match!
 - ii. God’s presence is manifested, or made evident
 - iii. Submitted vessels
- d. God’s providence
- i. He directed and ordered David’s life
 - ii. He provided what David needed- a wife, victory, eventually the kingdom
 - iii. But let us not forget the way that God directed the life of David is the way he directs your life and the way he directs my life. The same God who arranged the circumstances of David’s life in such a way that he was prepared for that which was before him, is the God who in the same marvelous way prepares us, blesses us, uses us.
- e. The Philistines, Saul, or any other enemy were no match for David because God was with him.
- f. Anyone can have God’s hand on their life!

God is so faithful. He did not let David down, and he won’t let us down. Do you realize that we can live the Christian life with God’s hand on us to guide, care protect, and provide for us. Abraham, Joseph, David- God was with him. Live a life of faith, not the life of a fool. Do go under the hand of the world, or your friends, but under the hand of God!