

An Evil Father, A Godly Son

“And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle”, 1 Samuel 18:1-4.

We have just three people named in the above Scripture, and each figures highly in the Scriptures for their actions.

Saul, the first king of Israel.

When Samuel anointed Saul as the future king of Israel, the scriptures tell us that God changed Saul's heart.

”And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day”, 1 Samuel 10:9.

His spirituality was soon discovered to be superficial when a war crisis with the Philistines arose.

When Samuel had not arrived at the appointed time, Saul took it upon himself to offer the sacrifice to God, 1 Samuel 13:1-16.

Saul's actions at this time commenced his downfall into ruin, with God's decree that the kingdom would be handed to another.

After David had slain many of the Philistines, Saul led the army back in time to

hear the women singing, "And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands", 1 Samuel 18:7.

Saul became a spiritually broken man. Satan, seeing Saul as a soft target placed his demons of hatred and murder into Saul's life.

The second person is Jonathon, Saul's son. He is the one who shows the greatest traits of spirituality.

He became a covenant friend, a friend who, is committed, loyal, and will not leave you wanting.

Jonathan portrays a physical covenant friend, Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, portrays a spiritual covenant friend.

Jonathan stripped off the robe and garments he was wearing, and gave them to David. He even gave David his sword and bow.

By his actions, Jonathan was declaring that he was prepared to surrender his heritage rights, that God might install the person He had chosen for the kingship.

Even though Jonathan and his armour bearer routed the Philistine army, Jonathan is better remembered as the friend of David.

Jonathan, at first, had a problem of believing David's statement about his father's behaviour towards David.

When Jonathan interceded for David, Saul, in a fit of rage, attempted to slay his own son with a spear, thereby confirming what David had said.

Our third person is David. The shepherd boy who slew a bear and a lion whilst

protecting his father's flock.

The shepherd boy who slew a giant to protect his Heavenly Father's flock.

Thus, the important thing to Jonathan was not his personal ambition, but his love and admiration of David's leadership qualities.

When Saul, Jonathan, and his brothers were killed in action, David did not let that friendship as having ceased.

The Scriptures tell us that Jonathan had a son, "And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth. 2 Samuel 4:4.

David extended his covenanted relationship with Jonathan to include Mephibosheth.

At the hand of David, Mephibosheth received what was rightfully his from his father's estate.

Our Lord's Blood Covenant relationship with His People ensures that we receive all that the Father has for us.

Friend, we are now approaching 'crunch time' in the world. When Jesus seeks an answer to the question, "Do you want to follow me, or fulfill your personal desires?" what will you say to Him?

If you have sought the Lord to lead you into a covenant friendship with others, then make your prayer a cry to be the covenant friend He wants you to be. It is the only way you can be a 'Godly son'.