

Conspiracy Theories and Nude Prophecies

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1 Samuel 19

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We note in this chapter that **David is in danger!** Saul has been rejected by God as the King and ruler of Israel. David has been anointed as the next King of Israel. Even though David does not seem impatient as he waits his turn, there is significant tension here. King Saul sees David only as a threat to his power. David's presence is a daily reminder that Saul is a total failure as King. Saul seeks to eliminate this reminder, and relieve himself of this threat. He tries to kill David on multiple occasions. He schemes and plots to have David killed.

But David has significant allies. David has people looking out for him and intervening for him. They come to his rescue, often at great personal risk. His allies include . . .

Jonathan. Jonathan is David's **best friend**. Jonathan was "very fond of David", which goes completely against Jonathan's self-interest. Jonathan is the son of King Saul, making Jonathan the rightful heir to the throne. But none of that seems to matter to Jonathan. Jonathan **defends David to his father**. He is an active, intervening advocate on David's behalf.

Michal. **David's wife** helps David escape from King Saul. Also, King Saul is her father! (Talk about family drama!) Michal uses **deception** to help David escape. (Though it **sounds far sexier to say "espionage"** in this situation)

Samuel. **Prophet** for the nation; the man who has the ear of the King and the conscience of the people. He seems to be a **mentor** of sorts for David, having anointed him to be the next King. Samuel seems to use **weaponized prophecy** on David's behalf.

These people put themselves and their own interests at risk to protect David. It would seem that **everyone protecting David is disloyal to King Saul**. All of these people were supposed to be the ones exclusively loyal to Saul, the King! Jonathan

and Michal are Saul's own children. Samuel was the one to initially anoint Saul as King over Israel. And Saul is still legitimately king. This seems to be a drastic mutiny and betrayal on their behalf.

Are they disloyal, **OR are they protecting King Saul from himself?** Instead of being united with him, they have to work around him and compensate for him. They have to work against him to prevent the present and future Kingdom from harm. As much as they seem compromised in their allegiance, there is a significant part of them that is trying to intervene on Saul's behalf, too. There is no attempt to assassinate or overthrow King Saul. As much as they are working on behalf of David, they are doing the best they can to persuade and cause King Saul to turn from his ways. Look at how each person prevents Saul from his murderous quest.

Jonathan. Jonathan is **walking on egg shells** in dealing with his Dad. He **schemes around Saul** – he finds himself having to manage and manipulate his conversations and interactions with his Dad.

Jonathan warns David. He is very thoughtful in his process. He doesn't defend David to his father right away. He doesn't react in fear or anger. He considers these things, then acts.

Jonathan over-plans a meeting with Saul. He arranges his meeting with King Saul, and makes it so David can be in earshot and can observe the conversation. He has to set the time, the place. He has to have a speech planned and ready to deliver.

He has to wait until the following day to have this conversation. This isn't all that unusual. We often will hold off conversations until people have had the chance to cool down. When we know a conversation is going to provoke a reaction, we often know we will need to follow up the conversation later. Jonathan knows his father is too far gone in anger, resentment, and fear to react when he is first told to kill David. So he gives his dad the night to cool off.

Then Jonathan speaks clearly, plainly and truthfully about the mistake King Saul is about to make:

Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. ⁵ He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The LORD won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?

Every step of the way Jonathan needs to manage and handle King Saul. He has to over-plan their interaction in order to spare David, and spare the honor of his father.

Michal. Michal is married to David, but is also daughter to King Saul. She is in the difficult place of have to protect her husband from her father. (In-laws, am I right?!) She needs to outright deceive King Saul in order to protect David. She:

Michal warns David. She knows the gravity of the situation. David remains loyal to Saul all throughout this conflict, but Michal knows his loyalty could be the end of David. Her advice: Get out! Now!

Michal helps him escape through the window. Now this is starting to feel very cloak and dagger. Here's where the sneaking, the espionage, the subterfuge comes in.

As much as this is a daring escape, this is also starting to feel a little . . . silly. This is starting to seem like an escape out of an action cartoon, or a goofy 80's adventure comedy movie.

Michal makes a dummy to replace David. Michal sends David away, and set up a dummy in his bed in his place. She lies, saying he's ill, and makes a phony David out of an idol and some goat's hair.

This has now become a Cartoony escape plan. This is a trope you'd find in Archie comics. This is something I've seen repeatedly in my Saturday morning cartoons. But this is how ridiculous Saul's obsession against David has become. This is how over the top Michal has had to scheme and deceive her father. His obsession has caused him to be deceived in a completely humiliating way.

Michal lies on David's behalf. She lies to give David time to escape, claiming that he is ill. She lies to protect herself against her avenging father, claiming David threatened her life so he could escape.

Michal is caught in an extremely difficult circumstance. It is significant that she protects and helps David escape over and against her father's plan and her father's kingdom. Saul still is oblivious and blind to his obsession. He can't see how this is affecting his family.

Samuel. Samuel anointed Saul as the current king and David as the future king. David has nowhere to go but to Samuel. Saul has driven David from his friends, his family and his household. Now Samuel must protect David in extraordinary ways.

Samul gives David refuge. He takes David into hiding.

Samuel thwarts 2 groups of armed men. Saul sends two groups of armed men to capture and bring back David. Both times they are stopped through **weaponized prophecy**. They come into contact with Samuel and are fully possessed by God. They hear from the Lord and speak the words of God. This continues until Saul, too, is drawn out to this location and the exact same thing happens to him! The pursuit of David is over – full stop.

This is not just Samuel interfering with King Saul. Let's not forget that God is directly interfering with Saul as well. In this instance, the final intervention stops with God.

Saul is a king humiliated and exposed. He is naked, exposed before God and people. He is fully possessed by God and no longer in control of himself. This is not sport at Saul's expense. There is a genuine opportunity for change here. There is a genuine contact that King Saul has here with God, merciful and almighty. This is a crossroads moment. This is an opportunity for genuine change.

But in the following chapter we read that the change does not stick. Saul returns to his old obsessions and previous ways. David, when humiliated and exposed in

a comparable fashion, repents. Saul has this very same opportunity. And he completely misses out.

Saul is a King who has been:

- **Overcompensated for.**
- **Deceived in the most cartoony way.**
- **Lied to.**
- **Exposed.**
- **Given blatant opportunity to turn to God.**

No matter how much people work for and against Saul, he will not hear what he is supposed to hear. He can't see David as anything but an enemy. God provides David with all of these people as a means of escape. Even more significantly God provides these people for Saul – and he hears none of it. Or if he is impacted by it, it's temporary.

And yet he remains obsessed. Saul has family members and mentors are working around him and managing him and confronting him. Saul has God confronting him blatantly and directly. But he will not stop. He will not yield.

We do the same thing. God sends up person after person, provision after provision, warning after warning, and we can miss them all – if our hearts are fixed on obsessions rather than Jesus himself.

Don't be a person that's obsessed. Be someone who is possessed. Willingly possessed! Possessed by the heart and mind of God. Able to hear God speak and react appropriately. Able to get out of our small view of self-interest and to God's big view for our families, our church, our city, our condo, our school our world.

Who has God put in your way to redirect you? Do you have people in your life that are repeating the same information to you over and over again? Are you hearing that information? Does the same advice keep coming to you over and over and over again? Listen to it. Consider it. Follow Jesus in the simple ways that he is setting out for you. Saul had these redirecting voices blatantly in his life. He ignored them. Will you do the same?

Who has God given you to support you? Too often we think God is simply speaking to us in the negative. An American youth worker once asked a friend's teenager that attended another youth group to summarize the basic message about they were learning in their group. The teenager thought for a moment and replied, "God is good. You are bad. Try harder."

That's typically not the voice of God. Yes, God convicts us of sin, calls us to repent and tells us to aim higher. But God indwells us too through the Holy Spirit. God equips and strengthens us. God empowers and encourages through the people he has placed in our lives.

God provided these people in David's life. Who are those people in your life? What words of life are given to you through other people that you keep pushing aside? Stop pushing these words away. Listen to these encouragements. And know these are the words of God to you.

Thanks be to God, who guides, encourages us, and jars us through the people he has placed in our lives. Consider these messages and voices – how is Jesus using these in your relationship with him and your mission in this world?