

Dr. Robert Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 12, 1 Sam. 18-20 – The Lord was with David, The Nine Lives of David

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 12, 1 Sam. 18-20 – The Lord was with David, The Nine Lives of David, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert Chisholm's lecture analyzes 1 Samuel 18-20, focusing on **Saul's escalating jealousy of David** and his repeated attempts to kill him. The lecture highlights **God's protection of David**, contrasting Saul's actions with the loyalty of Jonathan, Saul's son. Chisholm discusses the **complex relationship between David and Jonathan**, dismissing interpretations of it as homosexual. Finally, the lecture emphasizes the **narrative's presentation of David as God's chosen king**, even amidst Saul's opposition and David's own later failures.

2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Chisholm, Session 12 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → 1 Samuel).



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ession12.mp3

3. Briefing Document: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 12, 1 Sam. 18-20 – The Lord was with David, The Nine Lives of David

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided source, "Chisholm_Sam_EN_Session12_1Sam18_20.pdf":

Briefing Document: 1 Samuel 18-20

Overview:

This session focuses on 1 Samuel chapters 18-20, highlighting the escalating conflict between Saul and David, the consistent presence of God with David, and the increasing evidence of God's rejection of Saul. The narrative demonstrates God's protection of David through various circumstances and the complex character of Saul, who is driven by fear and jealousy. A key element is the role of Jonathan as a foil to Saul, embodying loyalty and recognition of God's plan.

Main Themes:

1. **"The Lord Was with David" (1 Samuel 18):** This phrase, repeated throughout chapter 18, is the overarching theme. It signifies God's active presence, blessing, and protection of David. This is established right after David's victory over Goliath. As stated by Chisholm, "The Lord was with David... that is stated several times in the chapter and it's obviously a major theme."
 - Chisholm emphasizes the importance of identifying such thematic statements within the biblical text.
 - The contrast is drawn: "The Lord was with David but had departed from Saul" (18:12).
1. **Saul's Jealousy and Obsession:** Saul's jealousy is triggered by the women's song celebrating David's military prowess ("Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." 18:7). This leads to:
 - Fear and suspicion of David, "From this time on, Saul kept a close eye on David" (18:9).
 - Numerous attempts on David's life, both direct (spear throwing) and indirect (scheming to use the Philistines).

- Chisholm notes, "Saul is becoming more and more obsessed with taking David off the playing field."
 - The evil spirit from God is seen as a tool in God's hand, not to harm David but to reveal Saul's true nature and judgment. "So it's not that God is conflicted and he's trying to kill David through the evil spirit. And then Saul, I think what God is doing, he's trying to show everyone that Saul is an object of his displeasure and his judgment."
1. **"The Nine Lives of David" (1 Samuel 19-20):** Chapters 19 and 20 depict repeated attempts by Saul to kill David, emphasizing God's providential protection and David's repeated escapes. These include:
 - Saul ordering Jonathan and his attendants to kill David.
 - Multiple spear-throwing attempts.
 - Sending soldiers to arrest David at his house.
 - Chisholm states, "Time and time again in these chapters, Saul is trying to take David off the playing field."
 - The author emphasizes that the pattern is that God protects David no matter what Saul tries.
 1. **Jonathan as a Foil to Saul:** Jonathan's character stands in stark contrast to Saul's. He demonstrates:
 - Unwavering loyalty and love for David, making a covenant with him. "Jonathan is a foil to Saul. Saul is resisting God's program...Jonathan, on the other hand, recognizes realities, and he's more concerned with Israel's well-being."
 - Recognition of God's hand on David. "He knows, I'm sure, what Samuel has said about his father. He knows that his family is not going to have a dynasty but nevertheless, he accepts that fact. And he realizes what God is doing in and through David."
 - Willingness to risk his own life to protect David, becoming a key figure in David's escape.
 - Chisholm stresses the significance of Jonathan's allegiance, highlighting his status as Saul's son, stating, "Even Saul's son, Jonathan, is on David's side. That speaks volumes because there are so many reasons why Jonathan should be on Saul's side."

1. **David's Ambiguity:** Chisholm points out that while David is God's chosen one, he isn't perfect. There's some ambiguity in his actions and motives, such as:
 - His reaction to Saul's marriage proposal, suggesting a possible attraction to the royal court rather than to Michael.
 - This is particularly demonstrated when "he was pleased to become the king's son-in-law. So it's as if David is thinking, you know, becoming the king's son-in-law could be a good thing. It's interesting that he doesn't say he would be pleased to be Michael's husband."
 - The ambiguity highlights the human element even in chosen leaders.
1. **God's Sovereignty and Providence:** God's control over events is consistently emphasized, even in circumstances that appear negative or chaotic.
 - God uses the evil spirit to expose Saul's true character and further his own purposes.
 - God intervenes through various means, including Jonathan's loyalty, Michael's deception, and the prophetic experiences of Saul's messengers and eventually Saul himself.
 - Chisholm asserts, "But what we see in these chapters is whether, by divine providence or direct intervention, God is capable of protecting his chosen servants from those who seek to destroy them."
1. **An Apology for David:** The narrative functions as a defense or "apology" for David, demonstrating:
 - Saul's rejection by God, and the illegitimacy of a Saul dynasty.
 - David's divinely appointed role as the chosen king of Israel.
 - God's ongoing protection and validation of David as his chosen king, even despite David's future failings. "It's a defense of David as the chosen one of the Lord. And even when David fails later in the book, he is maintained as king of Israel...Because God has made a covenant with David that we read about in 2 Samuel 7."

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Covenant:** Jonathan makes a covenant with David, signifying deep loyalty and mutual commitment.
- **Love:** The use of the word "love" is multifaceted, ranging from romantic love (Michal for David) to loyalty and devotion (Jonathan for David, Israel for David).
- **Bride Price:** The unusual bride price of 100 Philistine foreskins is a plot by Saul to have David killed, which backfires as David kills 200 instead.
- **Deception:** Michael's deception to protect David raises ethical questions and discussions. The narrator does not overtly label her deception as good or bad.
- **Prophecy:** The Spirit of God causes Saul's messengers and Saul himself to prophesy, a sign that God is working in the events, and intervening to protect David.
- **The Lord is a Witness:** Jonathan and David declare that the Lord is a witness of their agreement, loyalty and love.

Conclusion:

Chapters 18-20 of 1 Samuel depict a crucial turning point in the lives of David and Saul. God's unwavering support of David and his repeated failures to harm him, coupled with his overt rejection of Saul, set the stage for the coming transition in power. The narrative also highlights the importance of loyalty and faith, exemplified in Jonathan, and the complex interplay of human ambition and divine sovereignty.

This briefing document should provide a strong overview of the key themes and ideas presented in Dr. Chisholm's lecture on 1 Samuel 18-20.

4. Study Guide: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 12, 1 Sam. 18-20 – The Lord was with David, The Nine Lives of David

FAQ: 1 Samuel 18-20

- **What is the primary conflict driving the events in 1 Samuel 18-20?**
- The core conflict is Saul's escalating jealousy and fear of David, fueled by David's military successes and growing popularity. Saul perceives David as a threat to his kingship and dynasty, leading him to numerous attempts on David's life. This conflict is further complicated by the fact that God's favor has shifted from Saul to David.
- **How does the text emphasize God's support of David in these chapters?**
- The phrase "the Lord was with David" is repeatedly used to highlight God's active presence and protection. This is explicitly contrasted with the statement that "the Lord had departed from Saul." God's providence is seen in David's successes, his ability to escape Saul's attempts to harm him (dodging spears), and even in the unusual circumstances where Saul and his men are compelled to prophesy, thus delaying their attempts to capture David.
- **What role does Jonathan play in this narrative, and how is he a foil to Saul?**
- Jonathan, Saul's son, forms a deep bond with David and becomes a crucial ally, warning him of Saul's plots and risking his own safety. He is presented as a literary foil to Saul: while Saul is resistant to God's plan and seeks to maintain his power, Jonathan recognizes God's favor on David and aligns himself with it. Jonathan's loyalty to David, despite the personal cost, emphasizes his understanding of God's will.
- **Why does Saul offer his daughters in marriage to David, and how do these offers reveal Saul's intentions?**
- Saul's offers of marriage to his daughters, Merab and then Michal, are not acts of good faith. They are thinly veiled attempts to use David's bravery and ambition to place him in harm's way. Saul hopes that in battling the Philistines, David would be killed, thus eliminating his rival without Saul having to directly take his life. These actions highlight Saul's manipulative and deceitful nature.

- **What is significant about the bride price of 100 Philistine foreskins, and how does David respond?**
- The bride price of 100 Philistine foreskins is a cynical attempt by Saul to use the marriage to kill David in battle. Saul believes it an impossible and dangerous request, hoping that David would perish in the attempt. However, David surpasses this expectation, delivering not just 100 but 200 foreskins, thus both fulfilling the bride price and demonstrating his superior strength and prowess. David's eagerness to accept this deal, and focus on becoming the King's son-in-law rather than the love of Michal, highlights a developing ambiguity in David's character as he is increasingly drawn to the trappings of power.
- **How does the text portray Saul's mental and spiritual state?** Saul is portrayed as deeply disturbed and unstable. The "evil spirit from the Lord" coming upon him highlights his separation from God and his erratic behavior. He alternates between moments of apparent repentance and renewed attempts to kill David. His jealousy, paranoia, and violent outbursts showcase his spiritual decline and how he is acting contrary to God's will. The evil spirit is not God trying to hurt David but rather an external sign of Saul's judgment, and also a means through which God protects David.
- **What are some of the methods Saul uses to try and kill David, and how does David escape each time?**

Saul uses a variety of methods to try and kill David. He attempts direct attacks, such as throwing spears at him, and more manipulative strategies, such as attempting to have him killed through Philistine battles. He sends soldiers to arrest David in his home and on multiple occasions to Ramah, where he finds refuge with Samuel. Each time, David escapes through a combination of his own quick thinking, divine protection, and the help of others (e.g., Jonathan, Michal).

- **What is the overall significance of these chapters in relation to the larger narrative of Samuel?**
- These chapters contribute to the "apology" or defense of David as God's chosen king. The author demonstrates Saul's rejection by God and his increasing desperation while emphasizing David's divine favor and protection. The conflict also highlights the contrast between those who align with God's plan (David and Jonathan) and those who resist it (Saul). The narrative foreshadows the eventual transfer of kingship to David and begins to demonstrate the qualities that make him a more suitable leader than Saul. Ultimately, the story demonstrates that God's plan will come to fruition despite opposition.

**5. FAQs on Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 12, 1 Sam. 18-20 –
The Lord was with David, The Nine Lives of David,
Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**