

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 3

Law/Gospel

Hatred and envy shatter relationships among friends and in families. **Because God first loved me and gave me His Son, I am able to love and care for others, especially my friends and family.**

Bible Words

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17

The Big Picture

King Saul promised to give these rewards to the man who killed Goliath:

- wealth
- family exemption from taxes
- his oldest daughter, Merab, as a wife

But when the time came for Merab to marry David, Saul wed her to another. Saul eventually let his daughter Michal marry David, but then he despaired when she loved her husband. Later, Michal helped David escape one of Saul's murderous plots.

David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 18:1–5; 20

Saul's son Jonathan and David became friends right after David killed Goliath. Jonathan had served successfully for many years as a soldier and was probably at least ten years older than David.

Jonathan initiated a covenant of friendship with David. They promised to care for and protect each other and their families. As a sign of their covenant, Jonathan gave David his armor, robe, belt, bow, and sword, actions that renounced his right to the throne. Even though Jonathan, as oldest son, could succeed his father as king, he honored God's choice of David, who did not take the throne until many years later.

Saul felt jealous of David's military success and popularity, and often he tried to kill him. Jonathan advocated for David, but Saul's venom seldom waned. Jonathan even risked his own life to protect David from his father's murderous attempts, and he helped David escape.

After Jonathan's death in battle, David kept his promise and cared for Mephibosheth, Jonathan's crippled son, in his household.

This friendship, bound by loyalty and love, foreshadows the friendship of Jesus, who said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). In His death and resurrection, Jesus makes us members of His household, co-heirs and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel (Ephesians 3:6).

David's Songs

David the musician wrote many songs of prayer and praise to the Lord. These psalms express many emotions, including joy, thankfulness, sorrow for sin, despair, and anger. Notes at the beginning of many Psalms record David's authorship and pertinent life situations. Look to the Psalms to pray, praise God, and receive encouragement from God's Word.

As an example, Psalm 34 says: "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. . . . The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned (vv. 18–19, 22)