

# A Covenant Friend

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1 Samuel 17:55-18:5

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## Review

- Often misunderstood story...
- David slew Goliath and cut off his head using Goliath's sword

## Interesting Background

- <https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-maps-timeline-chronology-1samuel-16-20-saul-jonathan-david-1019-1012bc.htm>
- Jonathan is Saul's oldest son, likely born to Saul when he was just 15!<sup>1067BC</sup>
- Saul was 30<sup>1052BC</sup> when he became king<sup>1511:15</sup>, Jonathan was 15 when he defeats the Philistines at Michmash<sup>1514</sup>.
- David was born ~10 years into Saul's reign<sup>1040BC</sup>, Jonathan was ~25 and Saul ~40.
- David was anointed king<sup>1516:13</sup> at age ~15, Saul was ~55, Jonathan ~40
- Godly love between brothers – even with age difference

## A Strange Question

- v17:55 *Whose son is this youth?*
- focus on background & family<sup>17:25</sup>, not who David is
- Narrator is contrasting Saul w/ Jonathan

## Jonathan loved David as his own soul

- Not a perverse relationship<sup>Titus1:15</sup> as some have said
- 2S1:15-26 does not imply sexual love but covenant bond

## A Spiritual Covenant Bond

- love<sup>18:1</sup> same word as Gen22:2 Abraham's love for Isaac
- Jonathan & David had high spiritual zeal for the Lord
- God blessed David with a godly & influential friend
- David was lonely shepherd, family issues<sup>16:11</sup>
- God often provides servants with friend they need<sup>Dan1;Phil2:20</sup>

## How Did David find a friend like Jonathan?

- David sought glory of God and his people
- Those actions provoked a love in Jonathan for David<sup>Prov3:1-4</sup>
- Ask how can I be a friend to others like Jonathan?

## Jonathan was not jealous or competitive

- David was a threat to his throne
- David had showed up king, prince & army by killing Goliath
- Jonathan was heir to throne, but saw God's purposes<sup>1523:16-17</sup>
- David was lesser, Jonathan in power
- Jonathan strips himself for David<sup>18:4</sup> and gifts him<sup>Phil2:3-5</sup>
- Jonathan is setting David up for success - honor, equipment
- Jonathan's love even causes family rift<sup>1520:33</sup>

## How Jonathan became David's Friend

- Jonathan took initiative - he even made a covenant<sup>3</sup>
- Jonathan supported David faithfully

## Looking to Christ in our Narrative

- Christ fulfills ideals of friendship of both Jonathan & David
- In David - zeal for God's glory - Christ went to the cross
- We like Jonathan should see this & knit our souls to Christ
- We like Jonathan should honor Christ<sup>Jn3:30;Phil1:21</sup>
- Jonathan bore father's wrath<sup>20:33</sup> Christ bore wrath for our sin
- Jesus is faithful<sup>Jn13:1;Heb 13:5</sup> as a covenant friend