

1 Sam 19:1-24 [27]-GOD'S WONDERFUL PROTECTION

PRELIMS. Saul has now given his daughter Michal to David in marriage - to fulfil his **vow** - or more accurately to fulfil Saul's **ambition** to kill David! But David is having more and more success and Saul is losing more and more favour with the people.

It is amazing how **blind** some clever people 'at the top' are, to what is happening in their 'empires'. Adolf Hitler had no idea at all about the **Valkyrie plot** to assassinate him. Valkyrie was a plan secretly arranged by a group of German Officers to kill Hitler and take control of the government! The film '**Valkyrie**' starring Tom Cruise is on it! Hitler had no idea at all - as many other officers did not know either.

There is the same sort of thing is here in reverse with Saul. He is determined to kill David and he tries to hire his own family and servants to kill David, but Saul has **no idea** that his own **family** and many of his **servants** love David and have no wish whatever to dispose of David! Yet, Saul tries to '**employ**' Jonathan and Michal to **assist** him in his wicked designs. Is Saul **blind**? Yes! Everyone can see that David is being blessed by God in many ways, and that his own plans are being frustrated. But Saul does not see that!

APP That still happens today. **Many** people in high positions do not 'understand what is going on in their own 'empires'! Very often this is because they are **full of themselves**! Saul was full of himself! I have seen it in the **business** world - business managers doing the craziest of things which all the staff can see is madness. Many **politicians** see it! In order to **maintain** power/authority/control, nothing is ruled out!

"Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son delighted much in David"[1]!

Now all thanks to Jonathan - he warns David about the plots that are afoot and **is able to persuade** his father Saul to lay-off David, for the moment at any rate. *"Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan... 'As the Lord lives, he shall not be put to death'"[6]!* It is good to have 'friends at court'! God has His people in all places. **Esther** was strategically placed to save the whole race of the Jews! **APP** It is good to have friends in important places who can help us! Friends who can

pull strings - **legitimately** of course! To have friends in the **BBC** and **Parliament** and **CPS** could be very helpful for information!

So David returns to the palace "*playing the lyer*"[9] However, Saul's promise, albeit using God's name as witness, is **not reliable**! You did not know where you were with Saul. He **said** all the right things - but **did** all the wrong things! **APP** There are people like that today - even in the church! Of course, that is true of the finest Xns, 'they say, and do not'! No one is perfect. But we are now talking of a person's whole **disposition** and **orientation**. Everyone's life is facing one direction in the main regarding morals. We are 'for' or 'against' X! We are serving **God** or **mammon**. We are **honest** or **dishonest** in a general sense! It can be hard for **us** to tell where a person stands in his relationship to God - and we need to remember it is **not our place** to judge - but each person is **well-known** to God! "*The Lord knows those who are His*"

So, Saul throws his **spear** to kill David. But again the spear **missed** its target! **Divine protection**! **APP** Every single 'near-one' in your life, is not a near-one at all - it was **never meant** to hit you! Do you know what God intended every 'narrow escape' to do? It was **intended** to make you **think**! Intended to make you remember **God** is your **refuge** and strength. God protects you 24x7! Now it is **important** that we **tell** God that we know He is our refuge "*I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust"* [Psa 91:2] One of the most **strengthening** things we can do, is to **tell** God we **love** Him and He means so much to us! That we **know** He is **behind** all the good things that happen to us. "*I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and pleas for mercy. Because He has inclined His ear to me*"!

David **escapes** to his house but "*Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning*"[11] How do you think David **felt** at that moment with Saul's Police Force surrounding his home? Well, he tells us. He **prayed** "*Deliver me from my enemies O my God...save me from bloodthirsty men...they lie in wait for my life...for no fault of mine, they run and make ready...Each evening they come back*" [Psa 59] David sought refuge in God.

Concentric circles! David often had to compose Psalms about how

his enemies circled around him. “*They surrounded me like bees*” [Psa 118:12] “*strong bulls of Bashan surround me*” [Psa 22:12] To be **surrounded** on all sides by enemies is most **intimidating** to say the least! David experienced that often. **APP** Perhaps **you** feel that everyone is against you? At work, at home, in the neighbourhood? You are convinced you have done right, but no one agrees with you? If so, **learn** from David and the Psalmists.....

There is **another circle** surrounding David too! David said “*Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord*” [Psa 32:10] The Psalmist said “*As the mountains surround Jerusalem so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore*” [Psa 125:2] God’s people are **covered** by the steadfast love of a covenant God who has promised to keep them!

So Saul now sends his spies to keep track of David. But Saul has **forgotten something!** He has forgotten that his daughter Michal, David’s wife, had served her time in the **theatres** of Broadway and London’s West End, making **dummies**, designing **costumes** and revamping **hairstyles** for **dramatists!** She sets to work to protect her husband and assured him, her father would never discover his disappearance until he was well away from the area - and then in real **James Bond** style, she **helps** him out of the **window** to make escape!

This is **Divine Protection!** God uses **all agencies** to fulfil His secret purposes! Yes, even when these **agencies ‘lie’** and **deceive** as Michal seems to have done! God **overrules** all wrong-doing and turns them for good. We know from Scripture that **Rahab** was **commended** despite using lies and that God overruled it for good! [Heb 11:31]

It is wonderful to read that at this **very time**, David composed Psalm 59 as we quoted from already! In the **midst** of this prayer for deliverance, he made this wonderful declaration of **faith** “*But I will sing of Your strength; I will sing aloud of Your steadfast love in the morning*” [Psa 59] He believed he would **escape** and sing God’s praises in the very **morning** Saul thought to kill him in his bed but his daughter Michal, through her **ingenuity** and **craft**, saved him! Just as an aside - notice that the **two ‘saviours’** of David were **covenant-**

keepers-Michal (marriage), Jonathan (private). **Faithfulness to vows/covenant** is important! Many today are **disloyal** to covenant promises

APP Where do you go when you are in trouble? Do you turn to the world? To drink? Drugs? TV? Work? David runs to **Samuel** the man of God! Perhaps he ran in fear to get 'assurance' or fellowship in the Lord or confirmation' that he was indeed to be king yet! There **is** a time when we have to **leave** our post because of serious threats to our life! "*When they persecute you in one town flee to the next*" [M10:23] "*Then Saul sent messengers to David*" [20]! But something happened. Something **unusual**! They seemed to be **spell-bound** and caught up in the **spirit** of the prophets! This sort of thing never happened before! So Saul sent another batch of messengers. The **same unusual** thing happened to them! They too started to 'prophesy'! So he sent a **third** party of messengers and lo and behold the **very same thing** happened to them! So Saul has no option but to **go himself**! "*Then he himself went to Ramah*" [22] "*And he too stripped off his clothes...and lay naked all that day and all that night*" [24]! And he **prophesied**!!

What's going on here? Its **disappointing** - but no one really knows! All the commentators are **puzzled**! There is no question of course, who is at work here? It is the **Spirit of God**! He, most definitely, is behind all that is going on. When we read about the spirit of God, we are all inclined to think that He **only** operates in the spiritual/religious arena of life! Not at all. In fact the **1st mention** of the Spirit is His involvement in matter! He was hovering over the **waters** [Gen 1:2] God's Spirit is at work throughout society in all areas of life. There is not a part of life that God's Spirit is not there. Where can I go, says the Psalmist to escape your presence (and we might add Your power)? Even in hell, You are there! [Psa 139] God is at work everywhere!

APP Whatever we make of the prophesying and the stripping naked, there is **one overall purpose** which is clearly fulfilled! David's **protection**! These messengers were **not permitted by God** to harm David! Once again we see, that **nothing can thwart** God's purposes! Once again we can see the **safety and protection** of God's people - they are under **Divine Protection**!