

Character Study: Jonathan

Part 1 – Jonathan Meets David

I Samuel 13-18

What's happening?

- Jonathan was the son of King Saul. He first appeared on the scene leading a victorious battle over the Philistines. (13:2-3)
- Jonathan and his armor bearer attacked and killed 20 Philistines, causing confusion in the Philistine camp. Saul ordered another attack, pronouncing a curse on anyone who stopped to eat before all the Philistines were killed. Not hearing the order, Jonathan ate some honey. As a result, Saul told him he would have to die, but the people defended Jonathan and made sure he was not killed (note 14:45). (14:1-46)
- Later, after David killed Goliath, Jonathan met David and they instantly developed a close friendship. (18:1-2)
- Jonathan made a covenant with David, even giving him his robe, armor, sword, bow and belt. The covenant essentially made the two friends brothers for life. (18:3-4)
- Jonathan, though in line to be the next king, knew that the Lord had taken the kingdom away from his father and was giving it to David. (13:14; 15:23, 28; 16:1)

What's God doing?

- > God had given Jonathan a great reputation among the Israelites. All of Israel could see that God's blessing was on Jonathan.
- > God had brought Jonathan and David together, establishing a friendship that would greatly impact their lives and the nation as a whole.

What's to learn?

- Jonathan, though the heir to the throne, was willing to take second place to God's man. Jonathan would lose the fame that came with being king, but he wanted what God wanted. Are you willing to take second place and be used behind the scenes by God?
- By viewing his friend David as a brother, Jonathan gives us a picture of the unconditional love we should have for our friends.