

## **Always Faithful (I Samuel 18-20)**

### I. Introduction

#### A. **My position on Numbers 13:33.**

1. Review: The Septuagint did not have Numbers 13:33 about the Nephilim.  
The KJV and NIV did have it, but the verse seems to be technically wrong since the Great Flood would have destroyed the Nephilim.
2. Numbers 13:32-33 make up the negative report that was being given by the ten spies that had been to Canaan. The men that were giving the report said that the sons of Anak came from the Nephilim, and the Bible was reporting what they had said rather than the accuracy of what they were saying.
3. I agree with Dr. J. Vernon McGee that the ten men were using the name of the Nephilim to invoke additional fear into the children of Israel and to discourage them even more about attacking Canaan.
4. The strength of the Old Testament and our confidence in its validity from one generation to the next was in the monk's use of "pointing" as they copied Scriptures.
  - a. They always counted the number of words and number of letters in the passage that they were copying.
  - b. They always identified the middle word in the passage that they were copying.
  - c. They always identified the middle verse in the passage that they were copying.
5. After copying a passage, the monks would compare the counts, the middle word, and the middle verse between the old and new copies, and they would completely discard the new copy if there were any disagreements.

#### B. Some Basic Conclusions

1. **Conclusion 1:** Because of "pointing" which I know was used to copy the original manuscripts, my choice would be to accept the Hebrew Old Testament and the presence of Numbers 13:33 over the Septuagint and its lack of that verse.
2. **Conclusion 2:** Concerning the mention of the Nephilim in Numbers 13:33, I do not think that the reference was intended to show an actual relationship between the Anakim and the Nephilim. I accept Dr. McGee's position that the ten spies were making that incorrect reference to the Nephilim so that they could further discourage the Jews.
3. **Conclusion 3:** I love the Bible because it is the Word of God and because it is the TRUTH. I also love it because the Lord makes you work to get at the truth. It's all there. But many times, you have to dig the truth out and really get it, and I love that.

### II. The Relationships among Saul, Jonathan, David, and Michal

#### A. ***This Week in CLEAR Living***

1. A faithful person expresses love through action
2. An unfaithful person is selfish

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3. An unfaithful person behaves inconsistently
  4. A faithful person encourages even in distress
  5. A faithful person remains true regardless the cost
- B. I confess that I do not like the way the above statements are written.
- a. This lesson talks about the characteristics of a good friendship.
  - b. But you can be a good friend and still die lost.
  - c. Get saved first. Then, be a good friend.
- C. Using the Rules of Logic:  $(p \not\Leftarrow q)$  is not the same as  $(q \not\Leftarrow p)$ .

Example of the above Rules of Logic:

Statement 1: **True or False** - If I am a good Christian, then I will express love through action.

Statement 2: **True or False** - If I express love through action, then I am a good Christian.

**Notice that the two statements are not equivalent.**

1. Can a person express love through action but still die lost? YES.
  2. Can a person be selfless but still die lost? YES.
  3. Can a person behave consistently but still die lost? YES.
  4. Can a person encourage others during times of but still die lost? YES.
  5. Can a person remain true regardless of the cost and still die lost? YES.
- D. In the passages of this week's lesson, the Quarterly indicates that Jonathan and Michal were faithful to David and that David was especially faithful to Jonathan. But what is the spiritual connection? Even though we do not think they did, all three of them could have potentially died lost.

**Question:** How can we better define the daily themes of this week's lesson? Have we missed the mark in the church? Have we missed the mark in this country and the world? If so, then how and what can we do about it?

- E. Remember my two objectives for Christian living.
1. ***If in this life, I only do what the Holy Spirit wants me to do, then I will have done enough.***
  2. ***If in this life, I only say what the Holy Spirit wants me to say, then I will have said enough.***
- F. An important observation between Saul and David is that Saul was not interested in those two objectives while David did live by them. David wanted to please the Lord, while Saul was more interested in power and politics.

III. In I Samuel 18, David becomes part of Saul's court.

- A. In verses 1-4, David and Jonathan had a very special relationship.

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1. Were they faithful to each other? Were they selfish in their concern for one another?
2. They even made a covenant between themselves to always watch out for the other's good.
3. They were willing to die for each other.
4. In verse 4, Jonathan gave David his armor as a sign of his devotion to his friend.
- B. In verse 5, David was put in charge of Saul's army.
  1. Was David faithful to Saul? Was Saul faithful to David? Why or why not?
  2. To show his faithfulness to Saul, he "behaved himself wisely".
- C. In verses 6-9, Saul's jealousy increased.
  1. Was Saul acting in a selfless manner or a selfish manner?
  2. Saul was very suspicious of David. He knew that his throne would be taken from him, and he knew that David might be the one to get it.
  3. That put an unbearable strain on their relationship.
  4. Verse 7 really cut Saul to where he actually hated David.
- D. In verses 10-16, Saul tried to kill David.
  1. The Lord was with David and not with Saul.
  2. The people liked David.
  3. David behaved himself wisely.
  4. David fought Israel's enemies and won many victories for them.
  5. How did David's popularity affect Saul?
  6. In verse 11, Saul tried to kill David with a spear.
  7. The Quarterly pointed out that Saul was an unfaithful person that hated David even while acting benevolently.
    - a. Was Saul trying to stab David in the back? YES.
    - b. In II Samuel 11:4, was the "faithful" man David having an affair with Uriah's wife? YES.
    - c. In II Samuel 11:8-11, did the "faithful" man David bring Uriah home from the battle to get him to spend the night with his wife so that he could hide her pregnancy? YES.
    - d. In II Samuel 11:15, did the "faithful" man David order his top General, Joab, to put Uriah in the battle in a place where he was certain to be killed? YES.
    - e. **At times, David was no more faithful than Saul. At times, David was an unfaithful person that acted out of fear. At times, he was selfish, and at times, he was an unfaithful person that sought to hurt rather than help.**
  8. Trying to paint Saul as "all bad" based on his jealousy of David and David as "all good" based on his relationship with Jonathan are not good examples of right exegesis.
  9. In these chapters, an understanding of genre can keep the diligent Bible student from reading more into these chapters than what is really there.
    - a. The genre of I and II Samuel is narrative history.

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- b. These books are trying to tell the history of Israel, not trying to teach theology.
- c. Two important definitions.
  - 1) Exegesis - taking the meaning from what the Bible says.
  - 2) Isogesis - trying to make the Bible mean what I want it to mean.
- E. In verses 17-30, Saul tried to give David one of his daughters in marriage.
  - 1. Was Saul doing this for David's good or for David's bad?
  - 2. Michal loved David, so she would not help her father get rid of his enemy, either. She protected the one that she loved.

**Question:** We have already discussed that Saul worried too much about what the people thought. If you were a counselor or adviser, how would counsel someone that worries too much about what others think?

#### IV. I Samuel 19

- A. In verses 1-6, Saul and Jonathan talked about killing David.
  - 1. Jonathan remained faithful to David. He went against his own father, who was the king and could have even killed him, to warn David to be careful.
  - 2. Jonathan reminded his father of David's help against Goliath, and Saul said that he would not kill David.
  - 3. **But Saul did not stay true to his oath.**
- B. In verses 7-10, Saul and David were reunited.
  - 1. But a war with the Philistines put David back on the battlefield.
  - 2. In verse 9, an evil spirit came upon Saul. From a spiritual standpoint, what does that mean?
    - a. Can an Old Testament saint be consumed with evil behavior?
    - b. Can a Christian be consumed with evil behavior?
    - c. The spiritual condition of Saul becomes harder to understand.
    - d. Did an evil spirit ever consume David?
  - 3. In verse 10, Saul tried for a second time to throw a spear at David to kill him, but David was able to escape.
- C. In verses 11-17, Saul even sent messengers to David's home to try to kill him, but Michal helped David escape. Even Saul's daughter got in the way of her father's trying to kill David.
- D. **More than showing the faithfulness of David, Jonathan, and Michal, this lesson shows that the Lord was protecting David so that His will would be done. The Lord's will was for David to be king. I believe this to be the real message of this week's lesson.**
- E. In verses 18-24, David fled and Saul went after him.
  - 1. He went to Naioth in Ramah.
  - 2. There, he prophesied again.

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### V. I Samuel 20

- A. David tells Jonathan about Saul's plan to kill him.
  - 1. In verse 5, Jonathan tells David to stay away during the feast of the new Moon.
  - 2. In verse 8-10, David and Jonathan affect a covenant between themselves. David would later honor his end of the covenant by caring for Jonathan's son after he is king and Jonathan has been killed in battle (see II Samuel 9).
- B. In verses 11-23, David and Jonathan plan a test to see if Saul was really trying to kill David because Jonathan was not convinced.
  - 1. The Quarterly indicated that a faithful person shows unending commitment and used these verses and verse 42 as proof.
  - 2. These verses show the strong bond between David and Jonathan, but they do not say anything about how faithful they were in their other relationships.
- C. In verses 24-42, Jonathan learns again of his father's plot against David, and he sends David on his way so that he will be safe.

**Question:** What can we learn from the lives of David and Saul? How are Old Testament and New Testament saints different?

### VI. Old Testament and New Testament Saints Are Different

- A. People in the Old Testament were not continuously indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Christians are, so certain behaviors should be more automatic for those that name Christ as Savior.
  - 1. A Christian should love the Lord supremely and his or her neighbor as themselves (Matthew 22:37-39).
  - 2. A Christian should be faithful and true in all relationships.
  - 3. A Christian should seek good for others.
  - 4. A Christian should not act out of jealousy.
  - 5. A Christian should not be a respecter of persons.
- B. It is a mistake to expect too much out of people in the Old Testament, and it is also a mistake to expect too much out of unsaved people at any time.
- C. Concerning Saul's salvation, only the Lord knows. There is evidence to suggest that he had a relationship with the Lord, but there is also evidence to the contrary.

### VII. Next week's lesson: Patience Prevails (I Samuel 26:1-25 and 31:1-13)