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David on the Run

First Samuel 21:1 to Second Samuel 1:27 and First Chronicles 12:1-22

At times the stories of **Sha'ul** and **David** intersect, at other times they go on their own way - only to interlace again and again, their fates being bound together. Every action movie has a great chase scene and the books of **Samuel** are no different. The chase scenes involving **Sha'ul** and **David** make for one of the most riveting and gripping sections of the entire Bible.



Sha'ul spent the rest of **his** life hunting **David**. Why this irrational passion? Because he knew **ADONAI** had chosen **David** to be **Isra'el's** next **king**. **David** spent those same years as the hunted . . . fleeing, hiding, and patiently surviving until **Sha'ul** died. Though **Sha'ul** nearly captured **him** on several occasions, **YHVH** protected **David**, all the while using the harsh demands of **his** lifestyle to shape **him** into an exceptional leader and commander.

During those years, on occasion, **Y'honatan** found ways to meet **his** friend in order to encourage **him** and repeat **his** loyalty to **him**. **Y'honatan** consistently affirmed what **Sha'ul** was desperately trying to prevent - that **David** would be **Isra'el's** next **king**. With remarkable love and humility, **the prince** explained to **David**, "**Don't be afraid. My father Sha'ul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Isra'el, and I will be second to you. Even my father knows this**" (First Samuel 23:17).

Y'honatan willingly gave up **his** own claim to the throne because **he** understood that **God** had chosen **David** instead of **him**. And he had no resentment, only affection for **the one**

who would reign in **his** place. Ironically, while **Sha'ul** stubbornly tried to retain the throne for **his son**, **his son** happily offered it to **the man he** knew was **YHVH's** choice to be **Isra'el's** ruler.

Y'honatan's character is shown most clearly in **his** attitude toward **David**. Without question, **he** was a mighty warrior, a noble prince, and a loyal friend. But it was **his** steadfast faith in **Ha'Shem's** plan for **him** and **his** future that set **him** apart. **Y'honatan** did not merely accept **his** role - **he** embraced it wholeheartedly, eagerly protecting and promoting **the one** whom **the LORD** had appointed to be **king** instead of **him**.⁷⁷

This begins the wanderings of David as a fugitive for about five years, from about the time he was 25 until he was 30 and anointed as king a second time at Hebron.