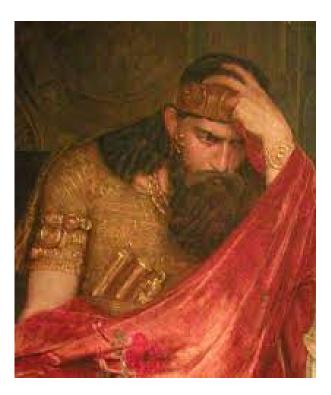


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Sha'ul's Growing Fear of David First Samuel 18:1 to 20:42



Joyous dancing and singing, accompanied by instrumental music, welcomed the victorious army home, as the women expressed their appreciation of the heroes of the battle. Not surprisingly, **David** was hailed as the number one hero, while **Sha'ul** was put in second place, a judgment that **he** couldn't handle, but which annoyed and festered into incurable jealousy. It just ate **him** up inside. The song was not meant to be derogatory to **the king** in the process of celebrating the outstanding bravery of **David**, but, in the light of **Samuel's** rejection of **Sha'ul** (15:1-34), the words seemed to point to **David** as **his** replacement. This realization poisoned **Sha'ul's** relationship with **David** from that point forward. Sha'ul tried to kill **David** by using **his spear** (18:10-16), by **the Philistines** (18:17-30), by **his servants** (19:1-7), again by using **his spear** (19:8-10) and by **his messengers** (19:11-17).