

# 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.<sup>77</sup>

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.