

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)
TITLE: Program 16 – Mizpah, Mizpah

MONDAY

OPEN

Has anyone ever said Mizpah to you? You say, “No, not really; what does it mean?” Well Mizpah, I heard, meant “the Lord watch between you and me.” And I thought, O, that’s neat. And then I heard it meant “the Lord watch between you and me while we’re absent one from another,” and thought that is neat. So I shared it with my friends and we’d say “Mizpah, Mizpah.” But you know what? I really didn’t know the context or the setting of that verse. It’s awesome. We’ll look at it today.

PART ONE

I want you to know that it is so wonderful to be able to be your teacher, to be able to open the Word of God with you, but also to know that as you open the Word of God with me you’re seeing truth for yourself. And you know once we see truth for our self it makes all the difference in the world. Just like me with Mizpah. I was saying, “O the Lord watch between you and me

while we're absent one from another, Mizpah, Mizpah." And I didn't realize the context. So today we're going to look at the context of that verse. And context is the setting in which we find something. And context always rules over interpretation. So when you're reading the Bible and you don't understand what something means, look at it in its setting. Look at it in its immediate setting, in the verses that come just before it and behind it. Then look at it in the setting of the book, and then, or the segment of that book. Then look at it in the setting of the whole Word of God because scripture never contradicts scripture. So all you have to do as you study the Word of God is remember that the chief ruler over all interpretation is what I call "king context". Now how do you find all this out? And how do you get a study guide to go along with us? Well what you do is you simply go to preceptsforlife.com, that's preceptsforlife.com and download that. All right now, let's sit down. Let's open our Bible to 1 Samuel chapter 20. And as you open your Bible to 1 Samuel 20, I want you to know that we never begin this program without praying for you, because it is our deepest hearts desire that God would give you a gnawing, craving hunger for His Word that would cause you to go deep into the Word of God. Well we left off at 1 Samuel chapter 20, verse 14. Now remember David is convinced that Saul wants to kill him. And so he and Jonathan are talking, and you can almost sense the panic in David's heart. He is afraid to go home with Jonathan. He's afraid to go back and sit at the King's table. Now there is a yearly feast that has come up that they are going to celebrate, and so they have got a plan, a plan to protect David, a plan to let David know whether or not Saul is really still bent on killing him. And as they talk this way they have made a covenant, another covenant. Now they made a covenant in 1 Samuel chapter 18. Jonathan made it with David and it was between Jonathan and David. But now a very significant covenant is coming into play that is going to have ramifications for years and you're going to see it. And it's going to be so exciting, and you're going to go, "O Lord, Your Word is so wonderful and

so awesome.” And you’re going to say, “Why did I spend so much time in other books instead of spending the time that I should spend in Your book?”

1 Samuel chapter 20, do it to verse 13. **“If it please my father to do you harm, may the Lord do so to Jonathan and more also, if I do not make...known to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And may the Lord be with you as He has been with my father. If I’m still alive, will you not show me the lovingkindness...?” (20:13-14a)** And you know what that is. If you heard the last program you know the word is *hesed h-e-s-e-d*. And if you missed that program let me suggest that you get it and that you listen to it, because it’s so important and it takes you into the New Testament, explains salvation to you. And he says, **“If I’m still alive, will you not show me...lovingkindness...?” (20:14a)** We believe it’s a covenant term. It’s the blessedness; it’s the lovingkindness; it’s the grace of God that goes with a covenant. He says, **“...that I may not die.” (20:14b)** Now remember you’re putting a tombstone over every reference to *dying* or *killing* or *death*. He says, **“You shall not cut off your lovingkindness...,”** your hesed, **“...from my house forever....” (20:15a)** All right now I want you to go back to verse 8 and let’s just look at it. He says, **“Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the Lord with you....”** That’s David speaking to Jonathan about the covenant in 1 Samuel chapter 18. But now what he’s calling him to, is he’s calling him to a covenant not just between Jonathan and David, but between Jonathan’s house and David’s house. In other words, between their families, this is what he’s saying. And so he says, **“You shall not cut off your lovingkindness from my house forever....” (20:15a)** Now that’s a time phrase and so I put a little green clock around it because I want you to see how long this covenant exists. He says, **“...Not even when the Lord cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of this earth.” (20:15b)** In other words, “David, when all your enemies are gone, you, because of this covenant, are not to cut off your lovingkindness from my

house.” Now it seems like Jonathan just has sense of foreboding, a sense of what my happen to him, and he wants to protect his children. He wants to protect his seed. He wants to protect his descendants. So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David. Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David. Of course you want to mark covenant. You color it red; box it in in yellow, if you’re doing like we said in the study guide. And he made it with the house of David, not just with David. He already has a covenant, but now, it’s **“...with the house of David saying, ‘May the Lord require it at the hands of David’s enem[y]. [And] Jonathan made David vow again because of his love...,’ you got a heart there? ‘...For him, because he loved him....’ Put another heart there. ‘...As he loved his own life. Then Jonathan said to him, ‘Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed because your seat will be empty.’” (1 Samuel 20:16b-18)** You’ve seen the story of King Arthur. You know they don’t even know if he really, really existed. Hate to blow your bubble. But anyway, and he had the Knights of the Round Table. Well King Saul had a King’s Table where all of his important men sat with him. And because it was the feast of the new moon David would have a seat there; every man had his own seat. And he says, **“When you have stayed for three days, you shall go down quickly and come to the place where you hid yourself on that eventful day, and you shall remain by the stone [of] Ezel.” (20:19)** So they had a stone out there in that field and they would call that the stone of Ezel. And so he knew exactly what was doing. He said, **“I will shoot three arrows to the side....” (20:20a)** [“So I’m going to pull my bow and I’m going to shoot three arrows.”] You know that he’s very skilled with the bow if he says exactly where he’s going to shoot them. **“...To the side, [and] as though I shot at [the] target. And behold, I will send the lad, saying, ‘Go, find the arrows.’ If I [say]...,”** listen carefully now, **“...specifically...to the lad, ‘Behold, the arrows are on this side of you, get them,’ then come....” (20:20b-21b)** [“Then David, that’s my signal for you to come.”] **“...For**

there is safety for you and no harm, as the Lord lives. But if I say to the youth, ‘Behold, the arrows are beyond you,’ go, for the Lord has sent you away.” (20:21c-22) [“So if I say come, you’re going to come. If I say that the arrows are beyond you, to the lad, then you’re going to go away.”] He says, “...Behold the arrows are beyond you,’ go, for the Lord has sent you away.” (20:22b) You know I love this relationship that these two men have, because you know that the Lord is the center of that. Do you have a relationship like that with another person? O Beloved, one of the blessings for me of being part of Precept Ministries International is our staff. We have a godly staff. We have a day of prayer and fasting every month. We begin everyday with prayer. Now I’m not there because my life is too busy and so I’m still at home doing or on the road doing what I have to do. But we travel on our Israel tours and our Greece tours and our Rome tour when I teach the book of Romans and we have such fellowship. It’s fellowship in the Lord and we get together and we share the things of God and we laugh and we cry together and we pray together. But it’s always you know, it’s the Lord, it’s the Lord because we understand, all of us, that God is sovereign. And so he says, “[It’s the Lord that] sent you away. “As for the agreement of which you and I have spoken, behold, the Lord is between [me and you] forever.” (20:22c-23) Now what he’s saying is this, he’s saying, [“Mizpah, Mizpah, the Lord’s between you and me forever.” Now remember they just made a covenant, and what he’s saying is this: “Listen, God is going to require that you keep this covenant and He’s watching over. I may not be here. You may not be here, but I’m telling you God is everywhere. And so God is watching between you and me. He’s being between you and me forever. And David, if I die, and you don’t keep this covenant, God’s going to get you.”] (*Laughs*) This is what it’s saying. This is what Mizpah means. It is a covenant term. And what it’s saying is: we have made a solemn binding agreement, and we have to keep that agreement. Now what’s so good about all that? What’s so good about all that is that when God made a

covenant with you, He's going to keep it. He's never going to break it. If He gives you the gift of eternal life, then Beloved, He's never going to take it back. You say, "How do I know if I have it?" You know it by the way that you live. You know it by the way that you live. God knows it because He knows your heart and He made a covenant with you. And so we can say, "The Lord watch between you and me forever. God, I know that You're a covenant keeping God." Now there's more to the story and I don't want you to miss it. But before we go to the rest of the story what I want you to do is I want you to listen to this very important announcement and I'll be right back.

PART TWO

Welcome back. While you were gone David went to the field and he hid in the field, and Jonathan went home. And Jonathan sat down at the table. And this is what it says in verse 25 of 1 Samuel chapter 20: "[And] **the king sat on his seat as usual, the seat by the wall; [and] then Jonathan rose up and Abner sat down by Saul's side, but David's place was empty. Nevertheless Saul didn't speak anything that day, for he thought, 'It's an accident, he's not clean, surely he's not clean.'**" (20:25-26) Because there was a purification process that they went through, and because of this purification process he thought well, he just didn't get clean. "[And] **nevertheless....**" it says he, "**...didn't speak anything...[but] it came about the next day, the second day of the new moon, that David's place was empty; so Saul said to Jonathan his son, 'Why has the son of Jesse not come to the [table], either yesterday or today?' [And] Jonathan...answered Saul, 'David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem, for he said, 'Please let me go, since our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to attend...now, if I've found favor in your sight, please let me get away that I may see my brothers.'** ...this [is the] reason he [didn't] come to the king's table.'

Then Saul's anger burned against Jonathan and he said to him, 'You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! [Did] I not know that you are choosing the son of Jesse to your own shame and...the shame of your mother's nakedness?' (20:26-30) What is he talking about, "the shame of his mother's nakedness?" He's saying, ["I knew your mother and I produced you. And in taking sides against me, and against your mother, you are bringing shame on the family."] Now watch what happens. Remember Saul is hot. His anger is burning. And this is what he says: **"...as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Therefore now, send and bring him to me, for he must surely die."** (20:31) And you've marked *die* again. Saul is bent in his jealousy on bringing about the demise of David. Remember that, **"Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, but who can stand [against] jealousy?"** (Proverbs 27:4) Remember that verse that we saw. This man is so jealous and he is jealous because David is going to take his kingdom. And you know what? He knows it. He knows it, and yet what is Saul doing? Saul is fighting against God and when we get to the end of this book you're going to see that it's to Saul's demise that he is fighting against God. You say, "What do you mean? Did Saul really understand that he wasn't going to be king forever?" O yes. I want you to go to 1 Samuel chapter 15, 1 Samuel chapter 15, verse 28. And we want to look at it again because it's a very important verse. In 1 Samuel chapter 15, remember Saul is to put to death Agag, and he does not do that. And Samuel comes and says to him in verse 28, **"...The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and...given it to your neighbor, who is better than you."** (1 Samuel 15:28b) Here Saul knows the will of God. Saul never stops and confesses and repents and turns around from all of his disobedience and his rebellion and his partial obedience against God. He never does it. And now he knows just deep in his gut that David is the one that is going to get the throne. And what he's trying to say to Jonathan is, ["Listen Jonathan, that throne belongs to you, and if we don't

get rid of David, if he doesn't die, then you're going to lose your throne."'] But Jonathan already knows that, doesn't he? Jonathan has already made a covenant. He already knows that one day God is going to cut off David's enemies and that David is going to rule. He already knows that, so it's a matter that is settled in Jonathan's heart. Jonathan has bowed to the will of the Lord. Jonathan is not a young man overcome by jealousy. Remember love is not jealous. (1 Corinthians 13:4) And if you say that you love a person then you're not going to be jealous of that person. But Saul, Saul has said that he loves David. Saul has called David his son, but Saul doesn't mean it and Saul wants to kill him. And so what's going to happen? Well let's go back to 1 Samuel chapter 20, because you're going to see where a man's jealousy takes him. You're going to see where a man's anger takes him. And it says, **"Then..."** in verse 33, **"...Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him down...."** This is not David. This is his son Jonathan. And he just said in the line before that, that he's going to take your kingdom away from you, (20:31) and now he's about to kill his own son. It's totally irrational and that's what anger and jealousy does. It makes you totally irrational. You put yourself in the place of God and you don't have that meekness, that gentleness that allows us to inherit the earth. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, **"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."** (Matthew 5:5, KJV) Meekness is accepting everything as coming from the hand of God without bitterness, without anger, without retaliation. You see it in Jonathan, but you don't see it in Saul. **"Then Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and [he] did not eat food...the second day of the new moon, for he was grieved over David because his father had dishonored him. Now it came about in the morning that Jonathan went out into the field for the appointment with David, and a little lad was with him. [And] he said to [the] lad, 'Run [now find] the arrows which I'm about to shoot.' [And] as the lad was running, he shot an arrow past him. [And] when the lad reached the place of the arrow[s] which**

Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the lad and said, ‘Is not the arrow beyond you?’” (20:34-37) He wanted David to hear. **“And Jonathan called after the lad, ‘Hurry, be quick, do not stay!’ Jonathan’s lad picked up the arrow and came to his master. But the lad was not aware of anything; only Jonathan and David knew about the matter.” (20:38-39)** And I know that both of them were terribly, terribly grieved. **“Then Jonathan gave his weapons to [the] lad and said [to him], ‘Go, [and] bring them to...city.’ [And] when the lad was gone, David rose from the south side, fell on his face on the ground, and bowed three times...,”** before his friend. **“...And they kissed each other and [they] wept together, but David wept the more.” (20:40-41)** He knew that there was going to come a great separation between them, not of heart, not of friendship, but a physical separation. **“[And] Jonathan said to David, ‘Go in safety, inasmuch, as we have sworn to each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘[Mizpah], the Lord...be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever.’ Then he rose and departed, while Jonathan went into the city.” (20:42)** He arose, he departed and Jonathan left and David fled. Mizpah, the Lord watch between you and me. Remember this covenant David. Remember this covenant Jonathan. And you’re going to find out that it is going to be the salvation of one of Jonathan’s sons. You’re going to see awesome, awesome things because David remembered a covenant. Just know this: if David, an earthly human being remembers his covenant, then the Lord remembers His. And if you’ve entered into the new covenant with Jesus Christ and received Him as your Lord and Savior you will abide with Him forever. Someday, you’ll see Him soon.