SAUL'S FAILURES
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One of the saddest accounts that we read in the Bible is King
Saul's persistent efforts to kill his loyal and faithful servant
David. This started after David killed Goliath and led a great
victory for Israel over the Philistines. At that time, the women
sang, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.
And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he
said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me
they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but
the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward" (1
Sam 18:7-9). Not only did Saul "eye" David, he made every
effort to kill him.

David becomes Saul's son-in-law
Driven by his envy, the following day, Saul attempted to kill
David with his javelin, but "David avoided out of his presence
twice. *And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with
him, and was departed from Saul*" (1 Sam 18:10-12). Saul then
decided to find an indirect way of killing David. "Saul said, Let
not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be
upon him" (1 Sam 18:17). Therefore, in 1 Samuel 18:20-22, Saul
had another plan to have David killed: "And Michal Saul's
daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased
him. And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare
to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.
Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son-in-
law in the one of the twain. And Saul commanded his servants,
saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king
has delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore
be the king's son-in-law" (1 Sam 18:20-22). Saul required David
to provide a hundred foreskins of the Philistines to be able to
marry Saul's daughter, as "Saul thought to make David fall by the
hand of the Philistines" (1 Sam 18:25). David then killed 200
Philistines and was able to marry Michal (1 Sam 18:26-27). "And
Saul saw and knew that the Lord was with David, and that Michal

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(continued)

Saul's daughter loved him. And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by" (1 Sam 18:28-30).

Saul abased, David exalted

These failures by Saul became a consistent pattern. Everything that Saul did to try to destroy David only served to diminish himself in the sight of the people, and to exalt David's status in Israel. This is a demonstration of God abasing the proud and exalting the humble (Job 40:9-14; Matt 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14; Jas 4:6,10; 1 Pet 5:5-6). First, when Saul sent David out from him and made him a captain, all the people came to know, love and accept David (1 Sam 18:5-16). Then, as Saul was seeking to have David destroyed by the hand of the Philistines (1 Sam 18:17), all that accomplished was to give David the opportunity to win many victories over them which caused his name to become renown throughout Israel (1 Sam 18:17-30). Of course, God was the one who gave David all those victories and enhanced David's name and stature among all the people of Israel. And this also led to David marrying Saul's own daughter. King Saul had broken his promise to give David his daughter Merab (1 Sam 18:17-19), but he could not break his promise a second time. Therefore, "Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife" (1 Sam 18:27). God worked all of this to make David the son-in-law of the king of Israel. He had married into Israel's royal family which further exalted David in Israel and was part of God's work to prepare Israel for David becoming their next king. Indeed, God worked everything for David's good (Rom 8:28), and for the sake of fulfilling God's purpose to make David the next king of Israel (1 Sam 13:14; 15:28; 16:1-13).