

引言 INTRODUCTION

In general, there will be good results when you invest your effort. How would you feel when people rise up against you when you do the right things? You follow Biblical principles, treat people with kindness, study well in school and work hard in your job. But people do not appreciate your contribution. They mistreat you and even slander you behind your back. Perhaps your good conducts make them look bad. They get more upset when they associate your success with your belief. How will you handle the situation? David was in a circumstance like that. He was a hero in Israel. King Saul should be glad to have a loyal servant like that. However, last time we saw that Saul was jealous of David. His hatred toward David got worse in this chapter. He looked for opportunities to kill David. How did David deal with the crisis? He continued to put his trust in God just like he did in the battlefield. We should do the same when we suffer for doing good. Our doubts will not reduce God's truthfulness. He invites us to pour out our hearts before Him. Do not let your despair turns into disbelief. God may not give you an answer now. But He will direct your way. He will watch over you just like how He protected David from Saul's pursuit. God protected His faithful servant in three ways in this chapter.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 保護信實的僕人 Protected A Faithful Servant

A. 信靠神的好友 A Godly Supporter

First, God protected David through a godly supporter. That person was Jonathan, Saul's oldest son. Saul told Jonathan and his officials that he planned to kill David. Jonathan quickly informed David about the king's order. Look at verse 2-3: **2 ... "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. 3 And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you."** Jonathan did what a friend should do. He cautioned David to stay alert and lay low. A chapter ago, Jonathan made a covenant with David. Therefore, Jonathan protected his dear friend even at the expense of disobeying his father. As Jonathan promised, he went to talk to the king. Continue to read **verse 4-6**. Jonathan presented three arguments. First, David was a loyal servant. There was no reason to get rid of him. Second, God helped David defeat Goliath. God would continue to use David to protect Israel in future battles. Third, it was a sin to shed innocent blood. Jonathan stayed respectful to his father and he argued based on facts. We need wisdom when we discuss with non-believers. Rather than saying "You are wrong" and makes people more defensive, we can argue from commonsense. For example, it is impossible that every way will lead to heaven. No one can set the rules except the owner of heaven does. But in reality, only God can change people's hearts if they have made up their mind. Such was the case of

Saul. His hatred toward David had buried his conscience. After hearing Jonathan's words, Saul made a promise that he would not hurt David. Things seemed to go back to normal for a moment. David returned and served the king. He also led the troop to battle. Soon afterward, Saul tried to get rid of David again. Continue to read **verse 9-10**. We said before that this evil spirit was a means for God to discipline Saul. David played music to soothe the soul of his boss. Just like Saul did a chapter ago, he wanted to thrust his spear onto David. If Saul could actually succeed, he might excuse that he lost control of his mind. Saul might plead not guilty in court by reason of insanity. Did he really not know what he was doing? He surely did. The author says on the same night, Saul sent some soldiers to David's house. He gave them a command to kill David in the morning. Saul could lie to people but he could never deceive God. He will judge Saul for his wicked heart. How did David react when Saul tried to attack him? He just dodged the scene. He did not fight back and he did not even argue with Saul. David committed himself to God.

B. 不信神的配偶 A Godless Spouse

God protected David through a godly supporter. Moreover, God protected David through his godless spouse, Michal. We see proofs that Michal, like her father, did not believe in God. David very likely told Michal that Saul tried to kill him. Michal then urged her husband to flee right away. Read **verse 12-13**. The word "image" in verse 13 can refer to an idol. Michal put a statue in bed and covered it with a blanket to make it look like a person. That idol could be a family god. Chinese people understand that custom. It is common for non-believers to worship the door god, money god and other deities at home. Besides setting up a dummy, Michal also lied twice. When the soldiers asked to see David, Michal told them that he was sick. When the men found out that David had escaped, they reported to the king. Saul confronted Michal in verse 17: ... **"Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?"** And Michal answered Saul, **"He said to me, 'Let me go. Why should I kill you?'"** Saul called David an enemy. In his eyes, David was no longer a servant and a family member. Michal told a second lie that David threatened to kill her to cover her tracks. Unlike her brother Jonathan, Michal did not reason with their father. She just wanted to save herself from trouble. Saul had no way to verify what Michal said was true. We may wonder why God used a person's lies to save David. Rahab once told a lie to protect two Israel spies. She deceived the guards of Jericho that the two men had escaped, while in fact she hid them in her house. Subsequently, the Israelites conquered Jericho. They spared Rahab and her family for helping the spies. Rahab even became an ancestor of Jesus. God seemed to reward Rahab's dishonesty. God allows sins to happen does not mean He commits or condones sins. God gives people freedom to make right or wrong choices. Ultimately, He will hold us accountable for our actions. However, God can even use sins to accomplish His will. It proves that God is always in control. He is the Lord of Romans 8:28. God allows all things to work together for the good of those who love Him. We may suffer when people try to harm us. But we should not worry no matter how messy our world becomes. Our hope is in God and not in any government agency or human leader.

C. 從神來的聖靈 God's Spirit

God protected David through a friend and his wife. Next, we see God protected David through His Spirit. Now David was on the run. Where could he go? He could not go back to his father's home and bring trouble to him. The next dependable person would be Samuel the prophet. Soon words came to Saul that David found shelter from Samuel. Therefore, the king sent his men to catch David. **Verse 20-21** tell us what happened next. The Spirit of God came upon all three teams of soldiers. The word "prophesied" can mean predicting the future. The general idea here is that those men spoke under the influence of God's Spirit. They had planned to capture David, instead they were captured by the Spirit of God. It is like someone hacks into a computer system and control the machine from a remote location. Seeing that his men failed the mission three times, Saul took the matter in his own hands. Look at what happened in verse 23-24: **23 ... And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. 24 And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that night. Thus it is said, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"** Saul prophesied like his agents did. Worse still, he took his clothes off and lay in front of Samuel overnight. It was a great humiliation. The incident became a joke among the people. The saying "Is Saul also among the prophets?" is a sarcasm and not a compliment. This was the second time Saul prophesied. In chapter 10, the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he was anointed by Samuel. Saul was changed into a new person. However, he failed God due to his disobedience. Now God's Spirit came upon Saul a second time and forced him into submission. There are many examples in the Bible where God used supernatural power to protect His people. A pagan prophet named Balaam was paid to curse the Israelites while they were in the wilderness. God's Spirit came upon Balaam. Instead of cursing, Balaam blessed the Israelites in four separate messages. God was able to change a person's mind and control his words. Today, the Holy Spirit enters into all who accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord. He stays in us permanently and changes us into a new person. Unlike Saul or Balaam, we will not prophesy. But the Holy Spirit can speak through our lips. We can encourage people in doubts, comfort those in grief, and share the gospel with wisdom and articulation. God can use us as vessels of blessings to others.

結論 CONCLUSION: 宣揚信實的神 Proclaimed A Faithful God

God used human agents and divine means to protect David. All along, David did not protest about his experience. The whole chapter does not record anything David said. It seems that he just silently committed the final result to God. How did he feel at this time? David wrote Psalm 59 to proclaim about His faithful God. Close to half of the 150 psalms in the Bible are attributed to David. A few of them actually refer to Saul's pursuit of David. The title statement of psalm 59 reads: **To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to kill him.** This line is actually part of the original Bible text. The term "Miktam" may be a literary or musical term. David tells us his interaction with God. We will just focus on two aspects of this psalm. First, David prays to God for help. Look at verse 3-4: **3 For behold, they lie in wait for my life; fierce men stir up strife against me. For no transgression or sin of mine, O Lord, 4 for no fault of mine, they run and make ready. Awake, come to meet me, and see!** David declares his

innocence, and he asks God to examine his situation. In the psalm, David describes his enemies like wild dogs lurking to devour him. Saul would not be satisfied until David was removed. But David did not fight back. Instead, he asks God to exercise justice. David says in verse 5: **You, Lord God of hosts, are God of Israel. Rouse yourself to punish all the nations; spare none of those who treacherously plot evil.** Then also in verse 13: **Consume them in wrath; consume them till they are no more, that they may know that God rules over Jacob to the ends of the earth.** David expands the scope from Saul to the enemies of Israel. He hoped that God would destroy them. Non-believers may find such a request unthinkable. How can we ask God to punish our opponents? We actually deal with violence in a similar way. We call the police for help when someone attempts to hurt us. We hope that the court will judge the wrongdoers fairly. If we expect the justice system to protect us, how much more should we expect God to judge righteously? He will hold evil-doers accountable, even if they dodge an earthly sentencing. That was why David had confidence in God. After praying to God, David closes this psalm with praise. Read verse 16-17: **16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. 17 O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.** Despite what David experienced, he chose to praise God. He describes God as his fortress and refuge. Both structures protect people from harm. It is like you run to a storage room when a tornado warning is issued. You feel secure when your family hides behind four walls. God was more than a Protector to David, He was also his source of strength. In subsequent development, David moved from place to place to escape from Saul. God gave David strength to travel, and He arranged people to give David assistance. The Bible says that those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. God will give them wings like eagles and soar. He will recharge us when we rest in Him. With such assurance, David says three times that he will sing to God. When do you sing? We often sing when we are happy. Can you praise God when you are heavy-hearted, full of sorrow and in an uncertainty? You can ask God to guard your heart, then you can sing with confidence. David cried out to God when he was in trouble. The result was a greater faith in God. Prayer is the most basic expression of our faith. How do you pray? Sometimes we pray like an employee reporting to a boss. We just list one need after another. We should pray like a little child in front of his father. We look to God as the only source of help. Our emotions should reflect our earnestness and our trust in God. The Bible encourages us to cast our anxiety on the Lord because He cares for us. Besides our worries, we can tell Him our frustration, fear and pain. We know that God will listen and He will come to our rescue. God may not give you an answer right away. But He will direct your path.

引言 INTRODUCTION

所謂一分耕耘，一分收穫。當你盡力時，便期望有美好的結果。但如果別人起來反對你，你會有什麼感覺？你按照聖經原則，待人友善，努力工作。但其他人並不欣賞你的貢獻。他們甚至惡待你，在背後誹謗你。也許你的好行為讓他們看起來很糟糕。當他們將你的成就與你的信仰聯繫起來時，他們會更加生氣。你會如何處理這種情況？大衛正在面對這樣的遭遇。他是以色列的英雄。掃羅王應該慶幸有這樣忠誠的僕人。然而，上次我們看到掃羅嫉妒大衛。他對大衛的仇恨在這一章變得更嚴重。他尋找機會殺死大衛。大衛會如何面對這個危機？他繼續倚靠神，就像他在戰場上一樣。當我們因行善而受苦時，我們也應該這樣做。我們的疑惑不會減低神的真實性。祂邀請我們在祂面前傾心吐意。不要讓你的懷疑變成不信。神可能不會馬上給你答案。但是祂會指引你的道路。祂會看顧你，就像祂保護大衛免受掃羅的追殺一樣。在這章中，神以三種方式保護了祂信實的僕人。

1. 保護信實的僕人 Protected A Faithful Servant

A. 信靠神的好友 A Godly Supporter

首先，神透過一位信靠神的好友保護了大衛。那個人就是掃羅的長子約拿單。掃羅告訴約拿單和他的臣僕，他計劃殺死大衛。約拿單立刻把王的命令告訴大衛。請看第 2-3 節：**2 ... 「我父掃羅想要殺你，所以明日早晨你要小心，到一個僻靜地方藏身。3 我就出到你所藏的田裏，站在我父親旁邊與他談論。我看他情形怎樣，我必告訴你。」**約拿單做了一個朋友應該做的事。他警告大衛要保持警惕並保持低調。在前一章，約拿單與大衛立約。因此，約拿單不惜違抗父親，也保護了他的好朋友。正如約拿單所答應的那樣，他去見王。請繼續看**第 4-6 節**。約拿單提出了三個論點。首先，大衛是一位忠心的僕人。掃羅沒有理由要傷害他。第二，神幫助大衛打敗歌利亞。神會在未來的戰爭中繼續使用大衛來保護以色列。第三，流無辜人的血是罪。約拿單對父親保持尊重，他按照事實來進行談論。當我們與非信徒討論時，我們需要有智慧。與其說「你錯了」並惹人的反感，不如用常理來辯論。例如，不可能每條路都通往天堂。除了天堂的主人，沒有人能製定規則。但實際上，如果人們已經下定決心，只有神才能改變他們的心。掃羅就是這樣的人。他對大衛的仇恨埋沒了他的良心。掃羅聽了約拿單的話，就答應不會傷害大衛。事情似乎暫時回復正常。大衛回去事

奉王，並且率領部隊去打仗。不久之後，掃羅再次試圖除掉大衛。請繼續讀第 9-10 節。我們前面說過，那個惡魔是神管教掃羅的一種方式。大衛彈琴使他老闆的心靈稍為舒暢一些。就像掃羅在前一章所做的那樣，他想用他的矛攻擊大衛。如果掃羅真的成功了，他可能會編藉口說自己精神錯亂而不認罪。他真的不知道自己在做什麼嗎？他肯定知道的。作者說，同一天晚上，掃羅派了一些士兵到大衛家。他命令他們在早上殺死大衛。掃羅可以騙人，卻騙不了神。神要審判掃羅邪惡的心。當掃羅試圖攻擊大衛時，大衛有何反應？他只是避開，並沒有還手，甚至也不與掃羅爭辯。大衛將自己交託給神。

B. 不信神的配偶 A Godless Spouse

神藉著一個信靠神的好友保護大衛。此外，神通過大衛不信神的配偶米甲保護了他。我們從一些證據，看到米甲和她的父親一樣不相信神。大衛很可能告訴米甲，掃羅想殺他。米甲催促她的丈夫立即要逃走。請看第 12-13 節。第 13 節中的「神像」可能是個偶像。米甲在床上放一個神像，並用被子蓋在上面，使它看起來像一個人。那個偶像可能是一個家族的神明。中國人最了解這個風俗。不信主的人在家中供奉門神、財神等神明是很常見的。除了設置假人，米甲還兩次撒謊。當士兵們要求見大衛時，米甲說他病了。後來那些人發現大衛逃跑了，於是報告給王。掃羅在第 17 節質問米甲：...「你為甚麼這樣欺哄我，放我仇敵逃走呢？」米甲回答說：「他對我說：『你放我走，不然我要殺你。』」掃羅稱大衛為仇敵。在他眼裡，大衛不再是僕人，也不是家人。米甲又撒了一個謊，說大衛威脅要殺她。米甲與她的哥哥約拿單不一樣，她不跟父親講道理。她只是不想惹麻煩。掃羅無法證實米甲所說的是否屬實。我們可能會問為什麼神用一個人的謊言來拯救大衛。喇合曾為了保護兩名以色列的探子而撒謊。她騙耶利哥的守衛說那兩個人已經逃走了，而實際上她把他們藏在了她的屋子裡。隨後，以色列人征服了耶利哥。他們保存了喇合和她的家人的性命，以報答喇合幫助探子。喇合甚至成了耶穌的祖先之一。神似乎獎勵了喇合的不誠實。神允許罪的發生並不等於祂犯罪或姑息罪。神給人選擇的自由，做正確或錯誤的決定。最終，神會追究人的責任。然而，神可以用罪來成就祂的旨意。這證明神一直在掌權。祂是羅馬書 8:28 的主。神叫萬事互相效力，使愛祂的人得益處。當人們試圖傷害我們時，我們可能會受苦。但無論我們的世界變得多么混亂，我們都不應該擔心。我們的盼望在於神，而不在於任何政府機關或領袖。

C. 從神來的聖靈 God's Spirit

神通過一個朋友和妻子保護了大衛。接下來，我們看到神藉著祂的靈保護大衛。現在大衛在逃亡中。他能去哪裡？他不能回父親家給他添麻煩。下一個可靠的人是先知撒母耳。不久掃羅聽說大衛躲在撒母耳那裡。因此，王派人去捉拿大衛。第 20-21 節告訴我們接下來發生什麼事。神的靈臨到三隊士兵身上。「受感說話」可以指預言未來。這裡的意思是，那些人是在神之靈的影響下說話。他們本來打算捉拿大衛，但他們卻被神的靈控制了。這就像黑客侵入電腦系統並遙控機器。掃羅看到下屬三次失敗，於是便親自出馬。請看第 23-24 節：23 ... 神的靈也感動他，一面走一面說話，直到拉瑪的拿約。24 他就脫了衣服，在撒母耳面前受感說話，一晝一夜露體躺臥。因此有句俗語說：「掃羅也列在先知中嗎？」掃羅像他的手下一樣受感說話。更糟糕的是，他脫掉衣服躺在撒母耳面前過夜。這是很大的羞辱。這件事成了民間的笑話。「掃羅也在先知之中嗎？」這句話是諷刺而不是恭維。這是掃羅第二次受感說話。在第 10 章，當掃羅被撒母耳膏立時，神的靈臨到掃羅身上。掃羅變成了一個新人。然而，由於他的悖逆，他辜負了神的期望。現在神的靈第二次降臨在掃羅身上，迫使他順服。聖經中有許多神使用超自然能力保護祂子民的例子。當以色列人在曠野時，一位名叫巴蘭的異教先知受聘咒詛他們。神的靈臨到巴蘭身上。巴蘭沒有咒詛以色列人，反而是四次祝福他們。神能夠改變一個人的思想並控制他的言語。今天，聖靈進入所有接受耶穌為救主的人心中。祂永遠留在我們裡面，把我們變成一個新人。不像掃羅或巴蘭，我們不會說預言。但是聖靈可以使用我們的嘴唇說話。我們可以鼓勵有疑惑的人，安慰憂傷的人，用智慧和適合的言辭分享福音。神可以使用我們成為祝福他人的器皿。

結論 CONCLUSION: 宣揚信實的神 Proclaimed A Faithful God

神透過人和祂自己的能力來保護大衛。從始至終，大衛都沒有對自己的經歷提出抗議。整章經文都沒有記載大衛所講的話。他彷彿把結果默默地交給神。他此時的心情如何？大衛寫了詩篇 59 來宣揚那位信實的神。聖經中的 150 首詩之中，將近一半都歸功於大衛。其中一些詩的背景其實是關於掃羅追捕大衛的。詩篇 59 篇的標題如下：掃羅打發人窺探大衛的房屋，要殺他。那時，大衛作這金詩，交與伶長。調用休要毀壞。這句話其實是聖經原文的一部分。「金詩」可能是一個文學或音樂術語。大衛告訴我們他與神的互動。我們集中看這首詩的兩方面。首先，大衛向神祈求幫助。請看第 3-4 節：3 因為，他們埋伏要害我的命；有能力的人聚集來攻擊我。耶和華啊，這不是為我的過犯，也不是為我的罪愆。4 我雖然無過，他們預備整齊，跑來攻擊我。求你興起鑒察，幫助我！大衛表明自己是無辜的，他請求神察看他的處境。在這篇詩中，大衛形容他的仇敵就像潛伏要吞噬他的野狗。除非大衛被除掉，否則掃羅不會死心。但是大衛沒有還手。相反，他祈求神主持公道。大衛在第 5 節說：萬軍之神—耶和華

以色列的神啊！求你興起，懲治萬邦！不要憐憫行詭詐的惡人！然後在第 13 節中補充：求你發怒，使他們消滅，以致歸於無有，叫他們知道神在雅各中間掌權，直到地極。大衛將範圍從掃羅擴大到以色列的其他敵人。他希望神能夠消滅他們。非信徒可能會覺得這樣的請求難以想像。我們怎麼可以求神懲罰我們的敵人？我們實際上以類似的方式處理暴力。當有人試圖傷害我們時，我們會報警求助。我們希望法庭能夠公正地審判違法者。如果我們期望司法制度保護我們，我們豈不是更應該期待神公正的審判？祂會追究作惡者的責任，就算他們躲過了地上的判決。這就是大衛對神有信心的原因。大衛向神禱告之後，他以讚美結束這首詩。請看 16-17 節：16 但我要歌頌你的力量，早晨要高唱你的慈愛；因為你作過我的高臺，在我急難的日子作過我的避難所。17 我的力量啊，我要歌頌你；因為神是我的高臺，是賜恩與我的神。雖然大衛經歷了這些困難，他仍然選擇讚美神。他將神描述為他的高臺和避難所。這兩種結構都可以保護人們免受傷害。這就像你聽到龍捲風警報時跑到儲藏室一樣。當你的家人被四面牆包圍時，你會感到安全。神不僅是大衛的保護者，祂也是大衛力量的源泉。在後來的發展中，大衛為了逃避掃羅而居無定所。神賜給大衛四處奔波的力量，也安排人幫助大衛。聖經說，那等候耶和華的，必從新得力。神必賜給他們翅膀，如鷹展翅飛翔。當我們在神裡面安息時，祂會給我們充電。有了這樣的保證，大衛三次說他要向神歌唱。你什麼時候唱歌？我們一般在高興的時候唱歌。當你心情沉重、充滿悲傷、迷茫時，你能讚美神嗎？你可以求神保守你的心，然後你就可以盡情地歌唱了。大衛在患難中向神呼求，結果他對神的信心增長了。禱告是我們信仰最基本的表達方式。你是如何禱告的？有時我們的禱告像向老闆報告一樣。我們列出一個接一個的要求。我們的禱告應該像小孩子向父親懇求一樣。我們把神看為唯一的幫助。我們的情感應該反映出我們的迫切和對神的信靠。聖經鼓勵我們要把憂慮卸給神，因為祂顧念我們。除了我們的憂慮，我們可以把沮喪、恐懼和痛苦告訴神。我們知道神會垂聽，祂會來拯救我們。神不一定馬上會給你答案，但是祂會指引你正確的方向。