

William McKane describes Saul's attitude as an "ingrained mistrust," of David with the "expectation of treasonous behavior."²⁴ Such an attitude certainly had an effect on their communications with one another. In verse 13 is the record that Saul "sent David away from him." Previously, Saul desired to have David near at hand and their relationship was probably close. Now communication was cut off as David was transferred to command Saul's troops.

When Saul did talk with David, his conversation was deceitful. He might have appeared friendly, but there was murder in his heart. Sinful attitudes distort reality. Like the varied mirrors in a fun house, the motions of sin in a willing heart twist the truth into ugly and bazaar images. Saul's thoughts made a monster out of David. David probably thought himself marvellously privileged even to be in the King's court. There is no evidence that he had ambitions for the throne, (even though it was his by God's design.) In spite of this, Saul viewed him as one who must be put to death if his kingdom would survive.

Jealousy and fear of the kind experienced by Saul are sinful, and dangerous. If allowed to work they will stop at nothing to achieve their goal, which is the demise of the rival. (Either death in fact or death so far as being an effective entity in the same sphere of operation.)

²⁴William McKane, I & II Samuel (London: SCM Press, 1963), p.