

*(tie)* **Why is Jonathan (a non-king) ranked so high?**

The main reason is Jonathan's friendship and covenant with David (#2), as seen in [First Samuel chapter 20](#), one of two chapters in which he is mentioned often. The other high frequency chapter is [chapter 14](#) in which Jonathan is introduced as a courageous man of faith, long before David appeared.

**Why did Jonathan become David's friend?**

There is a close connection between the story of David and Goliath in [First Samuel chapter 17](#) and [1 Sam. 18:1](#) in which Jonathan's love for David is revealed. Jonathan respected David for facing Goliath.

**Why did Jonathan himself not fight Goliath?**

Chapter 17 is focused on David. So it does not say why. It may have been because Saul did not allow Jonathan to risk his life. Chapter 14 shows that Jonathan was not a coward.

**Why was Jonathan angry at his father?**

In a fit of anger, Saul threw a javelin at Jonathan because his son had accepted David ([1 Sam. 20:30-33](#)). Jonathan was angry at Saul as well, but he controlled himself and withdrew and grieved over his father's conduct ([1 Sam. 20:34](#)). Thus Jonathan's anger was righteous indignation.

**How did Jonathan remain loyal to both Saul and David?**

Jonathan was caught between his father and David, but he was loyal to his father and the nation by continuing to fight the Philistines, finally dying with Saul in battle ([1 Sam. 31:1-2](#), [2 Sam. 1:17-27](#).) He was loyal to David by making ([1 Sam. 20:35-42](#)), reaffirming ([1 Sam. 23:14-18](#)), and honoring a covenant.

**Why is Jonathan often mentioned in Second Samuel?**

He died in [1 Sam. 31:2](#) but is mentioned 18 times in Second Samuel. Several references are in David's lament for his friend ([2 Sam. 1:17-25](#)), and a few concern Jonathan's burial ([2 Sam. 21:12-14](#)). Most references, however, are about kindness shown to Jonathan's lame son, Mephibosheth ([2 Sam. 4:4](#), [9:3-7](#), [21:7](#)).