

Ezel – I Samuel 20

Catherine Taylor

This story pulls my heart into tears.

- 1. What qualities of Jonathan do you like?*
- 2. What qualities of Jonathan do you admire?*
- 3. What are the strengths you see in the relationship shared by David and Jonathan?*
- 4. What do you think it was like for them to say goodbye?*

Some definitions and descriptions you might find helpful.

- A. Lord God – Jahweh – The iteration of God who makes sacred agreements.
- B. Oath – a promise made in God’s presence to another human party.
- C. Covenant – essentially a legal agreement between two parties that are then sealed or confirmed by the swearing of an oath. On our planet covenants can be made between a Divine Being and a human being or between two humans.
- D. Love – Ahav - can cover a broad spectrum of the meanings of love.
- E. Cut off – karat – the fundamental term in the Hebrew Bible that signifies the end of a covenant.
- 5. Sometimes I wonder how David’s reign would have been different if Jonathan would not have died. There’s something about them that reminds me of Jack and Bobby Kennedy.*
- F. New Moon Feasts (Rosh Chodesh) - the beginning of the month in the lunar based Hebrew calendar. The beginning of the month was not known by astronomical calculations but by the testimony of

messengers appointed to watch for the first sliver of the new moon. As soon as the sliver was seen, the sighting was announced across the country by signal fires on the mountain tops and the blowing of trumpets. The inner court of the temple would be open on seventh day Sabbaths and on the New Moon.

6. *Why do you think Jonathan was so willing to give up the throne?*

G. The stone Ezel – place of departing

7. *How does this story affect you?*

I am looking forward to seeing you in a few days. In the meanwhile, I wish for you unexpected gentle blessings.

Catherine