

Two Kingdoms

Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. (New Living Translation)

For your reference: Overview of 1 Samuel 21-23

21:1-9, 22:6-23 → David’s righteous actions create the opportunity for Saul to slaughter the priests

21:10-15 → The king of Gath sees David as a threat and plans to take David’s life

22:1-5 → David saves the downtrodden, David saves his parents

23:1-14 → David saves the city of Keilah, then later they plan to sacrifice David to save themselves

23:15-29 → Saul tries to kill David... *again*

In this section (1 Sam 21-23): **We find incredible evil coming from rulers and their minions, and we find David sacrificially giving himself to save people from death.**

What is the difference between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of Jesus?

In God’s kingdom, the operating principle is “My life is for you.”

In the kingdom of darkness, the operating principle is “Your life is for me.”

Regarding the bread of the presence

1. The bread of the presence was to be placed on the golden table in the tabernacle (Ex. 25:30)
2. There would have been twelve loaves symbolizing the twelve tribes.
3. It was only lawful for the priests to eat (Leviticus 24:8-9)
4. Jesus approves of David’s actions in this chapter, including him eating the bread (Mark 2:25-27)
5. The significance of the bread is God’s presence with his people in relationship

What’s at the center of ancient temples of worship? What’s at the center of God’s tabernacle?

How are you giving your life away for others?

Luke 9:23-25 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

Hope’s Mission: Make reproducing disciples

The Kingdom of Jesus

A key matter of interpretation – is David lying selfishly in this passage?

Pastor Brian believes: David’s lie is justified. David lies to give Ahimelech plausible deniability. In support, the author of Samuel and Jesus both seem to look favorably upon David in this passage. See 22:15.

What else does David do?

He understands the “weightier matters of the law” in asking for the holy bread

He goes to God for guidance, provision, and protection

Later in 1 Sam. 22:1-5... “everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.”

He fights to save the city of Keilah even when they would later plan to betray him.

The Kingdom of Darkness

Indefensible actions (22:11-19)

False accusation – “Why have you conspired against me?”

Miscarriage of justice – “But the servants of the Lord would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the Lord”

Slaughtering the priests – “And Doeg the Edomite... killed eighty-five persons who wore the ephod”

Why would anyone do this?

Because the kingdom of darkness’ operating principle is: “Your life is for me.”

A Picture of the Gospel

Think about the details of this section: a persecuted shepherd king saving others, God’s “Bread of the Presence” with his people, a tabernacle where God dwells with his people through sacrifice, a bogus trial, false accusations, miscarriage of justice, and death of the innocent. What does that sound like?

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. How do you find it difficult to give your life away to others?
2. What tempts you to put yourself before others, or use others for your benefit?
3. David broke God’s law, but Jesus commended it. What are we supposed to learn from this? What are the weightier matters of the law? (Mt. 23:23)
4. Where do we see the two kingdoms in conflict today? How are they at war within you?