

8/9/09

1Sam. 22-23

David has successfully escaped Saul and acquired bread and the sword of Goliath from Ahimelech at Nob.

David attempted to blend in with the people of Gath, but the servants of king Achish recognized him.

Having no other recourse, David acted like a madman, letting his spit drool down his beard, while scratching on a door.

King Achish was so disgusted, he asked his servants to remove David and escaped with his life to the cave of Adullam.

22:1-5 The flight of David from Gath to the cave of Adullam.

22:1-2 The people that gathered to David at the cave of Adullam.

- 1) The fugitive David made his escape from Gath to the cave of Adullam. vs. 1-a
 - a) The distance from Gath to the cave of Adulam, in the western foothills of Judah, was probably about 10 miles east-southeast of Gath.

- b) The exact location of the cave is not know, there are many in the area.
- 2) The family of David joined him, at the cave of Adullam. vs. 1c-d
 - a) Hearing of David's flight from Saul, his brothers and all his father's house went down there to him.
 - b) They came from Bethlehem, knowing that Saul would retaliate against them.
- 3) The group of men gathered to David at the cave of Adullam. vs. 2
 - a) Everyone who was in distress "matsoq", anguish and desperation. vs. 2a
 - b) Everyone who was in debt "rasha", they owed money. vs. 2b
 - c) Everyone who was discontented "mar" bitter or in bitterness. vs. 2c
 - d) David became captain over them. vs. 2d
 - e) And there were about four hundred men with him. vs. 2e
 - * These were the misfits of David's army, as God began to prepare David for the kingdom!

- 22:3-5** The refuge sought by David for his parents.
- 1) The journey of David. vs. 3
 - a) David went from Adullam to Mizpah of Moab. vs. 3a

- b) Mizpah “Mitspeh” means watchtower, located east of the Jordan.
- 2) The request of David. vs. 3b-d
 - a) David asked the king of Moab, “Please let my father and mother come here with you.” vs. 3b-c
 - b) David’s great-grandmother was Ruth the Moabites, had family ties. Ruth 4:5, 17
- 3) The duration of their stay. vs. 3d
 - a) “Till I know what God will do for me.”
 - b) David was a fugitive in the eyes of Saul, while being king in the eyes of God, so he was waiting upon God’s timing.
- 4) The successful transaction. vs. 4
 - a) David delivered the custody of his parents to the king himself. vs. 4a
 - b) David didn’t have to worry about them, during his nomadic life. vs. 4b
- 5) The divine protection of God was over David. vs. 5
 - a) God sent His prophet to David. vs. 5a
 - 1) The name Gad means “troop”.
 - 2) Gad was sent by God to David, after he had Joab number the people, offering him three choices of judgment: 7 years of famine, to flee 3 months before his enemies

- or 3 days of plague in the land. 2Sam. 24:13
- 3) Gad is called, “David’s seer”. 1Chron. 21:9
- b) God, through the prophet Gad, directed him to abandon the present camp. vs. 5b
 - * God was protecting David, all along.
- c) God also guided David, as to where to go, the land of Judah. vs. 5c
 - * God knew the best safe place!
- d) David obeyed and trusted God completely, departing to the forest of Hereth.” vs. 5d
 - 1) Hereth was in the land of Judah.
 - 2) This does not come over night but by a daily dependency and obedience!

22:6-10 The lodging of Saul at Gibeah.

- 22:6-8** The news of David and his men reached Saul.
- 1) The reconicense report came that David and his men had been discovered. vs. 6a
 - 2) The location was at his hometown, in Gibeah of Ramah, as he was under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing around him. vs. 6

- a) Saul was so insecure and suspicious of all, he would not put his spear down. 1Sam. 18:10, 19:9, 10, 26:7, 8, 11, 12, 16:2
- b) Saul having no direction from God, is sitting around, attempting to protect himself.
- 3) The speech of Saul to the men of his tribe, Benjamin was self-serving. vs. 7
 - a) Saul bullied them through his oppressive power, because he had made them prosperous and prominent. vs. 7
 - b) Saul had bought them, as Samuel said their king would.
- 4) The method of Saul was to move people by guilt and emotions. vs. 8
 - a) He accused all of having conspired against him. vs. 8a
 - b) He accused all of hiding from him, Jonathan's covenant with David, "and there is no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse." vs. 8b
 - c) He accused all of not being loyal to him, "and there is not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day." vs. 8c-d

22:8-9 The news of David being at Nob was made known to Saul.

- 1) The strategy of self-pity worked, one came forward to inform Saul about David. vs. 9
 - a) His identity, "Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul." vs. 9a-b
 - b) His witness, "and said, "I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub." vs. 9c-e
* David wrote Psalm 52 at this time, regarding the evil of Doeg.
- 2) The slander of Ahimelech was a lie. vs. 10
 - a) The partial false witness of Doeg, "And he inquired of the LORD for him." vs. 10a
 - b) The truth mixed with the false witness, "gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine." vs. 10b-c
 - 1)) The problem with partial truths, is that they are stated and re-arranged in such a way to misrepresent, both the account and the person.
 - 2)) The difficulty is that all lies, have a certain amount of truth.

22:11-23 **The summoning of Ahimelech by Saul to confront him.**

22:11-16 The inquiry of Ahimelech by Saul.

- 1) Saul called all the priest before him at Gibeah. vs. 11
 - a) Ahimelech the high priest, the great-grandson of Eli. vs. 11a
 - b) The son of Ahitub, the grandsons of Eli. vs. 11b
* 1Sam. 14:3
 - c) All his father's house, the priests who were in Nob. vs. 11c-d
 - d) They all came to the king in Gibeah. vs. 11e
- 2) Saul said to Ahimelech, "Hear now, son of Ahitub!" And he answered respectfully, "Here I am, my lord." vs. 12
- 3) Saul accused Ahimelech of treason. vs. 13
 - a) Then Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse. vs. 13a-c
 - b) The manner was stated. vs. 13d-h
 - 1)) He had given him bread and a sword. vs. 13d
 - 2)) He had inquired of God for him. vs. 13e
 - 3)) For the purpose, that David should rise against Saul, to lie in wait, as it was this day? vs. 13f-h
- 4) The defense of Ahimelech was stated. vs. 14

- a) Ahimelech communicates his knowledge of David's standing. vs. 14
 - 1)) His loyalty, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David. vs. 14a-b
 - 2)) His family tie, who is the king's son-in-law. vs. 14c
 - 3)) His service, who goes at your bidding. vs. 14d
 - 4)) His character, is honorable in your house? vs. 14e
- b) Ahimelech denies any form of treason to Saul. vs. 15
 - 1)) He did not seek God, "Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? vs. 15a
 - 2)) He and his house were innocent, "Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, or to any in the house of my father." vs. 15b-d
 - 3)) He knew nothing of the matter, "For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much." vs. 15d-e
- 5) The verdict of Saul against Ahimelech. vs. 16
 - a) And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech." vs. 16a-c
 - b) "You and all your father's house!" vs. 16d

22:17-19 The command to kill all the priests by Saul.

- 1) Saul issued the order. vs. 17
 - a) Saul told the guards who stood by him, “Turn and kill the priests of the LORD. vs. 17a-b
 - b) Saul gave a two-fold reason. vs. 17c-d
 - 1)) “because their hand also is with David.” vs. 17c
 - 2)) “because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me.” vs. 17d
 - c) Saul was disobeyed, “But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD.” vs. 17e
- 2) Saul handed down the order to Doeg. vs. 18-19
 - a) Saul the king said to Doeg, “You turn and kill the priests!” vs. 18a-b
 - b) Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, 85 who wore a linen ephod. vs. 18c-d
 - * This was partial fulfillment of the judgment against the house of Eli. 1Sam. 2:27-36
 - d) Doeg was not content with killing the priests. vs. 19
 - 1)) He killed all in the city of the priest, Nob, vs. 19a-b
 - 2)) He struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women,

children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep--with the edge of the sword. vs. 19c-g

22:20-23 The son of Ahimelech escapes to David.

- 1) Abiathar, the son of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, escaped and fled after David. vs. 20
- 2) Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD’S priests. vs. 21
- 3) David confessed he was responsible for the deaths of the priests. vs. 22
 - a) David told Abiathar David, he should be known, Doeg would tell Saul. vs. 22a-c
 - b) David took the blame for all persons of his father’s house.” vs. 22d
- 4) David welcomed Abiathar to stay. vs. 23
 - a) He comforted him, “Stay with me; do not fear.” vs. 23a-b
 - b) He warned him, “For he who seeks my life seeks your life.” vs. 23c
 - c) He offered to protect him, “but with me you shall be safe.” vs. 23d
 - 1)) Abiathar served David the rest of David’s life. 1Sam. 23:6, 9, 30:7, 2Sam. 8:17
 - 2)) He was replaced by Solomon by Zakok. 1Kings 2:27, 35

23:1-12 The pursuit of David by Saul to Keilah.

23:1-6 The rescue of Keilah by David from the Philistines.

- 1) News came to David about the Philistines. vs. 23
 - a) “They told David, saying, “Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah,” vs. 23a-c
* Keilah is a city of Judah, about 3 miles south of Adullam.
 - b) “They are robbing the threshing floors.” vs. 23d
* This was the food for the coming year, leaving them to starve.
- 2) David sought the Lord. vs. 2
 - a) The wisdom of David, “Therefore David inquired of the LORD.” vs. 2a
* David, though a fugitive, was concerned with defending the nation.
 - b) The words of David were, “Shall I go and attack these Philistines?” vs. 2b-c
 - c) The answer, “And the LORD said to David, “Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah.” vs. 2d-f
- 3) David’s men were reluctant. vs. 3
 - a) They were fearful in their own land, “But David’s men said to him, “Look, we are afraid here in Judah.” vs. 3a-c

- b) They were more so going into the enemies armies, “How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?” vs. 3d
- 4) David asked the Lord to confirm His answer. vs. 4
 - a) David inquired of the LORD once again. vs. 4a-b
 - b) The LORD said, “Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand.” vs. 4c-f
- 5) David and his men obeyed God. vs. 5
 - a) They went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and defeated them with a mighty blow. vs. 5a-b
 - b) They took away their livestock. vs. 5c
 - c) David saved the inhabitants of Keilah. vs. 5d
- 6) David sought the Lord through the Ephod. vs. 6
 - a) When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he went down with an ephod in his hand.
 - b) The Urim and Thummin, meaning lights and perfection, were in the breast pouch to know the mind of God. Ex. 28:30, Lev. 8:8

23:7-13 The inquiry of David from God, if the men of Keilah would deliver him to Saul.

- 1) Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. vs. 7a
- 2) Saul was so self-deceived he thought God was helping him, “God has delivered him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars.” vs. 7b-d
- 3) Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men. vs. 8
- 4) David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he told Abiathar the priest, “Bring the ephod here.” vs. 9
- 5) David sought the Lord again. vs. 10-13
 - a) His concern was for the city, “Then David said, “O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake.” vs. 10
 - b) His concern then was for his safety, “Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant.” vs. 11a-f
 - c) God answered David, “And the LORD said, “He will come down.” vs. 11g-h
 - d) David was concerned for he and his men, “Then David said, “Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?” vs. 12a-b

- e) God’s answer, “And the LORD said, “They will deliver you.” vs. 12c-d
- f) David and his men departed from Keilah, going wherever they could go and when news reached Saul, he stopped the mission. vs. 13
* David’s army has grown from 400 to 600 men.

23:14-18 The visit of Jonathan to David in the wilderness.

23:13-15 The constant running and hiding of David took its toll.

- 1) David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. vs. 14a-b
 - a) The stronghold is in the Judean wilderness, between the hill country and the Dead Sea.
 - b) The wilderness of Ziph is about 4-5 miles southeast of Hebron.
- 2) Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand. vs. 14c-d
- 3) David was aware Saul had come out to seek his life and David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest. vs. 15

23:16-18 The visit of Jonathan to encourage David.

- 1) The purpose of Jonathan's coming to the woods was to strengthened his hand in God. vs. 16
 - a) There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Prov. 18:24
 - b) This is the last time they see each other.
- 2) The words of Jonathan. vs. 17
 - a) And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. vs. 17a-c
 - b) You, is emphatic, shall be king over Israel. vs. 17d
 - c) I, is emphatic also, shall be next to you. vs. 17e
 - d) Even my father Saul knows that." vs. 17f
- 3) The events of the visit. vs. 18
 - a) The two of them made a covenant before the LORD. vs. 18a
 - b) David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house. vs. 18b-c

23:19-29 The pursuit of David by Saul in the wilderness.

23:19-23 The Ziphites informed Saul of David's general location.

- 1) The betrayal of David by the Ziphites. vs. 19

- a) The Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah. vs. 19a
- b) They gave David's hiding place, "Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?" vs. 19b-e
 - 1)) Jeshimon means desert waste.
 - 2)) The wilderness southeast of Hebron and west of the Dead Sea.
- 2) Their loyalty to Saul was complete. vs. 20
 - a) They begged Saul to come. vs. 20a-c
 - b) They would turn David over to his hand. vs. 20d
 - * This is after the fact that David rescued them from the Philistines!
- 3) Saul played them up as loyal subjects. "And Saul said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, for you have compassion on me." vs. 21
 - a) Saul was so self-consumed, always playing on people's emotions to pity him.
 - b) Saul gave a blessing, he had no right nor access to, it was false.
- 4) The request of Saul was that they provided him with the best reconnaissance. vs. 22-23
 - a) He wanted them to confirm the information, "Please go and find out for sure, and see the place where his

- hideout is, and who has seen him there.” vs. 22a-c
- b) He knew wise and shrewd, “For I am told he is very crafty.” vs. 22d
 - c) He wanted them to survey all he hiding places, “See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides.” vs. 23a-b
 - d) He then would seek David, “and come back to me with certainty, and I will go with you. And it shall be, if he is in the land, that I will search for him throughout all the clans of Judah.” vs. 23c-g

23:24-29 The capture of David by Saul was unsuccessful.

- 1) The Ziphites returned for more intelligence, regarding David. vs. 24
 - a) They arose and went to Ziph before Saul. vs. 24a
 - b) But David and his men were in the Wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon.
 - 1)) Maon was 5 miles south of Ziph, in the Judean wilderness, 8 miles south of Hebron.
 - 2)) The area served as a refuge for Jewish guerrillas during the revolts in 66-70 A.D. and 132-134 A.D.

- 2) The pursuit by Saul was initiated. vs. 25-26
 - a) The chase began. vs. 25
 - b) The chase almost trapped David. vs. 26
- 3) The pursuit was called off. vs. 27-29
 - a) Saul received news of the Philistines having invaded the land, to come quickly. vs. 27
 - b) Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines; so they called that place the Rock of Escape or division. vs. 28
 - * The location was name for David’s escape from the hand of Saul.
 - c) David fled to hide in strongholds at En Gedi, which means “wild goats”. vs. 29
 - 1)) The mountains directly west of the Dead Sea.
 - 2) There are many caves and water falls, which we have climbed up to in our trips to Israel.
 - 3)) David wrote Psalm 54 at this time.