

8/9/09

**God Is On The Throne**  
**1Sam. 22:1-23**

David is a wanted man and there is no doubt in the mind of David that Saul wants him dead.

The broken hearted departure of Jonathan and David, led David to obtain bread and the sword of Goliath, from Ahimelech at Nob.

Then David attempted to blend in those at Gath, but the servants of king Achish recognized him, causing him to realize his perilous situation, so he acted as a madman, letting his spit drool down his beard, while scratching on a door.

\* The sight so disgusted the king so, that he asked his servants to remove David and he escaped with his life to the cave of Adullam.

God being in full control begins to work out his plan to establish David as king, revealing the faithfulness of God, in the midst of evil by three interrelated events.

- I.** The gathering to David at Adullam for good. vs. 1-5
- II.** The gathering with Saul at Gibeah for self-preservation. vs. 6-10
- III.** The gathering of the priest from Nob for evil. vs. 11-23

**I. The gathering to David at Adullam for good. vs. 1-5**

**A.** The news that David was at Adullam reached many people. vs. 1-2

- 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 Adullam was about 10 miles east-southeast of Gath.
  - b.** The location was the western foothills of Judah, but the exact location is not known, there being many in the area.
- 2.** The family of David joined him, at the cave of Adullam. vs. 1c-d
  - a.** They heard of David's flight from Saul, so his brothers and all his father's household went down there to him.
    - 1)** Without any doubt his brothers, in Saul's army, knew of Saul's many attempts to kill David.
    - 2)** Jonathan, perhaps had himself warned them, in view of the covenant they made.
  - b.** They came from Bethlehem, knowing that Saul would retaliate against them.
    - 1)** They would be an easy target, to be killed by Saul.

- 2) They would be used by Saul to have David give himself up.
3. The group of men that gathered to David at Adullam had been affected for the worst by the reign of Saul. vs. 2a-c
- a. Everyone who was in distress “matsoq”, anguish and desperation. vs. 2a  
 \* Samuel had warned them, their king, would take their sons for **his** own chariots, to be **his** horsemen and run before him. 1Sam. 8:11
- b. Everyone who was in debt “rasha”, they owed money. vs. 2b  
 \* Samuel said he would take the best of their fields, vineyards, olive groves, a tenth of their grain, vintage, sheep and give them to **his** servants. 1Sam. 8:14-15, 17
- c. Everyone who was discontented “mar” bitter or in bitterness. vs. 2c
- 1) Samuel said he would appoint captains over **his** thousands and captains over his fifties, and set some to plow **his** ground and reap his harvest, make **his** weapons of war and equipment for **his** chariots, your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. 1Sam. 8:12-13

- 2) Samuel said he would take their male and female servants, their finest young men, donkeys, and put them to **his** work. 1Sam. 8:16
4. The outcome of their coming to David was that he became captain over them. vs. 2d
- a. They were tired of the oppressive government that was stealing from them, destroying and dividing their nation.
- 1) Saul and his appointed political Czars, were greedy and evil men.
- 2) Saul and his Czars had lost touch, being disconnected from the people.
- 3) Saul and his Czars were bullying the people through oppressive intimidating power.
- b. They knew David was the king God had anointed.
- 1) Samuel knew it.
- 2) The family of David knew it.
- 3) The many who had come to him, knew it.  
 \* Samuel told them, “And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day.” 1Sam. 8:18

- e. There were about four hundred men with him. vs. 2e
    - 1) These were the misfits of David's army, as God began to prepare David for the kingdom!
    - 2) These and others would become some of David's mighty men. 2Sam. 23, 1Chron. 12:16-18
- B.** The needed refuge for the parents of David was sought out. vs. 3-4
- 1. The journey of David was a priority. 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 was for their safety. 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, so he made use of his family ties. Ruth 4:5, 17
  - 3. The duration of their stay was conditional. vs. 3d
    - a. David said, "Till I know what God will do for me."

- b. David was a fugitive in the eyes of Saul, but king in the eyes of God, so he was waiting upon God's timing.
4. The success of the transaction was a relief to David. vs. 4
- a. David delivered the custody of his parents to the king himself, "So he brought them before the king of Moab." vs. 4a
  - b. David didn't have to worry about them, during his nomadic life, "and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold." vs. 4b
- C.** The necessary guidance and protection by God was given to David. vs. 5
- 1. God sent His prophet to David, "Now the prophet Gad said to David," vs. 5a
    - a. The name Gad means "troop".
    - b. Gad later would be 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
  - 2. God at this time, through the prophet Gad, directed him to abandon the cave of Adullam, "Do not stay in the stronghold; depart." vs. 5b

- \* God was protecting David, all along!
- 3. God also guided David, as to where to go, “and go to the land of Judah.” vs. 5c  
\* God knew the safest place!
- 4. David obeyed and trusted God completely, “So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.” vs. 5d
  - a. Hereth “chereth” means forest, in the land of Judah, to distinguish it from others.
  - b. This kind of trust does not come over night but by a daily walk depending and obeying God!

### Illustration

What you won't learn in our schools about our American history, is that when our founding fathers were revolting against the oppressive government of the king of England, the majority of them by their own writings believed God was guiding them to establish a nation with religious freedom, not for economic goal, taxation without representation was way down on the list of grievances.

\* Fifty-two of the 55 founders of the Constitution were members of the established orthodox churches in the colonies!

### Application

1. God is always faithful to raise up men to lead others to God, in order that people be truly free.

- a. The only protection from the oppression of tyrants is for men and women to believe and depend in God by Jesus and the Scriptures.
- b. These goes hand in hand, as our very own Bill of Rights and our Constitution bear witness in its very content.
- c. The minute man moves away from belief in God and looks to ma, as the solution for all problems, things will only get worse.  
\* “A **man** with an **evil** eye hastens after riches, And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.” Prov. 28:22
- 2. The history of man just in the past century should be sufficient to warn man about evil rulers.
  - a. The history of dictators, socialists, Marxists, fascists and communists expose the evil of these men and their governments.
  - b. The majority of people believe the flowery lying politicians and when they begin to loose their wealth, liberty and lives, it usually is too late!
  - c. Hitler charmed his way to conquer Germany by the way, he did it through the auto industry, he gave them the VW, then he bullied his way throughout Europe by lies until it was too late, murdering millions.
  - d. Edi Amin was a brutal butcher.
  - e. The U.N. allowed the massacre of Christians in Ruwanda, Darfur in the Sudan by Muslim

extremist, a genocide, and America has been silent.

1) “You shall not afflict any **widow** or fatherless child. If you afflict them in any way, and they **cry** at all to Me, I will surely hear their **cry**.” Ex 22:22-23

2) Jesus warned the Pharisees, Matt. 23:14

3. What we see happening in our country is headed down this road.

- a. The damage control out of Washington is that the people in objection to the out of control spending is a small, radical, bitter people that want to hinder the democratic system of America, in order to cover up their lies and evil plans.
- b. They like Saul have lost touch with the real life of the people.
- c. So they want to silence those who speak out by bullying them, arresting them and the newest is to have anyone e-mail the White House directly to turn anyone in who disagrees with the present administration.
- d. Who knows, maybe God in His mercy, is giving Americans one more chance to save this nation for good?
  - \* “Because the sentence against an **evil** work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do **evil**.” Ecl. 8:11

## II. The gathering with Saul at Gibeah for self-preservation. vs. 6-10

A. The news of David and his men being spotted reached Saul. vs. 6-8

- 1. The reconicense report came, David and his men had been discovered. vs. 6a
  - a. The last time Saul saw David was when he attempted to pin him to the wall with his spear. 1Sam. 19:10
  - b. The departure of David was after Jonathan exposed his fathers intent to kill David and Saul attempted to kill Jonathan. 1Sam. 20:33
- 2. The location was at his hometown, in Gibeah of Saul in 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 had no direction from God and he is sitting around men that have been bought and are just like him.
- 3. The speech of Saul to the men of his tribe, Benjamin, is self-serving. vs. 7

*The gathering to David at Adullam was for good!*

- a. Saul bullied them through his oppressive power, becoming “yes men”. vs. 7
    - \* He called for their attention, “then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, “Hear now, you Benjamites!” vs. 7a-b
      - \* The word hear “shema” means to perceive with the ear, with the idea to listen with attention. Deut. 6:4
  - b. Saul reminded them, he had made them prosperous, “Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds?” vs. 7c-d
    - \* Saul had bought them, making them prosperous, as Samuel had warned.
4. The method of Saul was to move people by guilt and emotions. vs. 8
- a. Saul accused all of being against him, “All of you have conspired against me.” vs. 8a
    - \* Saul had done this against David!
  - b. Saul accused all of hiding information about his son, Jonathan, “and there is no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse.” vs. 8b
    - \* Yet, Saul had concealed his intent to kill David from Jonathan!

- c. Saul accused all of being disloyal to him about Jonathan aiding David, “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
    - \* Yet Saul had demonstrated no compassion to David but he wanted it for himself and was the one lying in wait for David!
- B.** The news of David being at Nob was made known to Saul. vs. 8-9
- 1. The strategy of self-pity of Saul worked, one came forward to inform Saul about David. vs. 9
    - a. His identity is given, “Then Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul.” vs. 9a-b
      - 1) The name Doeg means “fearing” but he feared man more than God, as we will see. vs. 9a
      - 2) The descendants of Doeg were the Edomites, a type of the flesh, Esau, the brother of Jacob. vs. 9a
      - 3) The occupation of Doeg was to be over the servants of Saul, he was the chief herdsman. vs. 9a, 21:7
  - b. His witness is stated, “and said, “I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to

Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.” vs. 9c-e

2. The slander of Ahimelech was a lie. vs. 10
  - a. The witness of Doeg was partially false, “And he inquired of the LORD for him.” vs. 10a
  - b. The false witness of Doeg was mixed with truth, “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.

### **Illustration**

Our founding Fathers gave us a Republic, with check and balances of the Judicial, legislative and the executive branches but it has broken down through the Judicial branch. Taking us from a Republic, to a democracy, to what we are now under, an Oligarchy, as the few are attempting to rule over the majority of Americans.

\* Thomas Jefferson worried that the Courts would overstep their authority and instead of interpreting the law would begin making law. an oligarchy .. the rule of few over many.

### **Application**

1. There are always people who rule like Saul.
  - a. They are in positions of power.
  - b. They use their power to intimidate and oppress people or to put fear in others.
  - c. They perpetuate their power by marking and removing all those who will not go along with their every decision and surrounding themselves with “yes men”.
  - d. They are masters of manipulating people by smooth speeches, working on the emotions to win people over to them.
    - 1) “He **winks** with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers.” Prov. 6:13
    - 2) “He who **winks** with the eye causes trouble, But a prating fool will fall.” Prov. 10:10
    - 3) “He **winks** his eye to devise perverse things; He purses his lips and brings about evil.” Prov. 16:30
2. There are always evil people who will serve evil persons like Saul, they attract each other.
  - a. They will see the opportunity to advance themselves.
  - b. They will cease the opportunity to be part of an inner-circle of power.
  - c. They will say, agree with or twist anything to further their position and power.

- d. They will turn on each other, at a drop of a hat, if it means a greater position and more power for themselves.
  - e. They are not leaders of people but tyrants in positions of leadership, wanting to be served.
    - 1) They are in businesses.
    - 2) They are in churches.
    - 3) They definitely are in politics.
- \* Solomon said, "I have seen **servants** on horses, While princes walk on the ground like **servants**." Eccl. 10:7

*The gathering with Saul at Gibeah was for self-preservation!*

### III. The gathering of the priest from Nob for evil. vs. 11-23

- A. The inquiry of Ahimelech by Saul was a set up. vs. 11-16
  - 1. Saul called all the priest to come before him and they arrived at Gibeah. vs. 11
    - a. Ahimelech the high priest, was present, the great-grandson of Eli. vs. 11a
    - b. The son of Ahitub, was the grandsons of Eli. vs. 11b
      - \* 1Sam. 14:3
    - c. The entire number of priest in his father's house at Nob. vs. 11c-d

- d. They all were present before 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
  - a. The word hear "shema" is the same as in verse one for the people gathered to David.
  - b. Saul commanded them to listen with attentive interest.
- 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
    - 1) This again is the same word Saul used for himself. vs. 8
    - 2) The word conspired "qashar means to bind, tie or league together.
  - b. The manner of their treason was stated. vs. 13d-h
    - 1) He had aided David, "in that you have given him bread and a sword." vs. 13d
    - 2) He had given David divine guidance, "and have inquired of God for him." vs. 13e
    - 3) He had done so, in order that David should rise against Saul, "to lie in wait, as it was this day?" vs. f-h
- 4. Ahimelech voiced his defense. vs. 14

- a. Ahimelech made his defense on his knowledge of David's impeccable standing. vs. 14
  - 1) His loyalty, "So Ahimelech answered the king and said, "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, "and is honorable in your house?" vs. 14e
- b. Ahimelech denies any form of treason towards 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. Saul pronounced his verdict 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
- B. The command of Saul to kill all the priests was given to the guards. vs. 17-19
  - 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
    - 1) The word for guards "ruwts" means runners.
    - 2) These men were swifts to run ahead to deliver messages or information.
  - b. Saul gave a two-fold reason. vs. 17c-d
    - 1) "because their hand also is with David," which was false. vs. 17c
    - 2) "because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me", yet they were unaware of David's situation in relation to Saul. 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
    - 1) These men had the good sense to know this was not right and refused to go along with the evil.
    - 2) They knew, this was a direct attack against Yahweh, as when they refused to kill Jonathan. 1Sam. 14

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. vs. 18c
    - 1) Doeg as his name “fearing” only fear man not God!
    - 2) They are not bothered by the evil to get ahead!
  - c. Doeg killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod. vs. 18d
    - 1) This was partial fulfillment of the judgment against the house of Eli. 1Sam. 2:27-36
    - 2) But this did not take away from the personal guilt before God.
    - 3) God knowing the end from the beginning, has no problem declaring future judgment, knowing the evil actions of some, to accomplish His purposes.
      - \* “Surely the **wrath** of **man** shall praise You; With the remainder of **wrath** You shall gird Yourself.” Ps. 76:10
  - d. Doeg was not content with killing the priests but to go further. 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
- C. The son of Ahimelech escapes the massacre of the priests. vs. 20-23
  1. Abiathar, the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, escaped and fled after David. vs. 20
    - a. Ahimelech “Achiemelek” means “my brother is king.”
    - b. Abiathar “Ebyathar” means “my father is great or excellent.”
  2. Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD’S priests. vs. 21
    - a. He held Saul directly responsible for the massacre.
    - b. He was the one who gave the order.
  3. David confessed he was responsible for the deaths of the priests. vs. 22
    - a. David acknowledged his error, “David told Abiathar, “I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul.” vs. 22a-c
      - \* David got a check in his spirit but ignored it.

- b. David took the blame, “I have caused the death of all the persons of your father’s house.” vs. 22d  
\* David felt terrible about it!
- 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) Abiathar was replaced by Solomon by Zakok, for conspiring with Adonijah, further fulfilling the prophecy against the house of Eli. 1Kings 2:27, 35

### **Illustration**

Hitler asked Hindenburg to grant him emergency powers in view of the 'communist takeover'. Using the constitution, Hindenburg agreed to pass the Law for the Protection of the People and the State.

This law gave Hitler what he wanted - a ban on the Communists and Socialists taking part in an election campaign. The leaders from both parties were arrested and their newspapers were shut down. To 'keep the peace' and maintain law and

order, the SA (the Brown Shirts) roamed the streets beating up those who openly opposed Hitler. This sounds like the “Fairness Doctrine”.  
\* Obama has said that he wants a civilian army more powerful than the military and he just asked that anyone coming across anything that seemed “fishy”, regarding opposition to the nationalized healthy care bill, should e-mail the White house directly. Aug. 09

### **Application**

1. The injustice that is brought forth by men against other men by being in positions of authority and power is frightening.
  - a. Be it the Republican.
  - b. Be it the Democrats.
  - c. As Christians, we are to be united in Christ and acknowledge all forms of evil, according to the Bible!  
\* “When the **righteous** are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.” Prov. 29:2
2. The horrific crimes that are executed towards innocent people by self-absorbed tyrants and evil men is never ending.
  - a. The theft by those on wall street, that eroded Americans retirement portfolios by 1/3 is criminal, yet not one person has been charge, convicted and gone to jail.
  - b. The realty bank fraud by Fanny-Mae and Freddy-Mac, with the permission and help

of the congress, resulted in families loosing the number one investment of all Americans, their homes, yet not one has gone to jail.

- c. The so called first “Stimulus money” to bail out Wall Street, can not be traced, there is no paper trail, no one is charged or in jail.  
\* “I said in my heart, “God shall judge the **righteous** and the wicked, For there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.” Eccl. 3:17

3. The wheels of God’s justice and the perfection of His judgment is not thwarted nor compromised, it will be executed to every person.

- a. How much of what is going on in our country is the judgment of God, no one can know for sure.
- b. But, what we can know for sure as saiints, is that history teaches us the consequences to corrupt nations, if not conquered, fall from within and from the Bible we learn that God is often behind that judgment.  
\* “When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; But the **righteous** will see their fall.” Prov. 29:16

*The gathering of the priest from Nob was for evil!*

God was in fill control as He began to work out his plan to make David king, revealing the faithfulness of God, in the midst of evil by three interrelated events:

- I. The gathering to David at Adullam was for good!
- II. The gathering with Saul at Gibeah was for self-preservation!
- III. The gathering of the priest from Nob was for evil!

## Conclusion