

I SAMUEL 22

LIKE A FOX DARTING IN TERROR FROM BAYING HOUNDS, DAVID RAN FOR HIS LIFE FROM HIS HUNTER--KING SAUL. WHERE COULD HE GO? HIS HOME WAS UNDER SURVEILLANCE, MANY OF ISRAEL KNEW HIM BY SIGHT, EVEN THE PHILISTINES RECOGNIZED HIM. LONELY AND DISILLUSIONED, DAVID CRAWLED INTO THE ONLY HIDING PLACE HE COULD FIND...

VS 1 WHAT IS THE PHRASE "DEPARTED FROM THERE" REFERRING TO? REMEMBER LAST WEEK WE LEARNED THAT DAVID FLED FROM SAUL AND WENT TO THE KING OF GATH. WHEN HIS SERVANTS RECOGNIZED DAVID, REMEMBER WHAT DAVID DID? DAVID FEARED FOR HIS LIFE AND LACKED TRUST IN GOD.

VS 1 WHERE DOES DAVID GO? ADULLAM (MAY MEAN "REFUGE") WAS A CITY SITUATED SOUTHWEST OF JERUSALEM AND ABOUT FIFTEEN MILES FROM BETHLEHEM, DAVID'S HOMETOWN. THERE WAS A CAVE THERE THAT BECAME A REFUGE FOR DAVID. WITH ALL THE SUPPORT IN HIS LIFE PULLED AWAY, DAVID HID HIMSELF IN THE ONLY HIDING PLACE HE COULD FIND WITHIN THE WALLS OF A DARK, ROCKY CAVERN. AT THE END OF HIS RESOURCES, WITH NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO, HE COMPOSED THIS MOURNFUL SONG TO GOD: PALM 142:1-4

I cry aloud with my voice to the Lord;
I make supplication with my voice to the Lord.

2

I pour out my complaint before Him;
I declare my trouble before Him.

3

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me,
You knew my path.
In the way where I walk
They have hidden a trap for me.

4

Look to the right and see;
For there is no one who regards me;
There is no escape for me;
No one cares for my soul.

HUMANLY SPEAKING, DAVID HAD LITTLE TO LIVE FOR. THE GLITTER OF FAME AND FORTUNE HAD TURNED TO RUBBISH. HIS LIFE AS ISRAEL'S HERO HAD LEFT HIM NOTHING BUT A STONE PILLOW AND A HEART FULL OF TURMOIL. YET HE HELD ON TO GOD THROUGH HIS DESPAIR AND FOUND REFUGE IN HIM AS HIS ONLY TRUE HIDING PLACE. LET'S SEE DAVID'S HEART AND WHAT HE WAS THINKING AT THIS TIME: PSALM 142:5-7

I cry to you, Lord;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."

Listen to my cry,
for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.

7

Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.
Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me.

FROM DAVID'S EXAMPLE, WE LEARN THAT BEING A PERSON AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART DOESN'T MEAN NEVER EXPERIENCING THE DARKNESS OF THE CAVE, RATHER IT MEANS BEING ABLE TO TRUST THAT GOD'S LIGHT IS THERE IN THE CAVE AND THAT HE IS CALLED THE GOD OF ALL HOPE.(ROMANS 15:13). VS 1 FIRST GOD BROUGHT DAVID'S FAMILY. REMEMBER THESE SAME BROTHERS STOOD AHEAD OF DAVID TO RECEIVE SAMUEL'S ANOINTING, NOW THEY LINED UP BEHIND HIM, SUPPORTING HIM AT THE MOMENT OF HIS GREATEST NEED.

VS 2 WHO DID GOD BRING NEXT? THE FOUR HUNDRED WHO JOINED DAVID AT THE CAVE WERE EXPERIENCING THE FALLOUT OF SAUL'S FLOUNDERING REIGN. THEY HAD BEEN WRONGED AND MISTREATED. HOW DO WE KNOW? WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE TELL US IN THIS VERSE? THEY SOUGHT OUT THE NATIONAL HERO WHO HAD BEEN SIMILARLY ABUSED AND DAVID WELCOMED THEM. IN DAVID'S DARKEST HOUR GOD GAVE HIM A MINISTRY OF HELPING MEN LIKE HIM WHO HAD BEEN WORN DOWN BY INJUSTICE. DAVID KEPT HIS EYES ON GOD AND INSTILLED CHARACTER AND DIRECTION IN THEIR LIVES. HE TRAINED THEM TO BE MIGHTY WARRIORS (1 CHRON. 11:10-47) AND THEIR NUMBER INCREASED FROM FOUR HUNDRED TO SIX HUNDRED MEN. (1 SAMUEL 23:13).

VS 3 WHAT IS DAVID'S FIRST PRIORITY? DAVID HONORED HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SOUGHT TO PROTECT THEM, SO HE ASKED THE KING OF MOAB TO SHELTER THEM UNTIL HIS DAYS OF EXILE WERE OVER. IN THE DAY OF MOSES, THE MOABITES WERE NOT A PEOPLE FAVORED BY THE JEWS, BUT DAVID'S GREAT GRANDMOTHER RUTH CAME FROM MOAB AND THIS MAY HAVE HELPED DAVID TO GAIN THEIR SUPPORT.

VS 4 AFTER DAVID HAD SECURED THE SAFETY OF HIS PARENTS, HE RETURNED TO ADULLAM AND THEN MOVED HIS COMPANY TO "THE STRONGHOLD" OR "FORTRESS", WHICH MANY BIBLE STUDENTS BELIEVE WAS AT MASADA BY THE DEAD SEA, ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE MILES SOUTHWEST OF ADULLAM. THE HEBREW WORD "MESUDA" MEANS "FORTRESS" OR "STRONGHOLD". DAVID LIVED IN MANY DIFFERENT "DESERT STRONGHOLDS" AS HE TRIED TO PROTECT HIMSELF AND HIS FRIENDS AND OUTWIT SAUL AND HIS SPIES.

VS 5 SO WHO DOES THE LORD SENT TO WARN DAVID? WHAT DOES HE TELL DAVID?

HOW DOES DAVID REACT? DAVID RELOCATED IN THE FOREST OF HERETH (THICKET) IN THE VICINITY OF THE CAVE OF ADULLAM.

VS 6 KING SAUL, SPEAR IN HAND, WAS HOLDING COURT UNDER A TREE ON A HILL WHEN WORD CAME TO HIM THAT HIS SPIES HAD DISCOVERED DAVID'S LATEST HIDING PLACE. THIS WAS PROBABLY THE WILDERNESS STRONGHOLD NEAR THE DEAD SEA. (VS 4-5) WHICH EXPLAINS WHY GOD SENT THE MESSAGE TO GAD THAT THE COMPANY SHOULD RETURN TO JUDAH.

VS 7 SAUL USED THIS EVENT AS AN OCCASION TO BERATE HIS OFFICERS, ALL OF WHOM WERE FROM HIS OWN TRIBE OF BENJAMIN. ALWAYS SUSPICIOUS OF TREACHERY IN THE OFFICIAL RANKS, SAUL REMINDED THE MEN HE WAS KING AND THEREFORE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD REWARD THEM FOR THEIR FAITHFUL SERVICE.

VS 8 SAUL HAS ANOTHER "POOR ME, PITY PARTY". WHAT FOUR THINGS DOES HE ACCUSE HIS MEN OF DOING? WHERE WAS SAUL'S FOCUS? DAVID ATTRACTED MEN WHO WERE WILLING TO RISK THEIR LIVES FOR HIM, BUT SAUL USED BRIBERY AND FEAR TO KEEP HIS FORCES TOGETHER. THESE "TRAITORS" WERE WORKING FOR DAVID BECAUSE DAVID HAD PROMISED TO REWARD THEM. SAUL WAS SURE DAVID WAS PLOTTING TO KILL HIM. WHAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR ARE WE SEEING IN SAUL'S LIFE?

VS 9-10 WHENEVER THERE IS A SCHEMING LEADER, HE WILL HAVE SCHEMING FOLLOWERS, FOR WE REPRODUCE AFTER OUR OWN KIND. THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO WILL DO ANYTHING TO GAIN THE LEADER'S APPROVAL AND RECEIVE HIS REWARDS. IN THESE VERSES WE MEET DOEG THE EDMITE AGAIN. WE FIRST MET HIM IN 21:7. HE WAS THE HEAD SHEPHERD OF SAUL'S HERD, WHO WITNESSED THE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN DAVID AND AHIMELECH AND TOLD SAUL. WHAT DOES HE SAID AHIMELECH DID FOR DAVID IN VERSE 10? BUT LOOK AT WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS- 21:8 David asked Ahimelek, "Don't you have a spear or a sword here? I haven't brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king's mission was urgent."⁹ The priest replied, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one." David said, "There is none like it; give it to me." WHAT DOES DOEG ADD TO HIS VERSION? (VS 10). DOEG TOLD THE TRUTH WHEN HE SAID HE SAW DAVID AT NOB AND THAT THE HIGH PRIEST GAVE HIM FOOD AND THE SWORD OF GOLIATH. BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE HIGH PRIEST USED THE URIM AND THUMMIM TO DETERMINE THE WILL OF GOD FOR DAVID. (EX 28:30; NUM. 27:21) THE SWORD OF GOLIATH WAS KEPT NEAR THE EPHOD AND DOEG MAY HAVE SEEN THE HIGH PRIEST WITH THE EPHOD IN HIS HAND, BUT THIS WASN'T EVIDENCE THAT HE HAD CONSULTED GOD ON BEHALF OF DAVID. HOWEVER, THE LIE MADE DOEG LOOK GOOD AND DAVID LOOK BAD. BUT WHAT COST IS THE LIE TO OTHERS?

VS 11-12 WHAT IS SAUL'S NEXT MOVE?

VS 13 SAUL INSISTED FALSELY THAT AHIMELECH WAS IN LEAGUE WITH HIS ENEMY DAVID. SAUL WAS OBVIOUSLY DOING ALL HE COULD TO DISGRACE THE HIGH PRIEST,

WHEN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONFESSING HIS SINS AND SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS. NEVER WAS SAUL'S PARANOIA MORE EVIDENT OR MORE DANGEROUS.

VS 14 HOW DOES AHIMELECH REPLY. DO YOU THINK SAUL WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THIS STATEMENT? WAS IT TRUE, WAS DAVID LOYAL TO SAUL?

VS 15 WHAT DOES AHIMELECH TELL SAUL? AHIMELECH DENIED USING THE EPHOD TO DETERMINE GOD'S WILL FOR DAVID. IN FACT, HE BOLDLY STATED THAT IF HE HAD DONE SO, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TIME BECAUSE HE HAD NEVER DONE SO BEFORE. HE CLOSED HIS DEFENSE BY STATING HE AND HIS FAMILY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ANY CONSPIRACY.

VS 16-19 THIS FULFILLS THE CURSE ON ELI'S HOUSE. 1 SAMUEL 2:27-31 **27** Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Did I *not* indeed reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt *in bondage* to Pharaoh's house? **28** Did I *not* choose them from all the tribes of Israel to be My priests, to go up to My altar, to burn incense, to carry an ephod before Me; and did I *not* give to the house of your father all the fire *offerings* of the sons of Israel? **29** Why do you kick at My sacrifice and at My offering which I have commanded *in My dwelling*, and honor your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?' **30** Therefore the Lord God of Israel declares, 'I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should walk before Me forever'; but now the Lord declares, 'Far be it from Me—for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed. **31** Behold, the days are coming when I will break your strength and the strength of your father's house so that there will not be an old man in your house.

VS 17 SAUL WAS ACTUALLY CONDUCTING AN ILLEGAL TRIAL, PRESENTING FOUR CHARGES: AHIMELECH GAVE DAVID BREAD, HE PROVIDED HIM WITH A WEAPON, HE INQUIRED OF GOD HIM, AND HE THEREFORE WAS PART OF DAVID'S "CONSPIRACY" TO KILL SAUL. HOW MANY OF THESE CHARGES WERE TRUE? WHAT DOES SAUL WANT THE GUARDS TO DO? HOW DO THE GUARDS RESPOND?

VS 18 SO WHO DOES SAUL TURN TO? SAUL KNEW THAT DOEG WAS READY TO DO THE EVIL DEED, SO HE GAVE HIM PERMISSION. EVEN IF THE HIGH PRIEST HAD BEEN GUILTY, WHICH HE WAS NOT, IT WAS ILLEGAL TO PUNISH THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR THE FATHER'S CRIME. (DEUT. 24:16) SAUL HAD A POLICE STATE IN WHICH EACH CITIZEN WAS TO SPY ON THE OTHERS AND REPORT TO THE KING ANYBODY WHO OPPOSED HIS RULE. REMEMBER ISRAEL HAD ASKED FOR A KING "LIKE THE OTHER NATIONS", AND THAT IS WHAT THEY RECEIVED.

VS 19 A LIAR AND MURDERER AT HEART (JOHN 8:44), DOEG WENT BEYOND SAUL'S ORDERS AND WENT TO NOB WHERE HE WIPED OUT THE ENTIRE POPULATION AS WELL AS THE FARM ANIMALS.

VS 20-23 THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE MASSACRE AT NOB WAS ABIATHAR, SON OF AHIMELECH, WHO THEN BECAME THE HIGH PRIEST. HE KNEW HIS ONLY HOPE WAS TO

JOIN DAVID SO HE FLED TO DAVID'S CAMP AT KEILAH. WHEN DAVID MOVED FROM HERETH TO KEILAH ISN'T REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE, BUT HAVING A PRIEST WITH AN EPHOD WAS A TREMENDOUS HELP TO DAVID AND HIS COMPANY. DAVID TOOK THE BLAME FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF THE PRIESTS ACKNOWLEDGING THE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES OF HIS LIE TO AHIMELECH. BUT ALSO TOOK THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CARING FOR ABIATHAR AND MAKING SURE HE WAS SAFE.

DAVID WAS NOW OFFICIALLY AN OUTLAW, BUT THE LORD WAS WITH HIM, AND HE WOULD ONE DAY BECOME ISRAEL'S GREATEST KING.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM DAVID?

1. SEEING THE NEEDS- IN DAVID'S DARKEST HOUR, GOD GAVE HIM A MINISTRY OF HELPING MEN LIKE HIM WHO HAD BEEN WORN DOWN BY INJUSTICE.

2. ACCEPTING THE LEADERSHIP- DAVID KEPT HIS EYES ON GOD AND INSTILLED CHARACTER AND DIRECTION IN THEIR LIVES. HE TRAINED THEM TO BE MIGHTY WARRIORS AND THEIR NUMBER INCREASED FROM FOUR HUNDRED TO SIX HUNDRED MEN.

3. THE CHANGE-WHY DID IT OCCUR? OUT OF THE DARK CAVE, DAVID EMERGED WITH A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S MERCY AND HIS PURPOSE FOR HIS LIFE. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS HAPPENED?

4. DAVID HURT ENOUGH TO ADMIT HIS NEED. READ PSALM 142, DAVID FELL ON HIS FACE BEFORE GOD, OPENLY EXPRESSING HIS FEAR AND LONELINESS. DAVID DIDN'T THINK HE COULD HONOR GOD BY PRETENDING EVERYTHING WAS OK. IN THE SAME WAY, WE ARE NOT MORE SPIRITUAL BY DENYING OUR HURTS. GOD CAN HANDLE OUR REAL NEEDS AND HE WILL HELP US BEAR THEM.

5. DAVID WAS HONEST ENOUGH TO CRY FOR HELP. READ PSALM 57. LIKE A DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE, THIS PSALM CAPTURES DAVID'S TRUST IN GOD'S GOODNESS AND CARE FOR HIM.

6. DAVID WAS HUMBLE ENOUGH TO LEARN FROM GOD. THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, DAVID HAD TASTED GOD'S DELIVERANCE AGAIN AND AGAIN. DAVID HAD FALLEN ON HIS FACE BEFORE GOD IN PSALM 142, RISEN TO HIS KNEES IN PSALM 57, AND HERE IT WAS AS IF HE STOOD ON HIS FEET WITH HANDS OUTSTRETCHED AND OPEN, READY TO RECEIVE THE GOODNESS OF GOD. READ PSALM 34:1-4, 6-10, 19, 22

MOST LIKELY, WE WILL NEVER HAVE TO SEEK REFUGE FROM THE SWORD OF AN ANGRY KING, BUT AS GOD'S CHILD, WE WILL NEED TO FLEE FROM OTHER OTHER KINDS OF ENEMIES; TEMPTATIONS, WEAKNESSES AND PEOPLE WHO WOULD TRAMPLE OUR FAITH. WHEN FACED WITH AN ENEMY, REMEMBER THAT GOD HAS A SECRET PLACE FOR US, A PLACE OF PROTECTION, COMFORT AND DIRECTION FOR OUR LIVES. THERE, AS HE DID FOR DAVID IN THE CAVE OF ADULLAM, HE WILL PUT A SONG OF DELIVERANCE IN OUR HEARTS-IF WE WILL TRUST, AS DAVID DID, IN GOD'S LOVE FOR US.

