

I Samuel 21 Notes

We ended last week's chapter with an emotional goodbye between Jonathan and David. Jonathan goes back to Gibeah, but David is now officially alone in exile. He is desperately trying to escape Saul's murderous intentions.

From now until the end of the book of I Samuel, we will see David's forces grow stronger and stronger while Saul's forces get weaker. We are also going to see two important things happening. First, we are going to see how God is going to use the difficulties that David goes through to refine his character and prepare him for the throne. The second thing we are going to see is the sovereignty of God in working out His plans for both Saul and David, and how God works and uses the choices people make to accomplish His will

Verse 1-2

Where are we told David came? _____

Priestly activity, and evidently the tabernacle, were now at Nob
Nob was about one and a half miles northeast of Jerusalem.

We are told David comes to Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech was the brother of Ahijah, who had joined Saul as his spiritual adviser after Samuel was no longer with him (I Samuel 14:3, 22:9)

What is Ahimelech's response to seeing David? _____

He asks David why he's alone with no one with him. As Saul's general, it would have been odd to travel without escorting soldiers.

What is David's answer to Ahimelech's question?

Is this true? _____

We aren't told why David lies to the priest, but it could be because he was unsure if he could trust Ahimelech due to his brother's relationship with Saul, or like others, he thought it was justified to save his life. So David makes up a plausible story for why he would be there on his own.

What does David say about his men? _____

Verses 3-6

What does David ask Ahimelech for? _____

Ahimelech tells David that he doesn't have any ordinary bread. **What does he have?** _____

This consecrated bread, called the bread of the Presence symbolized God's presence among His people as well as His loving care that met their physical needs. This bread was eaten only by the priests that were on duty (Exodus 25:30; Leviticus 24:5-9). This bread would lay on the table of showbread in the tabernacle for a week. Each Sabbath, the priests would replace the bread with fresh loaves.

Ahimelech wants to make sure David's men are ritually clean. David assures the priest that they are.

Matthew 12:1-8 Jesus refers to this event

12 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat. 2 Now when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath!" 3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions— 4 how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone? 5 Or have you not read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple violate the Sabbath, and yet are innocent? 6 But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here. 7 But if you had known what this means: 'I desire compassion, rather than sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

What important truth about God does Ahimelech's provision of bread to David remind us of?

Verses 7

Who happened to be there in Nob that day? _____

Doeg the Edomite sees David. We are told he was detained, but now why. We are also told he is Saul's chief shepherd.

Verses 8-9

What is David asking Ahimelech for now? _____

He says that the king's matter was so urgent that he didn't grab his own sword and weapons.

Whose sword does Ahimelech have? _____

What important truth about God does the sword of Goliath remind David of? (see 1 Sam 17:45-47; also Ex 14:13)

Verses 10-11

Where does David flee to next? _____

It seems the servants of the king recognize him.

How do they describe David here? _____

They had even heard the songs sung about him - "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

Verses 12-15

What are we told David did with these words? _____

We are told he greatly feared the king of Gath

What are we told that David did? _____

He scribbled on doors and drooled on his beard.

How does the king say David is acting? _____

It was the custom to not harm a mentally unstable person. David most likely knew this which was why he did what he did - to protect himself.

We see David lie twice in this passage for the purpose of self preservation. Was David in sin to lie? How is this reconciled with the fact that David is declared a “man after God’s own heart?”

Psalm 34

The Lord, a Provider and the One Who Rescues Me.

***A Psalm* of David, when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed.**

I. David’s Decision: praise the Lord (vs. 1-3)

I will bless the Lord at all times;

His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul will make its boast in the Lord;

The humble will hear it and rejoice.

3 Exalt the Lord with me,

And let’s exalt His name together.

II. David’s journey: seeking the Lord (4-7)

4 I sought the Lord and He answered me,

And rescued me from all my fears.

5 They looked to Him and were radiant,

And their faces will never be ashamed.

6 This wretched man cried out, and the Lord heard *him*,

And saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him,

And rescues them.

III. David’s experience: God’s goodness (8-10)

8 Taste and see that the Lord is good;

How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

9 Fear the Lord, you His saints;

For to those who fear Him there is no lack of *anything*.

10 The young lions do without and suffer hunger;

But they who seek the Lord will not lack any good thing.

IV. David's advice: do good (11-14)

11 Come, you children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Who is the person who desires life

And loves *length of days*, that he may see good?

13 Keep your tongue from evil

And your lips from speaking deceit.

14 Turn from evil and do good;

Seek peace and pursue it.

V. David's awareness: God is watching (15-22)

15 The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous,

And His ears are toward their cry for help.

16 The face of the Lord is against evildoers,

To eliminate the memory of them from the earth.

17 *The righteous* cry out, and the Lord hears

And rescues them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted

And saves those who are [b]crushed in spirit.

19 The afflictions of the righteous are many,

But the Lord rescues him from them all.

20 He protects all his bones,

Not one of them is broken.

21 Evil will bring death to the wicked,

And those who hate the righteous will suffer for their guilt.

22 The Lord redeems the souls of His servants,

And none of those who take refuge in Him will suffer for their guilt.