

## ***1<sup>st</sup> Samuel Chapter 21***

---

V: 1 David knows that he's a marked man, he's leaving Benjamin – Saul's home territory and effectively the capital of his kingdom – and he's headed towards the territory of Judah, which marks the beginning of a 10 year exile and on the way out of town he stops in Nob.

- In un-certain circumstances David does the right thing and goes to the house of the Lord.

**Psalm 23:6** “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

- Nob (Nahb) located between Jerusalem and Anathoth (Anata), a Levitical city still in the territory of Benjamin, possibly on Mt. Scopus.
- The priesthood and Tabernacle had relocated here after the destruction of Shiloh.
- David comes to Ahimelech, the chief priest asking for food.
- Ahimelech is somewhat suspicious as to why David is alone, an un-usual thing for someone of his rank and stature.

V: 2-3 David lies to the priest, telling him that he's on the king's business, top secret business and asks for food, 5 loaves of bread or whatever you have on hand.

**Proverbs 29:25** “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.”

V: 4-6 No common bread, no ordinary or un-sanctified bread.

- Aside from David and Saul and the bigger story it is sad to see that the priesthood seems to have been neglected, the only food to be found is the shew bread, there is little if any other provision – under Saul's reign the priesthood was neglected, sad.
- When you entered into the Tabernacle, the first room or compartment you came to was the “Holy Place” which is different that the “Holy of Hollies”. The Holy Place was where the golden lamp stand or menorah was kept, as you entered it would be just to the left. The lamp stand had a main central lamp with six additional branches each holding an oil fueled lamp which lit the room.
- In the center of the room just before the veil that led to the Holy of Hollies was the altar of incense where the priest would offer incense and pray, then to the right would be the table of shew bread. Upon the table would be twelve loaves of sanctified bread, holy bread which represented the 12 tribes of Israel. Each week the 12 loaves would be replaced with fresh loaves, as the old bread was

brought out it was considered holy and only the priests were to partake of it, in fact they were to consume it completely.

- Ahimelech is saying that this is the only kind of bread that they have, but that if David and his men have sanctified themselves they can have some. Jesus later uses this as an example of reasonably meeting practical needs.

V: 7 One of Saul's servants, Doeg, an Edomite is present to witness these events.

- Whenever you read about so and so the Edomite, think dark cloak and sinister countenance, he will prove to be an evil man.

V: 8-9 Again, rather suspicious that if David were on a mission for the king, he brought no weapons or provision of his own.

- Taking Goliath's sword is symbolic of what David is doing, resorting to the weapons and methods of the enemy.

**2 Corinthians 10:4** "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;"

- David is taking on carnal weapons, sewing to the whirlwind – the results will be grievous.

V: 10-15 The Irony, David takes Goliath's sword back to Gath, Goliath's home town and looks for refuge with Israel's enemies.

- This is a low point for David, hearing from Achish the testimony of former days of glory.
- David then feigned insanity to try to save himself, but was ultimately rejected by the enemy as a mad man.
- David then made his escape.
- David is drooling on himself and looking foolish, but he still has a heart for God and will recover. He penned several Psalms that describe his experiences.

**Psalms 34:1-7, 15-19** "A Psalm of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech who drove him away, and he departed."

**Psalms 52** Describes when Doeg the Edomite told Saul that David had gone to the Philistines.

**Psalms 56** About when the Philistines captured David in Gath.

## 1 Samuel Chapter 22

---

V: 1-2 From **Gath** to the caves of **Adullam** (refuge); where when everybody else figures out where he is, they begin to gather to him – starting with his family.

Map – pictures.

- At this time the Philistines had occupied or taken over Bethlehem, Saul was starting to lose his kingdom regardless of David, he is beginning to be hemmed in on different fronts.
- Saul reigned in Israel for 40 years (Acts 13:21) – history seems to be compressed.
- Not long after this David would lament his desire to drink of the water of Bethlehem and 3 of his soldiers would break through the Philistine lines to get him that drink from the well there – which David would pour out to the Lord. (**2 Samuel 23**)
- If Saul had a “hit list” you can be sure David’s family would be on that list.
- Besides David’s family, those that were in distress, debt, and discontent, discontent with the current administration gathered to David. Saul’s erratic behavior was probably not just limited to David.
- 400 men of war in all, this same group of men would later be called “David’s mighty men of valor” in **2 Samuel 23**.
- We aren’t so different from that group of distressed, discontented, debtors.
- Distressed by the issues of life, un-happy, un-fulfilled, and owing a debt we can never pay. When we too come to our greater than David, King Jesus, when we hang out and have fellowship with him, there is a similar transformation that takes place and we become soldiers in His army, mighty men of valor, conformed into His image.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

- A cave can be a deep, dark, and discouraging place to be, but it’s also a place where God can do some deep works. David wrote Psalms 57 and 147 while hiding in Adullam.

**Psalm 57:5-11** turn to / read

**Psalm 147:3-7** turn to / read

**Romans 5:3-5** “<sup>3</sup>And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; <sup>4</sup>and patience, experience; and experience, hope: <sup>5</sup>And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

V: 3-4 David seeks to protect his parents, honoring his father and his mother by taking them to Moab. David’s great grandmother, Ruth, was a Moabitess.

- It’s sad to think that they would be treated better by Israel’s enemies than by Israel’s king.
- There is a Jewish tradition that states that David’s parents were eventually executed by the Moabite king.

V: 5 Gladly it seems that David has turned a corner, or is on the rebound somewhat and at this time God speaks to David through a prophet warning him not to stay in the cave of Adullam, directing him to the land of Judah (praise) and the forest of Hareth. (South / East of Hebron)

- No more hiding out in the dark place, it’s time to return to the place of praise!

**Psalms 54:6** “I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O Lord; for it is good.”

**Hebrews 13:15** “By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name.”

V: 6-8 Saul hears that David has been discovered, as he waits under a tree with his spear in hand prepared apparently to go after David.

- Saul is aware of the depth of relationship between Jonathan & David; following the typology of Jesus, if we have a true relationship with Jesus other people will know, it can’t be hidden.

V: 7 Hear ye now ye Benjamites: Saul has been playing favorites, giving those of his tribe gifts and privileges which he implies will come to an end if David of the tribe of Judah is king – trying to leverage their loyalty.

- Saul complains that none of his servants seems to be loyal to him, not wanting to say that Jonathan is on David’s side, or that David is conspiring against him.
- Probably because the truth is that David is not lying in wait for Saul or doing anything except running away.

V: 9-10 Doeg the informer now implicates Ahimelech the priest, just that he gave David bread and Goliath’s sword, but lying that Ahimelech had “inquired of the Lord” on David’s behalf.

- This embellishment is intended to indicate that not only is David usurping the right and privilege of the king, but that the priest facilitated or agreed with this usurpation.

V: 11 Saul orders Ahimelech, all his house, and the priests to appear before him to answer to the charges of Doeg the evil Edomite.

- The priests are obedient to the king.

V: 12-15 Ahitub was the last remaining son of Eli, the chief priest – the last vestiges of Eli's lineage is about to be wiped out.

- Upon being questioned, the first thing Ahimelech speaks of is David's innocence and faithfulness.
- In his paranoia Saul imagines that David is conspiring against him and seeking to take the throne by force – none of which are true.
- Ahimelech doesn't deny giving David food and a sword because he didn't know that it was wrong to do so – but he did not inquire of the Lord for David – he didn't know about any of the things that have been taking place with David.

V: 16 Saul apparently doesn't believe the chief priest – who gave a reasonable answer, and commands that he and all his father's house be killed.

- Excessive to say the least, thus demonstrating Saul's hatred and his unreasonable and erratic behavior.

V: 17 Saul orders his guards to kill the priests of the Lord – but they refuse because they fear God more than they fear Saul.

**Psalm 105:15** “Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.”

- To his credit, David would not touch or do harm to God's anointed, but Saul has no such scruples.

V: 18-19 Doeg the Edomite has no such scruples either, he fulfills Saul's wishes and murders 85 of the Lord's priests.

- Wrong as he was to do it, killing Ahimelech was a fulfillment of the judgment laid upon Eli for not restraining and correcting his sons Hophni & Phinehas.

**1 Samuel 3:11-14** “<sup>11</sup>And the Lord said to Samuel, behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. <sup>12</sup>In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them

not. <sup>14</sup>And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever."

- Then Doeg went to Nob, to the Tabernacle and he killed the families of the priests, killing the other men, the women, children, and all their cattle.
- Saul wouldn't be obedient to the word of God to do the same to God's enemies, yet he would murder the servants of God.
- A notable consistency in David's life is that when he sins, other people die.

**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death..."

- The priests and their families died as a result of David's sin in lying to the priest of the Lord.

**Galatians 6:7-8** <sup>7</sup>"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. <sup>8</sup>For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

When we as spiritual leaders sin, others also feel the repercussions

V: 20-23 Somewhere in the midst of the blood shed, one of Ahimelech's sons Abiathar (father of abundance) manages to escape.

- Abiathar flees to David and tells him all that happened.
- David expresses his guilt and remorse, taking responsibility for his actions which caused the death of Abiathar's family.
- David invites Abiathar to stay with him now that they are in the same boat.
- Abiathar goes on to become the chief priest in David's kingdom, but after his treachery with Absalom, Solomon removes him from the priesthood thus completing Eli's legacy.

---

David is now somewhat in exile waiting to assume the throne – and who is with him?

The distressed, discontent, and debtors – all of us. Who else is with him? The prophet Gad, the priest Abiathar, with the anointed king of Israel, David.

Prophet, Priest, King = Jesus.

**Revelation 22:20** "He which testifieth these things saith, surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."