

## Sunday Night Message

November 17, 2019

*David's Evasion of Saul; Saul's Extermination of the Priests*

Topics – Saul; David; Nob; Ahimelech; Doeg

Series – *1 Samuel*

Text – 1 Samuel 22

### Introduction

In chapter 21 we followed David as he was on the run from Saul. He travelled to Nob and received some food and a sword from Ahimelech, the priest. Out of sheer desperation, he then went down to the city of Gath in the land of the Philistines where he pretends to be insane. The king, Achish, apparently believes the ruse, and is reluctant to kill David and allows him to escape.

In chapter 22, David is still on the run, and Saul is still consumed with killing him and anybody who helps him.

#### 1. The Safety of David's People (vs. 1 – 5)

Upon leaving the land of the Philistines, David travels into and through remote areas so as to keep away from Saul who is now passionately pursuing him. It would have been fairly easy to escape from Saul had he have been travelling alone or perhaps only with a small company, but David's travelling group is growing.

The first place David stops is a cave near Adullam, which is approximately 17 miles SW of Jerusalem, and 10 miles SE of Gath.

Psalms 57 and 142 may have been written at this location, though David hid in other caves as well (1 Samuel 24:3).

##### a. His Endangered Family (v. 1)

His family has now become the enemy of Saul as well, and will meet him at the cave in Adullam. Practical Point – Your actions, both good and bad, will affect other people. Bad actions almost always have a negative effect on others, but sometimes even good actions will bring about negative effects. David did nothing wrong, but his family was negatively affected by his good actions.

##### b. His Enlisted Friends (v. 2)

There were a lot of people (400) in the kingdom who were not happy with King Saul, and even some who were in trouble because of their own actions. These people flee Saul's kingdom to join up with David. The group would grow to 600 in the next chapter (See 23:13).

It is interesting that though David was "public enemy # 1," he was still the person that people flocked to for protection. No doubt people recognized that God's hand was on David.

##### c. His Earlier Foe (vs. 3 – 4)

David goes to one of Israel's former foes, Moab. They provide safe harbor to David's family. Perhaps David's family stayed with their relatives. David's great-grandmother was Ruth, a woman from Moab.

d. His Encouraging Friend (v. 5)

God comes to David through the prophet Gad. God may not be speaking to Saul, but He is still speaking to David.

How encouraging it is to have a "friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24), when you are going through a difficult time.

God told David through the prophet that he needed to get back to Judah. He didn't need to run away from Saul. God would protect David in Israel, the place of God's will for David's life.

## 2. The Slaughter of God's Priests (vs. 6 – 19)

a. Saul's Conspiracy Theories (vs. 6 – 15)

Saul is convinced that his son has conspired against him; that his men have conspired against him; and that the priests have conspired against him.

Practical Point – When you are no longer trusting in God, you will quickly realize (and rightly so) that men are sometimes untrustworthy, but you might come to think that everybody is against you. You will see enemies that are not really there.

*"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)*

b. Saul's Cruel Transgression (vs. 16 – 19)

Saul's insanity now brings him to the point where he commits perhaps the most horrific act of his life. He kill all of the priests, and their families in the Levitical town of Nob.

## 3. The Sole Survivor of the Priestly Line (vs. 20 – 23)

a. Abiathar Runs Away (v. 20)

b. David Takes Responsibility (vs. 21 – 23)

I wonder how Abiathar felt toward David when he discovered that David's actions had indirectly caused the death of his entire family and extended family.

# DAVID'S FLIGHT FROM SAUL

- City
- ① Numbered movements of David
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Mizpah of Moab #5)
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Keilah #8)
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Wilderness of Maon #13)
- ← Route of David from Saul (as far as Ziklag #15)
- ← David's offensive actions (#16-19)
- ← David becomes king at Hebron (#20)
- ★ Battle scene

