

1 Samuel 22:11–23

¹¹Then the king sent someone to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's household, the priests who were in Nob; and all of them came to the king.

¹²Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord."

¹³Saul then said to him, "Why have you and the son of Jesse conspired against me, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he would rise up against me by lying in ambush as it is this day?"

¹⁴Then Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, even the king's son-in-law, who is captain over your guard, and is honored in your house?"

¹⁵"Did I just begin to inquire of God for him today? Far be it from me! Do not let the king impute anything to his servant or to any of the household of my father, for your servant knows nothing at all of this whole affair."

¹⁶But the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's household!"

¹⁷And the king said to the guards who were attending him, "Turn around and put the priests of the LORD to death, because their hand also is with David and because they knew that he was fleeing and did not reveal it to me." But the servants of the king were not willing to put forth their hands to attack the priests of the LORD.

¹⁸Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn around and attack the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned around and attacked the priests, and he killed that day eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod.

¹⁹And he struck Nob the city of the priests with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and infants; also oxen, donkeys, and sheep he struck with the edge of the sword.

²⁰But one son of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David.

²¹Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.

²²Then David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have brought about the death of every person in your father's household.

²³"Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life, for you are safe with me."

David Flees, Saul Kills *1 Samuel 22:1-23*

INTRO:

The purpose of this chapter is to detail Saul rejection of God entirely while highlighting David's absolute embracing of the LORD.

I. David Flees to the Cave of Adullam (v. 1-5)

II. Saul Totally Rejects God (v.6-19)

III. But David Embraces God (v. 20-23)

I. David Flees to the Cave of Adullam (v. 1-5)

A. David continued his fleeing from Saul, but not in Philistia (verse 1-2).

“David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father’s house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.”

At first David felt alone and abandoned in the cave.

1. In the cave, David wrote Psalm 142. The LORD wanted us to understand that David was human and felt the same emotions we feel in difficult situations. **(Psalm 142:4-7)**
“No one cares for my soul. I cried out to You, O LORD: I said, ‘You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. Attend to my cry, For I am brought very low; Deliver me from my persecutors, For they are stronger than I. Bring my soul out of prison, That I may praise Your name; The righteous shall surround me, For You shall deal bountifully with me.’”

2. Then, David's family and the beginnings of his army come to him there.

B. David provided for his family. When his family fled to him for protection, David had a problem. Where can Mom and Dad be safe? He turned to the king of Moab. Did the fact that his great grandmother was Ruth the Moabite help? Most likely it did, and God had worked all of that out divinely years in advance.

C. David listened to God through Gad the prophet. The last picture of David we see is him obeying the Word of God through Gad the prophet. We may not have a prophet today but we do have the Word of the Lord. **(2 Peter 1:19)**

“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed [made more sure], which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”

II. Saul Totally Rejects God (v.6-19)

A. Now the literary camera cuts to King Saul and his giant pity party in Gibeah. God showed us Saul’s insane jealousy in his statements. (vs.7-8)

“Then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, ‘Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds? All of you have conspired against me, and there is no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; 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.’”

Saul was consumed with lies he told himself. Saul had lost touch with reality.

B. Doeg betrayed and slaughtered God’s representatives and their city. Then Doeg the Edomite, (do you remember him from 1 Samuel 21?) Doeg betrays Ahimelech and all of God’s priests. What follows is King Saul’s final rejection of the LORD. He ordered all of the priests killed. His last word in this text is, ***“Kill the priests of the LORD.”***

C. God’s victory in spite of the defeat. Before we consider the rest of the story we must recognize although God allowed this tragedy, it had a purpose. We see this principle in Peter’s prayer in **Acts 4:27-28**.

“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.”

III. But David Embraces God (v. 20-23)

A. Abiathar, the priest, comes to David with the ephod. (v.20)

“Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David.”

Because Ahimelech is dead, Abiathar is now God’s high priest and he is with David. Saul tried to destroy those who represented the living God in Israel.

B. David, pledges to protect God’s priest because he is committed to the LORD. (v.23)

“Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe.”

While Saul tried to destroy God's influence in Israel by destroying the LORD's high priest, all the other priests, and Nob, David, did just the opposite. He wanted God's priest with Him because He loved the LORD and he provided protection.

Saul wanted God out of his life. He was happy when God blessed every move he made. However, when God made demands on his life and directed what he should do. He rebelled against God and then tried to destroy both God's anointed, David, the son of Jesse and God's representatives in Israel. Saul actually tried to destroy God's influence in Israel because he did not want God's will to be supreme in his life. David loved the LORD and tried to obey Him. Saul hated God and attempted to destroy His representatives.

David had the ministry of the LORD's prophet and the LORD's priest. We too have the priest of God's prophet and priest. That is because we have the final revelation of God in His Son and we have access into the very throne room of God in our great high priest the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember **2 Peter 1:19**,

"So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts."