

Introduction

Here we see David as a fugitive from King Saul. He is on the run for his life! He received a clear signal from his dear friend Jonathan that his father, King Saul, was bent on killing him.

I. DAVID FLED TO A PLACE CALLED NOB. (1 Samuel 21:1-9)

A. David's Had An Audience With A Priest. (Vs 1)

(1 Samuel 22:19 calls Nob "*the city of priests*")

When David got to Nob, he approached a **priest** by the name of **Ahimelech and had a private audience with him.**

B. David's Deception Before The Priest. (Vs 2)

We need to understand that David wasn't perfect. He was just like us in that sometimes he didn't always do the right thing!

David was on the run from King Saul and anyone that knew this wasn't likely to help him out of their fear of Saul. So he lied to the priest about what he was doing making it appear he was on a secret mission for King Saul.

We will see later that helping David cost Ahimelech and 84 other priests their lives. In fact the residents of the whole city of Nob were murdered by Saul's servants. And we will see David actually acknowledge his part in these deaths.

C. David's Request For Bread From The Priest. (Vs 3-6)

David has nothing with him, so **he requested bread for himself and his men.**

We see that **there wasn't any bread available except the hallowed or holy shewbread** which was replaced in the Holy Place weekly. Normally the priests kept that bread for themselves to eat when they replaced it, but the priest gave the bread to David.

Jesus made reference to this event when he was questioned about eating grain on a Sabbath in **Luke 6:1-5**. Jesus' point was that **the Law was given for the benefit of man**, and not as a bondage. **The focus of law is not on keeping the rituals but in honoring of God.**

There was a real need here (just as there was with the disciples in Jesus' time), and the LORD PROVIDED for David!

D. The Mention Of Doeg The Edomite. (Vs 7)

Here we see the first mention of a certain individual (Doeg the Edomite) who was affiliated with Saul—in fact, it says that he was the chiefest of Saul's herdsman.

This is a rather innocuous mention of Doeg, but we will come to know this character better when we get to chapter 22.

The text says that he had been "*detained before the LORD*". We are not told the reason, but it could have been on account of **some uncleanness, or under the law of lepers**. And it is not impossible that Doeg **may have been in custody or in sanctuary for some crime**. Whatever the reason, **the word "detained" suggests that it was against his will!**

So, understand that he might have been looking for a chance to do Ahimelech the priest in. Whatever the reason that he was there and whatever his state of mind was, he nevertheless **saw all of what Ahimelech had done for David!**

And later we will see Doeg's treachery in (1 Samuel 22:6-23) We will see that Doeg is an opportunist who held on to this information until he could use it to maximum effect!

E. David Secures A Weapon. (Vs 8-9)

He secures the sword of Goliath that had been put up after David slew Goliath and cut his head off with it.

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
DAVID ON THE RUN!—PART 1
1 SAMUEL 21:1-15; 22:1-23

II. DAVID FLED TO A PLACE CALLED GATH.
(1 Samuel 21:10-14)

David, in fear is fleeing from Saud and decided to go to Gath the Philistine city where Goliath was from. David had notoriety there—he killed Goliath, their champion! He is an Israelite in a Philistine city! Even the Philistines have heard that he has been anointed to be king of Israel! They had also heard of David’s other successes!

Though he tried to keep a low profile, he was recognized by the servants of the King of Gath (Achish). Go figure!

The Scripture says that he was *“sore afraid”*...terrified if you will! Believing that his life was in danger he pretended to be crazy!

Psalm 34 is a Psalm that David wrote at this particular time in his life! (*Read the heading of the Psalm...Understand that Achish and Abimelech are one in the same person.*)

This is an interesting Psalm that is actually an acrostic in Hebrew. Every verse begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet! This is a device that was often used to aid in memorizing the text!

David wanted his experience and his escape and all the lessons he learned to be remembered! So he made it easy with this device!

1. DAVID’S PRAISE FOR THE LORD! (Psalm 34:1-10)

A. We See What David Resolved. (Vs 1-3)

Here we see that the most effective prescription for our lives when we are poisoned by **doubt, depression, or despair** is to **bless or praise the LORD!**

Always remember how God is Sovereign and continually at work in our lives in both the good things and the bad that come our way! (*cf. Romans 8:28*)

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
DAVID ON THE RUN!—PART 1
1 SAMUEL 21:1-15; 22:1-23

B. We See What David Remembered. (Vs 4-6)

Remember David had been *“sore afraid”* to begin with!

You might could say that he was in a pickle of a position! (He’s the one who killed Goliath and he shows up in Goliath’s hometown of Gath!)

He could not look to Goliath’s demise for help!
He could not look to Goliath’s sword for help!
He could not look to Goliath’s king for help!

He had to seek the LORD! **(Vs 4)**

He had to look unto the LORD! **(Vs 5)**

He had to cry unto the LORD! **(Vs 6)**

It sure wasn’t his great acting skills that saved him. Notice how he reveals that the LORD DELIVERED him. **(Vs 2 and 4)**

C. We See What David Realized. (Vs 7-10)

Looking back at this nerve racking experience, David realized two wonderful truths:

1. The LORD Protects His Own! (Vs 7)

“The angel of the LORD” = pre-incarnate manifestation of Jesus Christ!

Here the angel of the LORD is seen protecting the saint. In 35:5, He is seen pursuing the sinner!

2. The LORD Provides For His Own! (Vs 8-10)

DAVID’S PRAISE OF THE LORD...

2. DAVID’S PROCLAMATION OF THE LORD!

A. David’s Call To Harken! (Vs 11-12)

B. David’s Case To His Hearers! (Vs 13-22)

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
DAVID ON THE RUN!—PART 1
1 SAMUEL 21:1-15; 22:1-23

- 1. David's Exhortation To Righteousness!**
(Vs 13-16)
 - a. Watch Your Words! (Vs 13)**
 - b. Watch Your Walk! (Vs 14)**
 - c. Watch Your Works! (Vs 15-16)**
- 2. David's Example Of Righteousness!**
(Vs 17-20)
- 3. David's Exaltation Of Righteousness!**
(Vs 21-22)