

1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 22

¹ And David departed from there, and escaped. And he came to the cave of Adullam. And his brothers heard, and the house of his father, and they went down to him there. ² And everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was troubled in mind gathered to him there, and he was a leader over them, and there were with him about four hundred men.

³ And David departed from there to Mizpah of Moab, and said to the king of Moab, "Let my father and my mother be with you here, until I know what God will do to me." ⁴ And he persuaded the King of Moab, and they dwelt with him continually, while David was in the stronghold. ⁵ And Gad the prophet said to David, "Do not dwell in the stronghold: go, and you shall enter the land of Judah." So David went, and came and dwelt in the city of Hereth.

⁶ And Saul heard that David was discovered, and his men with him. Now Saul dwelt in the hill below the field that is in Ramah, and his spear was in his hand, and all his servants stood near him. ⁷ And Saul said to his servants that stood by him, "Hear now, you sons of Benjamin, will the son of Jesse indeed give all of you fields and vineyards, and will he make you all captains of hundreds and captains of thousands?" ⁸ For you *are* all conspiring against me, and there is no one that informs me, whereas my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or informs me, that my son has stirred up my servant against me for an enemy, as it is this day?"

⁹ And Doeg the Syrian who was over the mules of Saul answered and said, "I saw the son of Jesse as he came to Nob, to Abimelech son of Ahitub the priest. ¹⁰ And the priest inquired of God for him, and gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

¹¹ And the king sent to call Abimelech son of Ahitub and all his father's sons, the priests that were in Nob; and they all came to the king. ¹² And Saul said, "Hear now, you son of Ahitub." And he said, "Behold, I am here, speak, my lord." ¹³ And Saul said to him, "Why have you and the son of Jesse conspired against me, that you should give him bread and a sword, and should inquire of God for him, to raise him up against me as an enemy, as he is this day?" ¹⁴ And he answered the king and said, "And who is there among all your servants as faithful as David, and he is a son-in-law of the king, and he is executor of all your commands, and is honorable in your house?" ¹⁵ Have I begun today to inquire of God for him? By no means: let not the king bring a charge against his servant, and against any of my father's house, for your servant knew nothing about these matters, great or small." ¹⁶ And King Saul said, "You shall surely die, Abimelech; you and all your father's house." ¹⁷ And the king said to the bodyguards that attended on him, "Come here and kill the priests of the Lord, because their hand is with David, and because they knew that he fled, and they did not inform me." But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to fall upon the priest of the Lord. ¹⁸ And the king said to Doeg, "Turn, and fall upon the priests." So Doeg the Syrian turned, and killed the priests of the Lord in that day, three hundred and five men, all wearing an ephod. ¹⁹ And he struck Nob, the city of the priest, with the edge of the sword, both man and woman, infant and suckling, calf and ox, and also sheep.

²⁰ And one son of Abimelech son of Ahitub escaped, and his name was Abiathar, and he fled after David. ²¹ And Abiathar told David that Saul had slain all the priests of the Lord. ²² And David said to Abiathar, "I knew it in that day, that Doeg the Syrian would surely tell Saul: I am guilty of the death of the house of your father. ²³ Dwell with me; fear not, for wherever I shall seek a place of safety for my life, I will also seek a place for your life, for you are safely guarded while *you are* with me."