

David Departs from Saul

Begins to Build His Team

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What We Will Learn

- David departed Saul's service
- Saul was determined to kill him
- Sought to build a team
- To protect him from Saul
- Joined by people that needed relief
- He could help them as they help him
- 1 Samuel 21 and 22

His Task After Leaving Saul

- David knew Saul was determined to kill him
- He departed from Saul
- He needed to build a team
- Food and supplies
- Weapon
- People
- A place he is protected from Saul

At Nob with Ahimelech the Priest

- Ahimelech was alarmed David was alone
- David concealed his mission
- Asked for food, supplies, and weapon
- Got holy bread
- Got Goliath's sword
- Doeg the Edomite witnessed the interaction
- 1 Samuel 21:1–9

1 Samuel 21 (NIV)

1 David went to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he met him, and asked, "Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?"

2 David answered Ahimelech the priest, "The king charged me with a certain matter and said to me, 'No one is to know anything about your mission and your instructions.' As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place.

3 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find."

4 But the priest answered David, "I don't have any ordinary bread on hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here—provided the men have kept themselves from women."

5 David replied, "Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever I set out. The men's things are holy even on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!"

1 Samuel 21 (NIV)

6 So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

7 Now one of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before the LORD; he was Doeg the Edomite, Saul's head shepherd.

8 David asked Ahimelech, "Don't you have a spear or a sword here? I haven't brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king's business was urgent."

9 The priest replied, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one." David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."

David Concealed His Mission

- Understood Ahimelech owed loyalty to Saul
- Wanted to protect the priest from knowledge of his flight from Saul
- Ahimelech will not need to lie to Saul to protect David
- Ahimelech did not “need to know”
- David considered realities around Ahimelech in making demands on him

Palace of Achish, King of Gath

- Philistine territory
- David thought he could hide from Saul here
- Servants of Achish recognized him
- Acted insane to disguise himself
- Achish asked the “madman” be removed from his palace
- 1 Samuel 21:10–15

1 Samuel 21 (NIV)

10 That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath.

11 But the servants of Achish said to him, "Isn't this David, the king of the land? Isn't he the one they sing about in their dances: "'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands'?"

12 David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath.

13 So he pretended to be insane in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

14 Achish said to his servants, "Look at the man! He is insane! Why bring him to me?"

15 Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here to carry on like this in front of me? Must this man come into my house?"

Adullam Cave

- Joined here by his brothers
- Father's household
- People that needed relief under Saul
- Initial team of about 400 men
- 1 Samuel 22:1–2

1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there.

2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

Mizpah with King of Moab

- David left his parents with the king of Moab
- 1 Samuel 22:3–4

3 From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?"

4 So he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was in the stronghold.

Forest of Hereth in Judah

- Prophet Gad advised David to move to land of Judah
- David moved to forest of Hereth
- 1 Samuel 22:5

5 But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

Saul Desperate to Find David

- Accused his staff of conspiring with David
 - Complained no one told him his son made covenant with David
 - No one is concerned about him
 - No one told him his son incited David to setup ambush for him
- Doeg the Edomite told about David's encounter with Ahimelech
- 1 Samuel 22:6–10

1 Samuel 22 (NIV)

6 Now Saul heard that David and his men had been discovered. And Saul, spear in hand, was seated under the tamarisk tree on the hill at Gibeah, with all his officials standing around him.

7 Saul said to them, "Listen, men of Benjamin! Will the son of Jesse give all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make all of you commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds?"

8 Is that why you have all conspired against me? No one tells me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is concerned about me or tells me that my son has incited my servant to lie in wait for me, as he does today."

9 But Doeg the Edomite, who was standing with Saul's officials, said, "I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob.

10 Ahimelech inquired of the LORD for him; he also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

Saul Accuses Ahimelech

- Accused Ahimelech of conspiring with David against him (Saul)
 - Gave bread and sword to David
 - Inquired of God for him
 - Conspired with David to setup ambush
- 1 Samuel 22:11–13

1 Samuel 22 (NIV)

11 Then the king sent for the priest Ahimelech son of Ahitub and his father's whole family, who were the priests at Nob, and they all came to the king.

12 Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." "Yes, my lord," he answered.

13 Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, giving him bread and a sword and inquiring of God for him, so that he has rebelled against me and lies in wait for me, as he does today?"

Ahimelech Denies the Charges

- He knew David was loyal servant to Saul
- David was the king's son-in-law
- Captain of Saul's bodyguard
- Highly respected in the king's household
- Inquired of God for David several times previously
- Knows nothing about Saul-David problems
- 1 Samuel 22:14–14



1 Samuel 22 (NIV)

14 Ahimelech answered the king, "Who of all your servants is as loyal as David, the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard and highly respected in your household?"

15 Was that day the first time I inquired of God for him? Of course not! Let not the king accuse your servant or any of his father's family, for your servant knows nothing at all about this whole affair."

Saul Kills Family of Priests

- Saul sentenced Ahimelech and father's family to death
- He ordered his guards to kill them but the guards could not
- He ordered Doeg the Edomite
- Doeg massacred all 85 priests
- 1 Samuel 22:16–19



1 Samuel 22 (NIV)

16 But the king said, "You will surely die, Ahimelech, you and your father's whole family."

17 Then the king ordered the guards at his side: "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because they too have sided with David. They knew he was fleeing, yet they did not tell me." But the king's officials were not willing to raise a hand to strike the priests of the LORD.

18 The king then ordered Doeg, "You turn and strike down the priests." So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod.

19 He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with its men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys and sheep.

One Person Escapes the Massacre

- Abiathar, Ahimelech's son, escaped
- He joined David
- Stay with me; don't be afraid; the man seeking your life is seeking mine also
- The Nob massacre increased the number dissatisfied with Saul
- And increased David's team
- 1 Samuel 22:20–23

Concluding Remarks

- David setup a team to protect him from Saul
- People that needed relief under Saul
- He could help them as they help him
- An alliance that offers something to every member has a good chance of success
- Saul's persecution drove people to David