

David, the Schemer

1 Sam 21:1-15

- I. David Rejected By Saul (19.1—31.13)
 - A. David Protected by Jonathan (19.1-10)
 - B. David Protected by Michal (19.11-17)
 - C. David Protected by Samuel (19.18-24)
 - D. David Protected by Jonathan (20.1-42)
 - E. David Protected by Abimelech (21.1-9)

1 Sam 21:1

To Nob: “a knoll” or “hill.” Little town next to Jerusalem.

Israel plagued with sins of priests.

Shiloh deserted and desolate.

Religious activities transferred to Nob

85 priests working in temple to bring revival to Israel.

David hoping that priest cooperative with him and feed him and followers.

and Ahimelech was afraid ...

...he went trembling to meet him.

Is David putting everyone's life in jeopardy?

1 Sam 21:2

I'm on a secret mission for King Saul.

David taking matters into own hands.

This little white lie ends up with horrendous disaster.

Every living soul in Nob is obliterated

1 Sam 21:3-4

Only thing have is shewbread.

For young men who have not been impure

This was unleavened bread that sat for 7 days...stale

1 Sam 21:5-6

Don't be concerned

Ahimelech saw need of hunger outweighed letter of law.

1 Sam 21:7

Edomites: descendents of Esau, had birthright taken by Jacob.

Hatred and animosity of Esau and descendents toward descendents of Jacob.

Occupied most southern part of Palestine.

Doeg considered traitor of his family.

No regard for Jehovah or priests of Israel.

Chapter 22--Saul finds out

Orders death of Ahimelech and all priests—85 in all.

Kill all men, women, children, infants, oxen, donkeys and sheep (22:19).

What a price to pay for trying to do things in flesh and for lying.

Psa 51:14 Psa 119:29

1 Sam 21:8-9

Ephod: linen garment, possibly short skirt, apron, or loin cloth.

High priest wore it, as well as regular priests.

David wore it when danced in procession (2 Sam 6:14).

Made of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen,

Held together by two shoulder-pieces and skillfully woven band which served as a girdle for ephod.

On shoulder pieces were two onyx stones ...engraved names of twelve tribes of Israel.

Attached -- breastplate containing twelve precious stones in four rows.

Associated with presence of God

Portrayed as source of divine guidance 1 Sam. 23:9-12 1 Sam. 30:7-8.

Sword of Goliath wrapped in a cloth (keep from rusting) behind the ephod.

Ephod hanging in front to remind that God is alive and real.

Powell: *This part of David's life might be summarized under three headings:*

1. *His faltering faith,*
2. *His fermenting fear, and*
3. *His frightening future.*

He appears to have reached the place where he believed that God helps those who help themselves!

F. David Protected by Achish (21.10-15)

1 Sam 21:10

FB Meyer: *As soon as Sabbath was over he left the spot, and hurriedly struck out across the hills in a southwesterly direction until he cut the deep depression of the valley of Elah, where he had achieved the great victory of his life. Ten miles beyond lay the proud Philistine city of Gath that at that time had sent its champion forth in all the pride of his stature and strength. Behind, David had left an implacable foe. What worse fate could await him at Gath than that which threatened him each hour he lingered within the limits of Judah! He therefore resolved to make the plunge, probably hoping that the shepherd boy of years ago would not be recognized in the mature warrior, or that the Philistines would be glad to have his aid in their wars against his countrymen.*

Gath: city of Philistines, enemies of Israel.

One of 5 most important cities of Philistines.

Surrounded by walls...18 miles inland from Mediterranean sea...65 miles from Jerusalem.

People were nomads

Hometown of Goliath and family.

First time for David to be out of own country.

Powell: *...Poor man, he was running away from his problems, and difficulties are seldom removed by such action. In more senses than one, the fugitive had turned his back on the sanctuary. His actions had left Nob in shambles; his stupidity eventually stained its streets with the blood of God's priests (1 Sam. 22:16-19). At that time David probably believed that he had reached the end of his career and considered, as did Jonah, that the safest thing to do was to run away. It is extremely fortunate for both men that they failed to outrun God!*

1 Sam 21:11

Why David choose Gath?

- Think they accept him with open arms knowing he was being hunted down by king.
- Think that David wanted to defend himself against Saul
- No one recognize him ... dwell with them in obscurity.

1 Sam 21:12

David aware of hostility of people.

Fears for his life.

Psa 34:6-7, 22

1 Sam 21:13 And he changed his behaviour before them, ...

David aware of people's fear of unknown.

Aware of fear of evil spirits.

Fakes insanity and demon possession.

scrabbled: scribbled.

let his spittle fall down upon his beard

Culture--men never allow beard to be deranged.

Powell: *the gate or the door upon which David scrawled, scratched, or made indentations was probably in the chamber adjacent to the throne room. There the noblemen, courtiers, and distinguished visitors awaited an audience with the king. David's desperate fear added reality to his performance*

...when every one of your crutches is removed, things begin to erode. As the erosion continues, you begin to think differently. And then you begin to replace those thoughts with strange thoughts. And then you begin to lose sight of the truth. And then you hit bottom.

1 Sam 21:14-15

Mad: to rave through insanity

Even enemies of his enemies don't want him around.

Swindoll: *David had a position and he lost it. He had a wife and he lost her. He had a wise counselor, and he lost him. He had a friend, and he*

lost him. He had self-respect, and he lost it. Not unlike Job, it hit him with such back-to-back force, his head must have spun for hours.

There might be centuries between us and David, but this man and his experiences are more relevant than ever in our times. One of those is the very familiar experience of leaning on others, other people and other things, rather than leaning on the Lord. David knew what it meant to have the crutches stripped away, and so do we.

David at the bottom.

3 of his schemes:

- *Tell Saul I went to Bethlehem to celebrate the new moon feast with my family.*
Result: He and Jonathan become separated for good.
- *I am here at the temple on a mission of the king. Feed me and my men...*
Result: 85 priests murdered and whole city wiped out.
- *I am a crazy man scrabbling on the door of your courtroom.*
Result: Poor testimony before king of Gath

Don't forget:

1. It is Always right to turn to God. 1 John 1:9
2. Being Responsible means trusting God.

Getz: ...trusting God doesn't mean we are not responsible. When David took on Goliath, he had a plan. But that plan was born in prayer and under girded by faith. David knew he could do nothing without God's help. Furthermore, at that time David was straightforward and honest. He gave glory and honor to God.

Blaiklock: David was a man after God's heart because he knew repentance, because he could bow with humility beneath chastening, and because his life fed on faith in a grand unfolding plan.