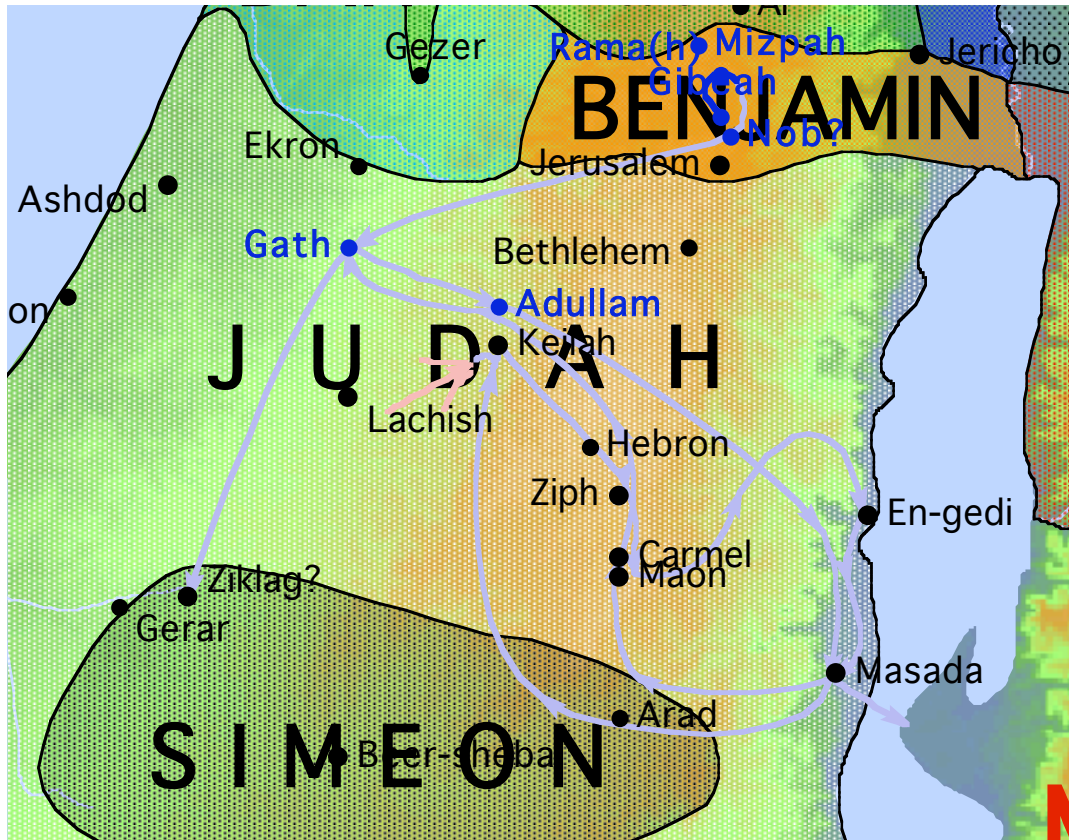


Flight, Foe, & Refuge



Passages: 1 Samuel 21-22

1 Samuel 21:1-9 – David Gets Assistance from Ahimelech at Nob

21:1 Then David came to Nob to Ahimelech the priest; and Ahimelech came trembling to meet David and said to him, “Why are you alone and no one with you?”

2 David said to Ahimelech the priest, “The king has commissioned me with a matter and has said to me, ‘Let no one know anything about the matter on which I am sending you and with which I have commissioned you; and I have directed the young men to a certain place.’” 3 “Now therefore, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever can be found.”

4 The priest answered David and said, “There is no ordinary bread on hand, but there is consecrated bread; if only the young men have kept themselves from women.”

5 David answered the priest and said to him, “Surely women have been kept from us as previously when I set out and the vessels of the young men were holy, though it was an ordinary journey; how much more then today will their vessels *be holy*?”

6 So the priest gave him consecrated *bread*; for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence which was removed from before the LORD, in order to put hot bread *in its place* when it was taken away.

7 Now one of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul’s shepherds.

8 David said to Ahimelech, “Now is there not a spear or a sword on hand? For I brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king’s matter was urgent.”

9 Then the priest said, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah, behold, it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod; if you would take it for yourself, take *it*. For there is no other except it here.” And David said, “There is none like it; give it to me.”

1 Samuel 21:10-15 – David Goes Insane in Danger at Gath

21:10 Then David arose and fled that day from Saul, and went to Achish king of Gath.

21:11 But the servants of Achish said to him, “Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of this one as they danced, saying,

‘Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands?’”

21:12 David took these words to heart and greatly feared Achish king of Gath. 21:13 So he disguised his sanity before them, and acted insanely in their hands, and scribbled on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva run down into his beard.

14 Then Achish said to his servants, “Behold, you see the man behaving as a madman. Why do you bring him to me? 15 “Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this one to act the madman in my presence? Shall this one come into my house?”

1 Samuel 22:1-5 – David Finds Refuge at Adullam and Moab

22:1 So David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam; and when his brothers and all his father’s household heard *of it*, they went down there to him.

22:2 Everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him; and he became captain over them. Now there were about four hundred men with him.

22:3 And David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, “Please let my father and my mother come *and stay* with you until I know what God will do for me.”

22:4 Then he left them with the king of Moab; and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

22:5 The prophet Gad said to David, “Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah.” So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

1 Samuel 22:6-23 – Saul’s Revenge, Doeg’s Violence, David’s Friends

22:6 Then Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered. Now Saul was sitting in Gibeah, under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing around him.

22:7 Saul said to his servants who stood around him, “Hear now, O Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse also give to all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds? 22:8 “For all of you have conspired against me so that there is no one who discloses to me when my son makes a *covenant* with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you who is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me to lie in ambush, as *it is* this day.”

22:9 Then Doeg the Edomite, who was standing by the servants of Saul, said, “I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. 22:10 “He inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.”

22:11 ¶ Then 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.

22:12 Saul said, “Listen now, son of Ahitub.” And he answered, “Here I am, my lord.”

22:13 Saul 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?”

22:14 ¶ Then 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?”

22:15 “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.”

22:16 But the king said, “You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father’s household!”

22:17 And 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.

22:18 Then 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.

22:19 And 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.

22:20 ¶ But one son of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David.

22:21 Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.

22:22 Then 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.

22:23 “Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life, for you are safe with me.”

Sacred Story: The Life of David
Week 9
1Samuel 21-22

STORY SPECIFICS

1. Look back several verses. What happened just before this passage begins?

2. Who are the main characters in the passage? Name and, as much as possible, describe their immediate situation and state of mind and soul in this passage. What do you see about them that makes them “real people” to you?

Focus Questions:

a. Where does David go first when he flees and is in need?

b. How does God provide for him?

c. Doeg is also first introduced at a sanctuary. What is he seeking, and what does he do?

3. What words or phrases do you see repeated in the passage?

4. What possible themes could this passage be addressing?

STORY INTERPRETATION

1. How does this story fit into the larger story of David and how God is working through him to establish His kingdom?

2. What do you understand of David from this passage that confirms him as a “man after God’s own heart?”

Focus Questions:

a. When David is in need or in danger, to whom does he turn?

b. How does David seek God’s will in this trial?

c. Where does David find strength, protection, and direction?

d. Compare David's reliance on the source of his strength to Saul and his relationship to the priests and prophets.

3. David is a flawed man. What flaw(s) do you see in this passage, and how does David respond in situations where his flaws are exposed?

FROM DAVID'S STORY TO OUR STORY

1. How does this passage help you see what God could be doing in your story to accomplish something for His story (His kingdom)?

Focus Question:

a. As you recall David's response in need or danger, how is God strengthening you in Christ through a particular difficulty you are now facing?

2. How does David's recognition of and response to his flaws compare with yours?

3. How might the Spirit be transforming you to look more like Christ?

What would be different about you?

How has the work of Christ provided what you need to be transformed?

How will you respond to Him?