

David's Flock Begins To Grow (1 Sam. 22)

What David Learned On The Run In Gath

1. Take counsel: David made foolish mistakes because he failed to seek the Lord.
2. Don't surrender to fear: After this we never really see David afraid. (See Ps. 34, 56.)

In The Cave (1 Sam. 22:1-2)

1 David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. 2 And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

- Adullam = *justice for the people*.
- The first to come were his family, but this could have been for their preservation.
- Three groups of men coming to David:
 - Men in **distress**. In Hebrew, something that is narrow.
 - Men in **debt**. Technically, this was usury, or excessive interest.
 - Men who were **discontented**, or bitter in their souls.
 - David became their prince and gave them a purpose!

Christ, Our Prince Like David

- Jesus is hidden from the world, but people in trouble can find Him, in a place that speaks of justice for the people.
- Jesus, like David, receives people in distress
- Christ receives people who are in debt. (Colossians 2:14: blotting out our debt!)
- Jesus receives the discontented, giving them His easy yoke.
- Everyone is welcome, and He receives the world, symbolized by the number 400.
- Jesus became our Prince, just like David became theirs, giving us purpose.
- The Devil had his own mighty men, the giants of Genesis who were mighty men, or *gibborim*. David created his own *gibborim*, because under his leadership, about three dozen became known as the *Gibborim*, the Mighty Men of David.

David's Parents (1 Sam. 22:3-4)

3 Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me." 4 So he brought them before the king of Moab, and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

- Moab and Ammon, were the cousin nations of Israel, descendants of Lot.
- The King of Moab must have known that David was Saul's rival.
- There may also have been family ties. Jesse's grandmother was Ruth the Moabite.
- This is a rare reference to David's mother, mentioned only here and in Psalm 86: *"Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your maidservant."* (Ps. 86:16)

The Tradition Of Nitzvet

Jewish tradition (the Talmud) talks about David’s mother, called Nitzvet. In this story:

- David was despised by his brothers, who considered him illegitimate.
- Jesse was troubled about his Moabite ancestry, and decided to be separated from David’s mother, a true Israelite, not wanting to taint her.
- Jesse made a plan to have another child with a Canaanite servant woman.
- The Canaanite switched places with Nitzvet and Nitzvet ended up conceiving David that night.
- When Nitzvet became pregnant, some wanted to kill her and the unborn baby.
- She remained silent about what had really happened.
- Once David was anointed, God’s choice overrode all their concerns.
- His mother is said to be the person from whom David learned his kindness.

Guidance From Gad (1 Sam. 22:5)

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

- God kindly furnished him with supernatural guidance through the Prophet Gad.
- The forest was safer than the cave.
- Gad is quite important although somewhat obscure to us. He and others are said to have written The Book of Samuel. (1 Chron. 29:29)
- Later on, he’s called David’s seer. The Bible also says (2 Chron. 29:25) that David, Gad, and Nathan set in order the Temple worship

Saul’s Argument And His Self-Pity (1 Sam. 22:6-8)

6 When Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered— now Saul was staying in Gibeah under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants standing about him— 7 then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, “Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds? 8 All of you have conspired against me, and there is no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; and there is not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day.”

- Saul is home with his spear, ready to strike. This speech is a masterpiece of self-pity and conspiracy theories.

Doeg’s Secret Revealed (1 Sam. 22:9-13)

9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, “I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. 10 And he inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.” 11 So the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father’s house, the priests who were in Nob. And they all came to the king. 12 And Saul said, “Hear now, son of Ahitub!” He answered, “Here I am, my lord.”

13 Then Saul said to him, “Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?”

- Calling Doeg an Edomite is probably a negative reference in and of itself.
- Edom was the treacherous brother nation of Israel.
- When Doeg informs on David, Saul confronts Ahimelech the priest.

The Fate Of The Priests Of Nob (1 Sam. 22:14-19)

14 So Ahimelech answered the king and said, “And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king’s son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house? 15 Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, or to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much.” 16 And the king said, “You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father’s house!”

17 Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, “Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me.” But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD. 18 And the king said to Doeg, “You turn and kill the priests!” So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod. 19 Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep—with the edge of the sword.

- Ahimelech defends David’s character, and he defends himself.
- He denied that he was treating David like a king by using the ephod (special linen garment) to consult Yahweh on David’s behalf.

- Saul immediately sentences Ahimelech and his house to death!
- Notice that Saul’s men still retain fear of Yahweh and refuse to kill the priests.
- Doeg wipes out the entire city.
- David would write Psalm 52 about this incident.

Abiathar Escapes (1 Sam. 22:20-23)

20 Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. 21 And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD’s priests. 22 So David said to Abiathar, “I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have caused the death of all the persons of your father’s house. 23 Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe.”

- Abiathar escapes to David, who is seized with regret.
- This is another major turning point in Saul’s madness, because Abiathar brings an ephod with him to David, giving David a priest to consult the Lord.

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