

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 SAMUEL 23-24

1 SAMUEL 23:1-5 - DAVID DEFEATS PHILISTINES IN KEILAH

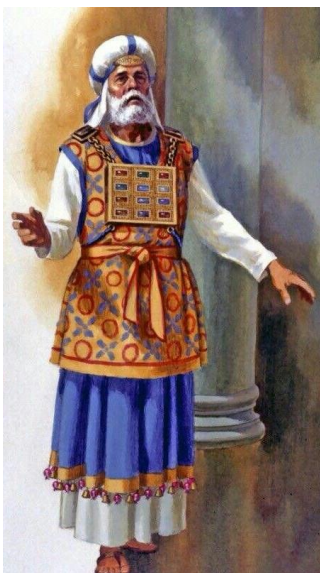
V. 1 - THE PHILISTINES WERE "PLUNDERING THE THRESHING FLOOR". IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WERE STEALING THE GRAIN THAT HAD BEEN HARVESTED BY THE KEILAHITES.

KEILAH WAS PROBABLY A SITE 3 MILES SOUTH OF ADULLAM AND EAST OF GATH, AND WAS APPARENTLY CLOSER TO PHILISTINE TERRITORY THAN HERETH WAS. (ESV STUDY BIBLE NOTE, 1 SAM 23:1)

1 SAMUEL 23:6-8 - SAUL'S PLANS

V. 7 - SAUL STILL BELIEVES THAT THE LORD IS ON HIS SIDE! NOTICE HE MAKES NO MENTION OF DAVID'S SAVING ONE OF THE CITIES OF SAUL'S KINGDOM FROM A FOREIGN ENEMY. HE LOOKED AT DAVID BEHIND THE CITY WALLS AS A PLACE FOR HIM TO BE TRAPPED.

1 SAMUEL 23:9-12 - DAVID INQUIRES OF THE LORD



V. 11 - "WILL THE MEN OF KEILAH SURRENDER ME? - SAUL HAD DESTROYED NOB ON A LESSER PRETEXT, SO HE WAS CERTAINLY WILLING AND PRESUMABLY ABLE TO DESTROY KEILAH. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE MEN OF KEILAH, DAVID HAD BROUGHT MORE TROUBLE THAN RELIEF FOR THEM." (ESV STUDY BIBLE, 1 SAM 23:11)

DAVID IS BLESSED TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE PRIEST AND THE EPHOD.

EPHOD: THIS REFERS TO THE SPECIAL BREASTPLATE THAT COVERED THE GARMENT OF THE HIGH PRIEST (SEE EXODUS 28 FOR DETAILS OF ITS CONSTRUCTION AND PURPOSE). IT WAS TO BE WORN BY THE HIGH PRIEST AND WAS DESIGNED TO AID HIM IN DISCERNING THE WORD AND WILL OF GOD FOR A PARTICULAR SITUATION. IT ALSO WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HIGH PRIEST'S ROLE. THE EPHOD CONTAINED TWO SPECIAL STONES (THE URIM AND THE THUMMIM) WHICH WERE USED BY GOD, THROUGH THE PRIEST TO INDICATE HIS DECISION ON A PARTICULAR MATTER. HERE IS ONE OF THE MOST DETAILED SCENES OF HOW THIS ITEMS WAS USED AND HOW THE LORD "SPOKE" THROUGH THE EPHOD.

1 SAMUEL 23:13-15 - DAVID'S LIFE ON THE RUN

1 SAMUEL 23:16-18 - ENCOURAGEMENT FROM JONATHAN

JONATHAN IS ABLE TO FIND AND CONNECT WITH DAVID. HE USES THIS MEETING TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE LORD, FOR IN THE END, DAVID IS AND WILL BE THE RIGHTFUL KING OVER GOD'S PEOPLE. JONATHAN CONTINUES TO LOOK THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH AND IS TRUSTING IN GOD'S WORD/PROMISE - FOR CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT INDICATE THINGS ARE MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION FOR DAVID, BUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES DON'T MATTER IF GOD HAS SAID IT!

1 SAMUEL 23:19-29 - SAUL PURSUES DAVID

AFTER BEING TIPPED OFF BY THE ZIPHITES (V. 19) ABOUT DAVID'S WHEREABOUTS, SAUL BEGINS TO PURSUE DAVID IN THE WILDERNESS. SAUL ASKS THESE INFORMANTS TO KEEP AN EYE ON DAVID'S MOVEMENTS. WHEN SAUL FINALLY ARRIVES IN THE PLACE WHERE DAVID IS HIDING, HE SENDS HIS MEN TO SURROUND HIM. JUST AS THE TIME TO ATTACK ARRIVES, A MESSENGER INFORMS SAUL THAT THE PHILISTINES HAVE ATTACKED ISRAEL. AS A RESULT SAUL MUST ABANDON HIS POSITION AND RETURN TO FIGHT THE PHILISTINES, THUS SPARING DAVID. (THIS IS ONE OF THE 1ST TIMES IN A FEW CHAPTERS WHERE SAUL IS ACTUALLY MENTIONED FOCUSING ON SOMETHING AS KING RATHER THAN HIS OBSESSION WITH DAVID)

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1 SAMUEL 24:1-2 - SAUL RETURNS TO FIND DAVID

V. 2 - SAUL HAS 3000 CHOSEN MEN WITH HIM. DAVID HAS ABOUT 600 (23:13)

1 SAMUEL 23:3-7 - SAUL & DAVID IN THE CAVE

V. 4 - DAVID'S MEN LOOK AT THIS OPPORTUNITY AS A DIVINE OPPORTUNITY TO CUT OFF THEIR ENEMY, SAUL. DAVID SECRETLY CUT OFF PART OF SAUL'S ROBE AS HE WENT TO THE BATHROOM IN THE CAVE!

V. 5-7 - DAVID'S CONSCIENCE BOTHERS HIM. HE DOES NOT FEEL HE SHOULD KILL SAUL. IN FACT HE FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DO SO, BECAUSE SAUL IS "THE LORD'S ANOINTED". THIS IS A TREMENDOUS RECORD REVEALING THE HEART OF DAVID. HIS LOVE FOR THE LORD IS SO GREAT, THAT HE EVEN HONORS (& SHOWS MERCY) TO THE MADMAN WHO'S SEEKING HIS LIFE OUT OF A REVERENCE FOR GOD. DAVID EVEN CONVINCES HIS MEN TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD! REMEMBER THAT DAVID IS ON THE RUN BECAUSE OF SAUL'S MADNESS, DAVID IS INNOCENT.

PERHAPS THIS IS A LESSON FOR US ABOUT HONORING THOSE IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY THAT MAY HAVE BEEN DIVINELY APPOINTED, EVEN IF WE DISAGREE WITH THEM. WHETHER A CHURCH LEADER OR SOMEONE IN GOVERNMENT, WE CAN HONOR THEM, EVEN IF WE DISAGREE WITH THEM, AND THIS SPEAKS OF OUR INNER CHARACTER AND ULTIMATE HONOR OF GOD.

1 SAMUEL 24:8-15 - DAVID REVEALS HIMSELF TO SAUL. GIVES HIS DEFENSE

V. 13 - "OUT OF THE WICKED COMES FORTH WICKEDNESS" AKA "YOU WILL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS" - IF I WAS REALLY WICKED, I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU.

V. 14 - IN OTHER WORDS: "WHY ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR TIME CHASING ME" - IT'S LIKE CHASING A DEAD DOG OR A SINGLE FLEE = INSIGNIFICANT

1 SAMUEL 24:16-22 - SAUL RESPONDS TO DAVID

V. 16 - SAUL IS BROKEN UP BY THIS ENCOUNTER. HIS PRIDE & FOOLISHNESS ARE REVEALED & HE IS STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT HIS LIFE WAS IN DAVID'S HAND, YET SPARED. IT'S A MOMENT OF CLARITY. HE REMEMBERS HIS FORMER RELATIONSHIP WITH DAVID ("IS THIS YOUR VOICE, MY SON")

V. 20-21 - SAUL ADMITS THAT DAVID WILL EVENTUALLY BE KING. HE'S HUMBLE, YET SELFISH AS HE REQUESTS FOR DAVID TO SPARE HIM & HIS DESCENDANTS.

V. 22 - DAVID AGREES AND THEN THERE IS A CEASEFIRE OF SORTS AS SAUL RETURNS HOME. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WILL NOT BE THEIR LAST ENCOUNTER AS FOES.