

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- Killing Goliath so impressed Saul that he attached David permanently to his court and proceeded to fulfill his pledge to reward the hero who could avert the Philistine peril. He rewarded him by exempting his family from taxes, giving his daughter in marriage, giving him money, and making David commander over the King's army.
- Saul's promotion of David to rank and power was an astute political move, but it proved to be more than the fragile psyche of the troubled king could handle. David went to war, and he was so successful that it was not long before the women of Israel began to sing of his exploits in almost legendary terms. Saul then tried to get rid of David.
- Saul became overt in his intentions and let it be known even to Jonathan that David must die. However, through the combined efforts of Michal and Jonathan, David's life was spare – though it meant that he must live life on the run from Saul.

Outlaw

- David went first to **Nob**, a village on the Mount of Olives where Ahimelech the high priest presided over the tabernacle. David was hungry and in search of food, but Ahimelech had only the showbread (**1 Sam. 21:1-6**).
 - ▶ The central sanctuary at **Shiloh** had deteriorated morally and spiritually, as is clear from the early Sam. stories, until the ark was captured by the Philistines in about 1104 and Shiloh was presumably abandoned shortly thereafter (**1 Sam. 4:3-4, 10-11**). The ark remained at **Kiriath-jearim** after it returned from Philistia, and it was from there that David finally brought it into Jerusalem (**1 Sam. 7:1-2; 2 Sam. 6:1-4**).
 - ▶ Showbread, also referred to as the "**bread of Presence**," was bread that had been set before the Lord's face. The bread became an "offering of food" to the Lord from the people of Israel as a memorial of their covenant to him. The loaves were changed weekly on the sabbath day, and they were for **Aaron and the priesthood** to eat. (**Ex 25:23, 30; Lev. 24:5-9**).
 - ▶ At Nob, **Ahimelech** knew nothing of David's estrangement from Saul, so he provided the only nourishment available at the moment—the

showbread of the tabernacle—and also gave him **Goliath's sword** (**1 Sam. 21:8-9**).

- ▶ In the exchange with Ahimelech, **Doeg the Edomite**, the chief of Saul's herdsmen, was present (**1 Sam. 21:7**).
- David made his way to Gath, the very home of Goliath, where he was planning to **seek asylum**, but the people recognize him as the king, and subject of the songs about him. Afraid for his life, David decided to act like a crazy person while **under arrest** (**1 Sam. 21:10-15; esp. v.13**).
 - ▶ One possible reason why David chose Gath may be **geographic**; Gath is just beyond the Valley of Elah, and it is the Philistine city nearest to Bethlehem, his hometown. This episode shows how urgent and unprepared his escape was and how bold he was to go there by himself, with Goliath's sword (**Ps. 56**)!
 - ▶ To enter Achish's house probably means to become a **mercenary** for the Philistines, but because of his supposed madness, David is dismissed (**Ps. 34**).
- David then took up the life of an outlaw for perhaps the next ten years, constantly on the move and without **visible means of support**. He first found refuge in the cave of Adullam, a town in the Shephelah of Judah about fifteen miles southwest of Bethlehem (**1 Sam. 22:1-5**).
 - ▶ By then his family had heard of his plight, so they and many others gathered there to place themselves under his command. This suggests that a consensus was emerging that David, having already been anointed king, was about to **lead a movement** that would result in wholesale revolution and the deposition of Saul.
 - ▶ To add to David's own problems, a band of people with problems gathers to him: people in distress, people in debt, and all who are bitter in soul take David as their **captain**. God's judgment will bring Saul and those who exalt themselves **low**, and his mercy will **exalt** David and those like him who are trusting in Yahweh.
- In the middle of Saul's lament over people siding with David over him, **Doeg the Edomite** tells him of Ahimelech's help to David at Nob (**1 Sam. 22:6-10**).
 - ▶ Saul summoned the priests, Ahimelech and his house, and gave the command to have the priests of Yahweh **executed**. When the guard refused, he had Doeg do his bidding. Afterwards, he put the whole city of Nob to death (**1 Sam. 22:11-19**).
 - ▶ Although David has committed no sin in taking of the showbread (**Mark 2:23-28**), he takes responsibility for Saul's actions anyway, and he protects **Abiathar** (**1 Sam. 22:20-23**).

Part 6: The Kingdom

<p>1 Sam. 21:1–6</p>	<p>1 Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, “Why are you alone, and no one with you?” 2 And David said to Ahimelech the priest, “The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, ‘Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.’ I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. 3 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.” 4 And the priest answered David, “I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women.” 5 And David answered the priest, “Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?” 6 So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the Lord, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.</p>
<p>1 Sam. 4:3–4</p>	<p>3 And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.” 4 So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.</p>
<p>1 Sam. 4:10–11</p>	<p>10 So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. 11 And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.</p>
<p>1 Sam. 7:1–2</p>	<p>1 And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the Lord and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the Lord. 2 From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.</p>
<p>2 Sam. 6:1–4</p>	<p>1 David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. 3 And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, 4 with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark.</p>
<p>Ex. 25:23</p>	<p>“You shall make a table of acacia wood. Two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height.</p>
<p>Ex. 25:30</p>	<p>And you shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me regularly.</p>
<p>Lev. 24:5–9</p>	<p>5 “You shall take fine flour and bake twelve loaves from it; two tenths of an ephah shall be in each loaf. 6 And you shall set them in two piles, six in a pile, on the table of pure gold before the Lord. 7 And you shall put pure frankincense on each pile, that it may go with the bread as a memorial portion as a food offering to the Lord. 8 Every Sabbath day Aaron shall arrange it before the Lord regularly; it is from the people of Israel as a covenant forever. 9 And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place, since it is for him a most holy portion out of the Lord’s food offerings, a perpetual due.”</p>
<p>1 Sam. 21:8–9</p>	<p>8 Then David said to Ahimelech, “Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king’s business required haste.” 9 And the priest said, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here.” And David said, “There is none like that; give it to me.”</p>
<p>1 Sam. 21:7</p>	<p>Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the Lord. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul’s herdsmen.</p>
<p>1 Sam. 21:10–15</p>	<p>10 And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath. 11 And the servants of Achish said to him, “Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, ‘Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands?’” 12 And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. 13 So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. 14 Then Achish said to his servants, “Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? 15 Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?”</p>

<p>1 Sam. 22:1-5</p>	<p>1 David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. 2 And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men. 3 And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me." 4 And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. 5 Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.</p>
<p>1 Sam. 22:6-10</p>	<p>6 Now Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men who were with him. Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him. 7 And Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, people of Benjamin; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, 8 that all of you have conspired against me? No one discloses to me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day." 9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, 10 and he inquired of the Lord for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."</p>
<p>1 Sam. 22:11-19</p>	<p>11 Then the king sent to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob, and all of them came to the king. 12 And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord." 13 And 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, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?" 14 Then Ahimelech answered the king, "And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and captain over your bodyguard, and honored in your house?" 15 Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little." 16 And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house." 17 And the king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the Lord. 18 Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. 19 And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword.</p>
<p>Mark 2:23-28</p>	<p>23 One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. 24 And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" 25 And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: 26 how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" 27 And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."</p>
<p>1 Sam. 22:20-23</p>	<p>20 But 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 priests of the Lord. 22 And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house. 23 Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping."</p>