

Making Promises

Part 6: The Kingdom

Review

- 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, and Ahimelech gave him the showbread.
- 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.
- 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. Saul summoned the priests, Ahimelech and his house, and gave the command to have the priests of Yahweh executed.

In His Hand

- While safely away from the reach of Saul, David hears that there was trouble at Keilah—the Philistines were raiding the **threshing floors** and making off with the grain (**1 Sam. 23:1**).
 - ▶ Keilah was a fortified town in the **Shephelah of Judah**, located a bit over eight miles northwest of Hebron and about three miles south of Adullam.
 - ▶ The Shephelah – the **foothills** of the Judean highlands – was important agriculturally, for its valleys produced good grain crops and its hills supported vineyards and olive groves. It was also of strategic significance, for the valleys which passed through it gave access to the central plateau and Jerusalem.
- David was most willing to counter the Philistines and asked for **direction from Yahweh**, but David's men were not so sure. David asked for direction from Yahweh again, and was assured that the Philistines would be **given into his hand**. So David and his men saved Keilah (**1 Sam. 23:2-5**).
 - ▶ At Keilah, David was able to seek the Lord's sure direction by virtue of **Abiathar's ephod** that he brought to him (**1 Sam. 22:20; 23:6**).
 - ▶ David's seeking of the Lord's will led him to save the city of Keilah from the Philistines, but Saul's presumption David being **given into his hand** led him to bring war to the city of Keilah in order to kill David and his men

(1 Sam. 23:7-8).

- ▶ Through the Ephod David receives answers to his questions and is able to escape from Saul's clutches yet again (1 Sam. 23:9-13). Presumably, the **Urim** and **Thummim** are employed here, since the answers in verses 11 and 12 are "yes" or "no" (1 Sam. 14:41; Ex. 28:30).
- ▶ The remark at the end, that God did not give David into Saul's hand, is an important one. Saul may pursue and David may be pursued, but it is firmly fixed in the divine plan that David will **remain safe**. No man can alter anything in this long-arranged course of events (1 Sam. 23:14).

In Whose Hand?

- David took to hiding in the **Desert of Ziph** just southeast of Hebron. The Ziphites likewise proved to be treacherous, for they wasted no time in informing Saul that David was hiding among them.
 - ▶ In the area of Ziph, at Horesh, Jonathan went out to meet David and he put **David's hand into God's hand**. Jonathan simply reaffirms God's promise to David and recommits himself to the Loyalty oath he swore before (1 Sam. 23:15-18; 18:3).
 - ▶ The Ziphites turned out to be loyalists to Saul and twice reported to him on David's movements and whereabouts. Just as Saul had David squeezed into a trap in the **wilderness of Maon**, word providentially came that the Philistines were attacking the land, and Saul had to break off at the very moment when victory seemed to be **within his grasp**. David and his men escaped to Engedi (1 Sam. 23:19-29).
- Saul returned to his pursuit of David after he dealt with the Philistines. He tracked David down at Engedi, and momentarily stepped inside a cave to relieve himself. Although David, who was hiding inside the cave with some of his men, seemingly had Saul **in his hands**, he instead chose to cut off the corner of his robe (1 Sam. 24:3-7).
 - ▶ David's **Godly instincts** overcame his **human instincts**. David knew that until Yahweh himself removed Saul, he remained the **anointed of Yahweh** (1 Sam. 24:6).
 - ▶ After Saul left the cave, David called out to him to make him aware of the fact that he had spared his life, even though it appeared as though God had given Saul **into his hand** (1 Sam. 24:8-15).
 - ▶ Temporarily confounded and repentant at David's generosity, Saul returned home. David does not seek his security in any change of heart in Saul or in any fresh promise from Saul. David is confident that Yahweh will **bring vengeance** upon Saul for him. (1 Sam. 24:16-22, 12).

Part 6: The Kingdom

1 Samuel 23:1	Now they told David, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors."
1 Samuel 23:2-5	2 Therefore David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the Lord said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah." 3 But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" 4 Then David inquired of the Lord again. And the Lord answered him, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand." 5 And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.
1 Samuel 22:20	But one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David.
1 Samuel 23:6	When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand.
1 Samuel 23:7-8	7 Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, "God has given him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars." 8 And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.
1 Samuel 23:9-13	9 David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." 10 Then David said, "O Lord, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. 11 Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O Lord, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the Lord said, "He will come down." 12 Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the Lord said, "They will surrender you." 13 Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition.
1 Samuel 14:41	Therefore Saul said, "O Lord God of Israel, why have you not answered your servant this day? If this guilt is in me or in Jonathan my son, O Lord, God of Israel, give Urim. But if this guilt is in your people Israel, give Thummim." And Jonathan and Saul were taken, but the people escaped.
Exodus 28:30	And in the breastpiece of judgment you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be on Aaron's heart, when he goes in before the Lord. Thus Aaron shall bear the judgment of the people of Israel on his heart before the Lord regularly.
1 Samuel 23:14	And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.
1 Samuel 23:15-18	15 David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. 16 And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. 17 And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this." 18 And the two of them made a covenant before the Lord. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.
1 Samuel 18:3	Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.

<p>1 Samuel 23:19–29</p>	<p>19 Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon? 20 Now come down, O king, according to all your heart's desire to come down, and our part shall be to surrender him into the king's hand." 21 And Saul said, "May you be blessed by the Lord, for you have had compassion on me. 22 Go, make yet more sure. Know and see the place where his foot is, and who has seen him there, for it is told me that he is very cunning. 23 See therefore and take note of all the lurking places where he hides, and come back to me with sure information. Then I will go with you. And if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah." 24 And they arose and went to Ziph ahead of Saul. Now David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon. 25 And Saul and his men went to seek him. And David was told, so he went down to the rock and lived in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon. 26 Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. And David was hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them, 27 a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid against the land." 28 So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went against the Philistines. Therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape. 29 And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 24:3–7</p>	<p>3 And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. 4 And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.' " Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 5 And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 6 He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed." 7 So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 24:6</p>	<p>He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 24:8–15</p>	<p>8 Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. 9 And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? 10 Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' 11 See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. 12 May the Lord judge between me and you, may the Lord avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. 13 As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. 14 After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! 15 May the Lord therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."</p>
<p>1 Samuel 24:16–22</p>	<p>16 As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. 17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. 18 And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the Lord put me into your hands. 19 For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. 20 And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. 21 Swear to me therefore by the Lord that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house." 22 And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.</p>
<p>1 Samuel 24:12</p>	<p>May the Lord judge between me and you, may the Lord avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you.</p>