

1 Samuel Lesson 40 David Seeks refuge in Gath

Key Themes in 1 Samuel

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Gath : One of the 5 capital cities of the Philistines and the closest to Judah. Gath and Ekron, another capital city, marked the inland border of Philistia. Gath was the hometown of Goliath. David fled to Gath on two occasions. The first was in 1 Samuel 21 and the second was in 1 Samuel 27. On the first occasion David may have thought to offer himself to the king as a mercenary, as this was what he did on the second occasion.

Read 1 Samuel 21:10-22:1

David had just left the priest at Nob with bread and a weapon. He fled to the nearest Philistine city of Gath and to the court of its king, Achish.

1. According to 1 Samuel 21:11 what did the servants of the king remember about David and report to the king? Recalling past lessons, why do you think that David took these words to heart and feared the king?

2. How did David react to his fear of the king according to 21:13? Who or what does David seem to be relying on? Often times we find ourselves in dangerous or fearful situations. Before we "just react" what should we do?

3. In 1 Samuel 21:14-15 and 22:1 how did the king react to David's feigned madness? What opportunity did the king miss? What do you see of God's providential hand in protecting his anointed?

**Read Psalm 34:1-22 A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimilech who drove him away and he departed.
(Abimilech is an alternate name for Achish)**

Key words:

deliver: Strong's 5337 "natsal" from a primitive root that means to snatch away. To deliver. Deliverance often indicated the power of one entity to overpower another.

fear: Strong's 3372 "yare" from a primitive root meaning to revere. In its verb form it means to revere, respect or reverence.

4. In Psalm 34:1-3 David begins with praise to the Lord. When and how does David say we should praise Him?

5. What can you learn about God's deliverance of his own from this psalm? See 34:4,5,6,7; 15-18

6. What kind of blessings from the Lord can those who fear Him expect? See 34:7-12? What is one result of fearing the Lord? See 34:13-14? To what degree have you experienced this in your own life?

