

1 Samuel Lesson 44 David Receives Encouragement and Experiences Betrayal

- 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:

Hachilah/Jeshimon: a barren strip of land running parallel to the Dead Sea. Despite its arid nature, the ruggedness of the area provided many hiding places.

wilderness of Maon in Arabah: The wilderness of Maon in Arabah is south of Jeshimon. It is part of the Judean wilderness along the Dead Sea.

En Gedi: another wilderness by the Dead Sea south of Maon. A fountain on the side of one of the mountains in the area could provide water for David's men and the many caves in the area would provide shelter.

Key words and phrases:

encourage: Strong's H2388 "chazaq" as it is used in 1 Samuel 23:16 it means "to strengthen the hands of one " or encourage one.

stronghold: H4679 "metsad" a fortress or stronghold.

Read 1 Samuel 23: 15-29

David was now hiding in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph in the forest of Horesh. Jonathan finds David here and encourages him.

1. According to 1 Samuel 23:15 what news did David become aware of? In 23:16-17 what did Jonathan tell David and what does 23:16 say it accomplished?

Application: When you have been in the midst of a difficult trial in your life, what are some of the ways you have received encouragement? What does the phrase "encouraged him in God" (NASB) mean to you personally?

2. According to 23:19 what did the Ziphites report to Saul? What course of action did David take according to 23:24? What lesson about trust did David learn from this?

3. In 23:25-26 How did Saul and his men almost seize David? What happened in 23:27-28 to prevent Saul from capturing him? What lesson of trust did David learn here?

4. Each stronghold that David and his men sought out quickly became unsafe" Who was the Lord teaching David to rely on? See Psalm 18:1-2.

Application: What are some strongholds you are tempted to rely on when you find yourself in a trial? Has the Lord ever removed one or more strongholds from your life?

5. Read through Psalm 18: 1-19 This Psalm was written by David after he had been delivered from all his enemies including Saul. How can you apply the first 19 verses of this Psalm to David's deliverance recorded in 23:27-28. What lessons did David learn about trust and reliance according to this Psalm? How can you apply these same lessons in your life as you face your own trials and battles?