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January 4, 2026

1 Samuel 22

David Flees to Adullam and Mizpeh
([Psalm 57:1-11](#); [Psalm 142:1-7](#))

David as he considered his plight and need of Divine protection, prayed to God in this Psalm 57.

Psalm 57: 1{To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.} Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

2I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.

3He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.

4My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

5Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

6They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.

7My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

8*Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.*

9*I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations.*

10*For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.*

11*Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth.*

We are seeing a change in David's heart much in the same way we see a change in our own heart or that of a New Believer. Moving away from self dependance to a dependence on Jesus.

David even though loving God seemed to function still in the power of his human persona. David was able to use his prominence to obtain things like food and a weapon from Ahimelech the Priest. David will come to a point that he realizes that his human power is limited, and he will need to rely on God completely.

1*David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.*

This cave is halfway between Gath and Bethlehem in Israels lowlands. This cave area also protected Samson (Judges 15:8-11). The terrain offered a built-in defense that would protect David and his family from an all-out attack by Saul.

DAVID – the Fugitive

Ramah
Nob
Gath
Adullam
Mizpeh of Moab
Forest of Hareth (Adullam)
Wilderness of Ziph
Wilderness of Maon
Engedi

- Samuel Dies

Engedi
Carmel – Meets Abigail
Wilderness of Ziph
Gath (16 mths)
Ziklag

- King Saul Dies
- David - King

Hebron
Jerusalem



This site has an interesting video about this area of the caves that David fled to.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYQ-AeHCdgQ>

2And every one *that was* in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one *that was* discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

If this event happened today, it would be called a revolution, where those who are oppressed revolt against the oppressor. There were many in Israel including some tribal leaders that did not care for King Saul. Most were obedient out of respect for God but Saul had a lot of problems.

3And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, *and be with you, till I know what God will do for me.*

If we look back into history, we will find that David's great grandmother was a Moabite.

Matthew 1:5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

David is in the process of really being trained as a leader by God. God puts on David's heart to take care of his parents first even over his own comfort. God leads David to his ancestors on his Great grandmother's side to seek help in protecting his parents. He does this with humbleness and is welcomed by the Moabite King.

Moab sits east of the Dead Sea so even though within the arena of Israel it is beyond King Saul's immediate reach.

4And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

The term “hold” means within the stronghold of the cave area in Adullam. Former enemy to King Saul but now allies of David, so David’s parents are safe.

5And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth.

Gad appears as a prophet to David and will remain with David many years. God through His Prophet Gad tells David to not stay in these caves but to depart into the forest of Hareth. We do not know much about Hareth, the following is from Strong’s Concordance.

“Hereth was a wooded area in the tribal territory of Judah, south-west of Bethlehem and reasonably close to the lowland city of Keilah (compare [1 Samuel 23:1](#)). The terrain belongs to the Judean Shephelah, a zone of rolling hills once covered by broadleaf oak and terebinth. The density of that woodland supplied excellent concealment for fugitives, herds, and military detachments, making the site an ideal refuge for David as he eluded Saul. Although the precise location is uncertain, archaeological surveyors have proposed the vicinity of modern Khureitûn, not far from the cave of Adullam, as a plausible candidate.”

David begins a lifelong trait of obedience to God. For David to leave the known protection of the caves, he shows his faith in God as One who would not mislead him.

***Psalms 23:21 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.***

David would fall into sin from time to time during his life but would always repent. Unfortunately, when the King sinned, the people often suffered. It was a hard lesson for David to learn but one he indeed learned.

Saul Slays the Priests of Nob

6When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that *were* with him, (now Saul abode in Gibeah under a tree in Ramah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants *were* standing about him;)

Just a reminder of Saul's upbringing. Saul was a Benjaminite and his hometown was in the land or state of Gibeah. Ramah would have been Saul's central location of being raised. Saul had been told of roughly where David was at and will soon learn more specifics. His rage and mental problems are growing.

7Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, *and* make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds; 8That all of you have conspired against me, and *there is* none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and *there is* none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

These loyal servants will slowly dwindle as they see their King fall farther into despair over David. As you recall we learned earlier that Saul had appointed a Edomite from the tribes of Esau over all his shepherds and sheep and that person Doeg was present when David came to the Priest for food.

In the earlier verses Saul is calling out his servants and pointing out to them that he is the one that has made them wealthy and given them power, it was not David. He is demanding loyalty and intelligence on David and his whereabouts.

9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, 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 victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

We had already discussed this point, that Doeg lies about what the Priest did or did not do for David. His rendition of what actually happened would fall into the category of “fake news” we know so much about today. Doeg had a bias against David and likely all of Israel as we know Islam does today. If he can cause trouble within the nation of Israel he will be happy.

11 Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.

Remember the curse set on the house of Eli and his posterity that due to the sins of Eli's sons none of his household would reach old age. That prophecy or curse is about to come true once again for Eli's heritage. All due to the lies told by Doeg.

12And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I *am*, my lord. 13And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

14Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who *is* so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?

Ahimelech rightfully points out that David is the King's Son in law and being of that stature it was far from the Priest to inquire as to David's needs, it was simply his responsibility as far as the Law allow to respond to the King's Son in Law and provide what he asked for.

15Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute *any* thing unto his servant, *nor* to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

Again, Ahimelech rightfully denies the allegation from Doeg that he the Priest had inquired of the Lord for David. He simply did what he could legally do as a Priest.

16And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house. **17**And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also *is* with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.

The cracks are beginning to show in Saul's guards and army. They indeed feared the King but much more so the God of Israel. This Priest had denied seeking God for David and the guards had heard themselves his righteous account. They would not kill him or his family.

18And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod. **19**And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

The brutality of Saul is unspeakable. It will not go unrewarded by God. Not only were all the Priests killed by Doeg the evil Edomite but also all of their families, and livestock.

20And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David.

A single survivor is able to escape and tell what had happened to David. Can you imagine the pain David must have felt in his heart that his visit to Ahimelech would result in such tragedy. All for 5 loaves of bread and a captured sword, perpetrated by an evil, demon filled king.

21And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests. 22And David said unto Abiathar, I knew *it* that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned *the death* of all the persons of thy father's house.

David feels responsible for the death of the family of Priests and their wives and children. He invites Abiathar to remain with he and his small but growing fellowship.

23Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou *shalt be* in safeguard.

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