

**All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James**

**January 11, 2026**

*As a side note today on Fox and Friends who are hosted by mainly Catholics. The highlighted the Pope baptizing quite a few babies at the Sistine Chapel. The parting comment from the Fox and Friends host was “to all those babies welcome to the Christian community”. There is nothing I am aware of that the works of baptism saves anyone. It is only after being saved through the Blood of Christ that a Believer out of obedience goes through the work event of Baptism, not for Salvation but to obey Jesus command to Baptize those who Believe.*

***Ephesians 2:8 8For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

***Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

*The simple understanding is you have to be able to be old enough to understand sin and be able to repent of it at some knowledgeable level. It is an unfortunate lie told to parents giving them a falser hope of Salvation. If a family wants to dedicate their infant to God that is an entirely different manner, even though an unbiblical term the idea of dedicating a child to God is sited in 1 Samuel 1:11 Hannah dedicated her unborn son to God. That was to be Samuel and from about the age of 5 he lived at the Tabernacle with Eli and his family.*

***Luke 2:22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;***

*This was specifically in the Law for the purification of the First Born male. Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to comply with the 40 day purification requirement.*

*God warned us in the end times that a great deception would come on the earth. This is just a small part of it and has been going on for years. Don't be deceived, study the Bible.*

Now onto our study of 1 Samuel. The Word of God contains many levels of understanding. The first level is a historical book, giving us a historical journal of events from creation through the Messiah and Apostles and the generation of the Christ's Church.

Other levels include but are not limited to a basic understanding of who was God and when and why He created mankind. How man originally sinned and cast all mankind into the sin nature.

It also allows those who gain a personal relationship with God through Jesus and what He accomplished on the Cross. This spiritual awakening for Believers allows them to read and study God's Word with the help of the Holy Spirit to understand not only what God says in general but what God wants from each Believer.

## **1 Samuel 23**

## **David Delivers Keilah** **(Psalm 54:1-7)**

**1Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshing floors.**

The town of Keilah was in the Israeli lowlands and was strategic due to being near the border with the Philistines and an agricultural hub for Israel. These attacks were common as the Philistines constantly tried to weaken Israel and conquer it.

The idea that this person was sent to David or did so on his own reflects the prominence that David was fostering where people would come to him rather than King Saul. David was a man of the people and upheld by God as a type of savior for Israel. A type and shadow of the coming Messiah.

The threshing floor is representative of the value placed on agriculture. The crops were grown, harvested and brought to the mill to be threshed, ground into wheat flour. What better place to steal that at that point when everything was already done in the ag process.

**2Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.**

Before David would act impetuously as when he decided to fight Goliath, now we see David first going to God to see what God wants him to do and then act on that direction.

**3**And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?

David and his small army were hiding in Judah his homeland from Saul in caves and forests. Now David wants them to expose themselves by getting into a fight with the Philistines right under Saul's nose. It made his men nervous and exposed.

David showing wisdom with this new concern from his men again asks God for guidance.

**4**Then David inquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

It appears that David is going directly to the Lord God, not through any priest or other person. However, we will find out shortly that David does ask the Priest who escaped Saul's murders to bring an Ephod to seek God's Guidance.

While under the law during the time of Prophets and Priests seeking God's Will was usually done through a Priest or Prophet.

There were two levels of Ephod. The first was for the High Priest it was made of fine linen and embedded with Gold, hammered into the material threads. The second level of Ephod was of a more common nature made of Cotton without Gold embedded. This Ephod would be worn by the Priests not the High Priest.

As you know now as a Believer, our access to God is direct as we now see with David. We are allowed to the Throne of God not by our own strength or human righteousness but through the Power of the Blood of Jesus Christ. David was allowed direct access to God by virtue of his heart and God's choosing of David to lead Israel.

Armed by the blessing of the Lord, David convinces his men they will be victorious because God said so.

**5**So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

Keep in mind that David is actively pursued by King Saul with the intention of killing David. He now solely through the providence and guidance of God comes out of hiding with intent of engaging a long-time enemy of Israel. Rightfully this should be the responsibility of the King, but God uses David instead.

As an added blessing David is able to take away the livestock that the Philistines brought with them as supplies for an extended assault on Israel, starting here in Keilah.

**6**And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, *that he came down with an ephod in his hand.*

We now see that Abiathar the sole survivor of the Priest Ahimelech's family, brings with him the High Priest garment called the Ephod.

### **Saul Pursues David**

**7**And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.

I doubt things have changed much in these several thousand years. Those wanting power or wanting to be in the shadow of those with power will reveal secrets, report on the enemies of their chosen leader. We are not told how but as soon as David goes to help Keilah, it is reported to King Saul.

Saul's reaction is that now he has David trapped within the walls of this city, he can kill him. No concern about his people that are being attacked by the Philistines, no, he is more focused on his political enemy David.

Consider for a moment what is happening in Minnesota or Washington State. The people in those states are under assault by illegal alien criminals many that are charged with or convicted felons. The Border Patrol has gone to help the defenseless citizens much like David did for Keilah. But who is the left wanting to attack. Much like Saul, they want to attack their political enemy Trump, instead of protecting their citizens.

**8And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.**

Again, Keilah is being attacked by Israel's long standing enemy the Philistines. But who does Saul want to attack? David, the guy that is actually there to protect the Israeli city of Keilah.

**9And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod.**

We are not told how David knew Saul would contrive some aggression against him, but he did and his first reaction now is to seek God's guidance. Remember in earlier verses we were told that God told David to go to Keilah and God would protect him. So far so good, David makes it to Keilah and defends the city and now is faced with another threat from his own King. David calls the sole Priest and his ephod to seek God's wisdom again.

**10Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake. 11Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down. 12Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver *thee* up.**

Even in David's time no good deed goes unpunished, not with mankind that is. God is Just in all things, He does not repay evil for good, but not so man. David and his men risk their lives to defend the city of Keilah, and their repayment is to turn them over to King Saul to be killed. Go figure!

David inquires of the Lord through the Priest and is told that Saul is coming to Keilah to kill David and the people David just saved will turn him over to Saul.

**13Then David and his men, *which were* about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbore to go forth.**

David on God's command leaves Keilah. He and his men split up and disperse into the protection of the caves and forests. Likely with a plan to rally later at a certain point. That is what a military leader would do. When Saul is told that David has left Keilah he

decides not to pursue him. God is clearly on David's side and Saul may recognize that. Everything Saul tries to do to capture and kill David seems to fail.

**14And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.**

God put David out of the reach of Saul. God's plan will succeed regardless of the efforts of man.

*Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

**15And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood. 16And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. 17And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.**

Jonathan is not only aware of David's destiny he as the crown prince of Israel who is next in line to be King, lays aside his political aspirations and sides with David. Jonathan has hitched his wagon so to speak to David and where David goes Jonathan intends to go with him even if it puts him against his father King Saul. Jonathan must have made that all clear to his father the

King as Jonathan clearly states that his father King Saul knows of Jonathan's intentions.

**18And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.**

Jonathan and David have pledged their allegiance on several occasions.

**19Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which *is* on the south of Jeshimon?**

From Strong's concordance:

*“Ziphi” refers to the people of the Judean town of Ziph, a settlement located in the hill country south-southeast of Hebron. Its elevated terrain, peppered with natural caves and dense thickets, made the region an ideal refuge for fugitives and a strategic vantage point for military movements. In David’s wilderness years, Ziph lay within the tribal allotment of Judah—David’s own tribe—underscoring the surprising nature of the local betrayal recorded in Scripture.”*

**20Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of thy soul to come down; and our part *shall* be to deliver him into the king's hand.**

Betrayal is usually associated with an ulterior motive, like money, power, fame. Something that helps the betrayer. Commentators

seem to agree that this betrayal by the Ziphites is associated with a desire for protection from the King.

This area is within the Tribe of Judah, David's home tribe. Yet these people have decided even likely knowing that God has anointed David to replace King Saul. What could they possibly think to achieve by this betrayal?

**21And Saul said, Blessed be ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me. 22Go, I pray you, prepare yet, and know and see his place where his haunt is, *and* who hath seen him there: for it is told me *that* he dealeth very subtilly.**

Saul tells the people of Ziph to engage in counterespionage and find where David, is, who has seen him and how they know where he is hiding out.

**23See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hideth himself, and come ye again to me with the certainty, and I will go with you: and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land, that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Judah.**

Tactically if a military can pinpoint the location of a potential high value target it makes planning and execution much easier. We saw that very thing happen in Venezuela this past week.

**24**And they arose, and went to Ziph before Saul: but David and his men *were* in the wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon.

This area is south of En Gedi and is a vastly desolate place. In fact, the name Jeshimon means “desolate”. David has moved out of the area of Ziph and went to an even more remote and desolate area of Judea which is south of Ziph.

**25**Saul also and his men went to seek *him*. And they told David: wherefore he came down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard *that*, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon.

Snitches everywhere during this time apparently. David fled south from Ziph to Maon, that had steep ravens that would force you to go miles out of your way to get to the other side. Saul pursued David into this area. Saul was going to get quite close to David in this pursuit, but God.

**26**And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain: and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them.

From all appearances David is trapped by Saul’s men as they maneuver to flank him and surround him. But God!

**27But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land. 28Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place Selahammahlekoth.**

This word means “rock of division”.

**29And David went up from thence, and dwelt in strong holds at Engedi.**

This entire area is just west of the Dead Sea. En Gedi sits on or near the shore of the Dead Sea.