

Part 3: UNITED KINGDOM

Lesson 10: The FLIGHT OF DAVID AND THE DEATH OF SAUL, 1 Samuel 21–31

1. Who was permitted to eat the bread of the presence? (Lev 24:9; cf. Matt 12:4; Mark 2:26; Luke 6:4)

What stipulation did the priest place on David and his men before he gave them the bread? (1 Sam 21:4; cf. Exod 19:15)

What sword did David take from Ahimelech? (1 Sam 21:9)

A recurring theme in Joshua, Judges, and 1 Samuel has been lying to save one's life. What was the result(s) of David's lie to Ahimelech? (22:9-19)

To whom else was David less than honest? (21:10-15; cf. Ps 34:1-22)

OPTIONAL: Some critics claim that Mark (or Jesus) made a mistake when he mentions Abiathar rather than Ahimelech (Mark 2:25-26; cf. Matt 12:3-4; Luke 6:3). Is this a biblical contradiction, or does a reasonable solution exist? Explain.

2. The superscriptions of Pss 57 and 142 speak of David writing these psalms in "the cave." Read Pss 57 and 142. If these refer to the cave of Adullam, what was David thinking as he fortified in Adullam in 1 Sam 22?

NOTE: Saul refused to destroy the Amalekites (1 Sam 1) but has no problem doing so to the priestly family of Ahimelech (1 Sam 22). This highlights the downward spiral of Saul.

3. What did David do before he attacked the Philistine at Keilah? (1 Sam 23:1-5)

After David won the victory at Keilah, who determined to come to attack him? (vv. 7-8)

What would happen if David stayed in Keilah? (vv. 9-13)

What did David call the place where God providentially protected him from Saul? (v. 28)

4. On multiple occasions, David spared Saul, when he could have killed him (1 Sam 24, 26). Though he did not strike him, David cut off the edge of Saul's robe. How did David feel after he did so? (1 Sam 24:5)

OPTIONAL: Compare translations of 1 Sam 24:5. What does the Bible tell us about the conscience?

5. Between the records of David showing mercy to Saul is the story of David, Nabal, and Abigail (1 Sam 25). Contrast David in 1 Sam 25 with David in 1 Sam 24 and 26.

OPTIONAL: Abigail does not pretend that her husband is a good man, but she does protect him from harm. What do her actions tell us about Abigail? What do you think Abigail is asking of David in verse 31?

6. David pronounced a curse on Abner and his men because they failed to guard Saul well (1 Sam 26:15-16). What later happens to Abner, and how does David then respond? (2 Sam 3:6-39)

7. To whom does David attach himself in 1 Sam 27?

Was David always honest with his new "leader"? Why, or why not? (cf. 28:1-2; 29:1-11)

**8. What had Saul done with all the mediums and spiritists?
(1 Sam 28:3)**

Why did he seek one of them in 1 Sam 28?

NOTE: One of the first sins of Saul is compared to divination (1 Sam 15:23; cf. 28:18), and at the end of his life, Saul is involved in divination.

What did the medium see, and what was the predicted fate of Saul? (28:19)

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