

## **231025-4 1Sa 22, Saul Cuts off the House of Eli and Slays All the Priests of Nob—CThurman**

The LORD has made promise to David that he will be the king of Israel. The Spirit of the LORD is upon him equipping him for the office and the task of ruling over the people of God. Though possessing the Spirit of the LORD for service and an office which he has yet to fill, David continued to experience the same infirmities of the flesh; though he stood strong in faith against the champion of the Philistines he feared the king of the Philistines, Achish. So, when David was confronted with Achish, knowing that he was not in a position to fight him, did the next best thing, pretending to be a mad man rather as he really was, a man, though a man, a man that could guide himself wisely. David, an imperfect man, did by the Spirit of God the perfect will of God, weaknesses notwithstanding.

**1 ¶ David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam:**

(a city of Judah, Jos.15.35)

*escaped*, Niphal (simple pass.) fut. of the verb טָלַט, tss. *to escape, to get away, to be delivered, to be saved*; 1Sa. 23.13; 27.1; 30.17, Niphal fut.; 1Sa.27.1 (marg., *escaping*), Niphal infin.; 1Sa.22.1, 20; 27.1 (marg., *I should escape*), Niphal fut.

*cave*, מְעֵרָה, fem. noun tss. *cave, hole, den*; 1Sa.24.3, 7, 8, 10.

If the place on the map is correct for Gath, as well as the place for the cave of Adullam, David would have come 10 miles to the southeast.

**Read Ps.57 & 142.**

***and when his brethren and all his father's house heard [it], they went down thither to him.***

*they went down*, Qal fut. of the verb יָרַד, tss. *to come down (1Sa.23.6; 23.20 [twice]), to go down (1Sa.23.4, 8, ), to descend, to be subdued, to bring down, to run down, etc.*

Those of the house of David has good reason to fear. As we shall see, Saul would kill any he thinks have conspired against him to cause David to rise to the throne. (Saul kills all the priests of Nob. [vss.16, 19])

**2 And every one [that was] in distress, and every one**  
anguish, in a **strait**

*distress, מְצוֹק, a masc. sing. noun tss. straitness, distress, anguish,*  
and only this once in 1Samuel.

**that [was] in debt, and every one [that was] discontented,**  
owing, burdened מֵר־נֶפֶשׁ  
bitter of soul

*debt, Qal part. of the verb נָשָׂא, tss. to be in debt, to exact, to give usury;*  
*the noun מִשָּׂא, is tss. a burden, an exaction, a tribute, a carrying away.*

*discontented, מֵר־נֶפֶשׁ, of the adj. מָר, tss. angry, bitter, bitterness*  
*(1Sa.1.10; 15.32), discontented (22.2), Mara (Ru.1.30), chafed, heavy,*  
*and נֶפֶשׁ, soul, life, creature, mind, person, body, dead, heart, etc.*

**gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them:**  
assembled

*and ... gathered themselves, Hithpael fut. of the verb קָבַץ, tss. to gather together, to assemble, to gather; 1Sa.25.1; 28.1, 4 [twice]; 29.1.*

*captain, שָׂר, a masc. noun tss. captain, prince, chief captain, chief, ruler, master, steward.*

**and there were with him about four hundred men.**

Probably of all that were with David, the four hundred are those men of age and fully capable to wage a good warfare, being at least 20 yrs. of age and upward. (cf. Nu.1.20)

(Read **1Chro.11.15-19**. Spurgeon remarked at v.19, 'This brave act shoed the enthursiastic devotion of David's warriors. They were willing to gratify his smallest wish at the risk of their own lives. In such a spirit ought the Lord Jesus to be served by us.' *Charles Spurgeon*, Spurgeon's Devotional Bible, p.253, Baker Book House, Reprinted 1964, 1974)

**he became a captain over them** – I like that. He didn't usurp authority at all. The LORD worked in him to be king, and the evidence of that reality was that people desired him to be their king. Those that found themselves in a strait, that carried great burdens, and bitter soul concerning their present circumstance saw in David a man that could help them. And it was so for the Lord Jesus.

*Lu 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,  
19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

*Mk.4.1 And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.*

*Mt 11:28 Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

**3 And 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,**

**אֱלֹהִים**  
**till I know what God will do for me.**  
Elohim

**4 And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt**  
**straitened** with the face of



*harnessed*, הַמְּשִׁים, pl. adj.; translated *harnessed*; Jos.1.14; 4.12, *armed* (marg. marshalled by five); Jud. 7.11, *armed men* (ranks by five).

The LORD brought Israel out harnessed, in ranks, ordered.

*Ps.66.10 For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.*

*11 Thou broughtest us into the net (see below, hold); thou laidst affliction upon our loins.*

*12 Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy [place].*

Qal fut. of יָשַׁב

**5 And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold;**  
You should not dwell

Gad is evidently with David at this time. Is Gad one of other prophets that came with David when he departed from Naioth to see Jonathan?

**depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed,**  
come

**and came into the forest of Hareth.**

**6 ¶ When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that [were] with**  
revealed, known

*was discovered*, Niphal (simple pass.) pret. of the verb יָדַע, tss. *to know, to comprehend, to consider, to perceive, to shew, to teach*, etc.

**him, (now Saul abode in Gibeah under a tree in Ramah, having his spear in**  
(David) dwelt

*tree*, אֲשֵׁל, a masc. noun only three times in the OT, tss. *tree* (2 [1Sa.22.6; 31.13]) *grove* (Gen.21.33); a Tamarisk tree, also called a salt cedar. Both Saul and Jonathan were buried under this tree in 1Sa.31.13.

Perhaps Saul began to overhear whispers concerning sighting of David in a certain area. (?)

Gibeah seems to refer to more than the city proper, but to the area about the city. Ramah of Benjamin is about 2- 2 ½ mi. north of Gibeah. (cf. Jos.18.25) So, here in Ramah of Benjamin perhaps there was a grove of trees where Saul resorted for rest.

**his hand, and all his servants [were] standing about him;)**

stationed by

*standing*, Niphal (simple pass.) part. of the verb נָצַב, tss. *to be set over, to be appointed, to be set, to erect, to set up, to stand.*

(1Sa.22.6, 7, 9, 17)

**7 Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye**

stationed by

**Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and**  
(David)

**vineyards, [and] make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds;**

**8 That all of you have conspired against me, and [there is] none that**  
joined together

*you have conspired*, Qal pret. of the verb קָשַׁר, tss. *to bind, to conspire, to work, to make, to bind, to join together;* (1Sa.22.8, 13)

**sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse,**

reveals to my ear when cut (a deal)

*sheweth*, Qal part. Poel of the verb גָּלַה, tss. *to shew, to reveal, to advertise, to open, to lead away captive, to discover, to uncover, to remove;* 1Sa.20.2, 12, 13; 22.8 (twice), 17.

1Sa 20:30 ... do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion ...

**and [there is] none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me**  
sick, grieved reveals to my ear

*is sorry, Qal part. Poel of the verb הָלַךְ, tss. to be weak, to be sick, to be diseased, to be grieved, to be sorry, to be sore, to be wounded, etc.*

קוּם

**that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?**  
raised, (David) for an ambush  
established, stood

*to lie in wait, Qal part. Poel of the verb אָרַב, tss. to ambush, to lie in wait.*

Saul falsely accuses David of conspiring to assassinate him. (see also v.13)

**9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul,**  
stationed

*1Sa.21.7 ... Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that [belonged] to Saul.*

**and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.**  
**10 And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals,**  
asked for him by Jehovah food, provisions

*victuals, אֵיֶדֶה, fem. noun, tss. venison, provision, victual, meat.*

**the sword of and gave him Goliath the Philistine.**

Read what David, by the Holy Spirit, said of Doeg in Ps.52. Doeg appears to be saying that in fact Ahimelech assisted David with the intent to overthrow Saul's kingdom.

**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.**

**12 And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I [am], my lord.**

**13 And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me,**  
joined together

**thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword,**  
by your giving to him bread

**and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me,**  
ask (purpose)

**to lie in wait, as at this day?**  
for an ambush

**14 Then 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**  
departs, turns

*goeth, Qal pret. of the verb סוּר, tss. to turn aside, to depart, to go, to take away, to put away, to remove, to put.*

**bidding, and is honourable in thine house?**  
hearing

*bidding, מְשִׁמֵּעַ, a 2ps. fem. noun tss. bidding (1), guard (2), obey (1). The verb is שָׁמַע, to obey, to hear, to be diligent, to perceive, to discern.*

**15 Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me:**  
ask (against you)

*begin, Hiphil (causative act.) pret. of the verb הִלַּל, tss. to begin, to profane, to prostitute, to slay, to break, to pollute, to defile.*



God forbid, הַלֵּל יְהוָה, an interjection, also tss. *be far, be it far, far be it, forbid.* (1Sa.2.30; 12.23; 14.45; 20.2, 9; 22.15; 24.6)

**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.**

*impute*, Qal fut. of the verb מִשָּׁח, tss. *to make, to put, to set, to order, to appoint, to work, to ordain, to impute, to mark, etc.*

**16 And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house.**

The LORD brings to pass the things He communicated to Eli. (cf. 1Sa.2.29-33)

**17 And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him,**  
runners

*footmen*, Qal part. of the verb רָץ, tss. *to run, to be a footman, to be a post, to haste, to speed, to stretch out, to run away.*

**Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also [is] with David,**

*turn*, Qal imper. of the verb סָבַח, tss. *to occasion, to be in circuit, to compass, to besieged, to apply, to sit down, to beset, to sit down, to fetch a compass, to wind about, to return, to avoid; (1Sa.22.22, occasioned, Qal pret.; 22.18, turned, Niphal fut.).*

**and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me.**  
(away) reveal my ear

*fled*, Qal part. Poel of the verb פָּרַח, tss. *to shoot, to make haste, to flee away, to drive away, to put to flight, to chase, to chase away, to reach; v.20*

will shew, Qal fut. of the verb הִגִּיל, tss. to shew, to reveal, to advertise, to open, to lead away captive, to discover, to uncover, to remove; 1Sa.20.2, 12, 13; 22.8 (twice), 17.

**But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.**

**18 And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests.**

turn, Qal imper. of the verb סָבַב, tss. to occasion, to be in circuit, to compass, to besieged, to apply, to sit down, to beset, to sit down, to fetch a compass, to wind about, to return, to avoid; (1Sa.22.22, occasioned, Qal pret.; 22.18, turned, Niphal fut.).

**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.**

bear

turn, Qal imper. of the verb סָבַב, tss. to occasion, to be in circuit, to compass, to besieged, to apply, to sit down, to beset, to sit down, to fetch a compass, to wind about, to return, to avoid; (1Sa.22.22, occasioned, Qal pret.; 22.18, turned, Niphal fut.).

that did wear, Qal part. Poel of the verb נָשָׂא, tss. to lift, to lift up, to carry, to wear, to suffer, to take away, to pardon, to pardon, to receive, to respect, etc.

**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,**

babies          nursing children

children, עוֹלָל, a masc. noun, tss. infant, children, babe.

sucklings, Qal part. Poel of the verb יָנַק, tss. to be a suckling, to give suck, milch (milk), to nurse, to be a nursing mother.

**with the edge of the sword.**

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

(away)

*escaped*, Niphal (simple pass.) fut. of the verb מָלַט, tss. *to escape, to get away, to be delivered, to be saved*; 1Sa. 23.13; 27.1; 30.17, Niphal fut.; 1Sa.27.1 (marg., *escaping*), Niphal infin.; 1Sa.22.1, 20; 27.1 (marg., *I should escape*), Niphal fut.

*fled*, Qal part. Poel of the verb פָּרַח, tss. *to shoot, to make haste, to flee away, to drive away, to put to flight, to chase, to chase away, to reach*; v.20.

Hiphil fut., נִגַּד

**21 And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests.**

reported (to)  
declared

**22 And David said unto Abiathar, I knew [it] that day, when Doeg the Edomite**

Hiphil inf. & fut., נִגַּד

**[was] there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned [the death]**

report (to) brought about

*occasioned*, Qal pret. of the verb סָבַב, tss. *to occasion, to be in circuit, to compass, to besieged, to apply, to sit down, to beset, to sit down, to fetch a compass, to wind about, to return, to avoid*; (1Sa.22.22, *occasioned*, Qal pret.; 22.18, *turned*, Niphal fut.).

בְּכָל-נַפְשׁוֹ

**of all the persons of thy father's house.**

every soul

יָשָׁב

**23 Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life:**

Dwell

seeketh, Piel (intensive act.) fut. of the verb **בָּקַשׁ**, to seek, to require, to seek out, to request, to inquire, to make inquisition.

**but with me thou [shalt be] in**                      **safeguard.**  
a ward, a charge.

*safeguard, מְשֹׁמֵרָה, a fem. noun tss. a charge, to keep, an ordinance, a ward, a watch; the verb שָׁמַר, to keep, observe, to take heed, to watch, preserve, to mark, to save, to beware, to be circumspect.*

Again, David stands as a type for the Lord Jesus. Abiathar was in danger, but with David he found safety.

*Ps.91.1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*

So is Christ to His own. (Refer to the introductory remarks in the next chapter.)