

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
DAVID ON THE RUN!—PART 3
1 SAMUEL 23:1-29

Introduction

We've been looking in the last two messages from this book how that David, the next anointed king of Israel, is on the run from Saul, the present occupier of Israel's throne. Saul is obsessed with hunting David down and killing him.

So much so that tonight we will see David taking care of some of Israel's enemies who were oppressing some of Judah's inhabitants.

This chapter encourages all of God's servants who, like David, may feel vulnerable to attacks by people who don't fear the Lord.

Vs 1—While hiding out in the forest of Hareth in Judah, we see that David got news that some of his fellow people of Judah, the folks in Keilah were under attack by the Philistines. And these Philistines were in the process of robbing their threshing floors.

Vs 2—We see David doing something here that is lacking in Saul...David asks the LORD what he should do and the LORD answers David's inquiry. (Remember that Abiathar the priest has joined David and we'll see that he brought with him the ephod containing the Urim and Thummim.)

Vs 3—Remember that David's army of 400 was made up of those who had previously been with Saul. (Those that were **in distress, in debt, and discontented joined up with David—22:2**) Because they were **deserters** from Saul's army, they were **already in fear of Saul and the rest of his army** just from being in Judah.

Now we see their fears increased, no doubt exponentially, just at the very thought of attacking the armies of the Philistines who outnumbered Saul's army and greatly outnumbered David's army!

Vs 4—So, for the benefit of his men, David enquired of the LORD yet again! The answer is the same as before, but with the added point of encouragement that should have been understood—***“...for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.”***

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Vs 5—So, David and his men **obeyed the LORD and the LORD gave them the victory!**

It's here that we see David acting as the true king of Israel. He's protecting the borders and people of Israel as God's anointed king.

And don't miss how God provides for David's people by giving them cattle.

Vs 6—After the battle, the lone priest, Abiathar, joins back up with David.

Vs 7—Saul had some sympathizers that let him know David was in Keilah. Look at how Saul interprets this news. My first thought was, *“Don't kid yourself!”*

This kind of foolishness is not reserved for Saul, we still see it today!

God had already told Saul, in no uncertain terms, through Samuel that He was **DONE** with Saul! But Saul refused to accept what the LORD had said and tried to carry on the kingdom on his own! On top of that he causes 85 priests of the LORD to be murdered along with all the inhabitants of the city of priests! God is **NOT** on Saul's side in any shape or form!

Vs 8—Saul gathered his army and headed to Keilah to do David and his men in.

Vs 9-12—David knew how Saul was, so he inquired of the LORD again! I want you to note that had David just trusted his flesh, he may have thought that he and his men were safe here in Keilah after having delivered the people from the Philistines. Any reasonable person would have thought so.

However, David seeks the LORD's counsel on two counts:

- 1. Is Saul coming down here?**
- 2. Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men to Saul?**

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The answer was “YES” on both counts!

No doubt the Keilahites had heard of what Saul did to Nob in totally wiping it out for what he erroneously perceived as aiding and abetting the fugitive, David!

Vs 13-15—So, David and his men (who then numbered 600) left Keilah for the wilderness and Saul held up on going to Keilah. But he did not hold up on his pursuit to find and kill David. He still was obsessed with this to the point of madness!

Vs 16-18—We see Jonathan going into the woods to encourage David! Isn't it interesting that Jonathan could find David, but Saul couldn't! This is the last recorded meeting between these two men.

Vs 19-20—Well we see here that the Keilahites weren't the only ones willing to rat out David and his army and give them over to Saul. The Ziphites were willing to do the same thing!

Vs 21-23—Saul, meanwhile, is still living in denial! He still thinks that the LORD is on his side! He took it upon himself to use God's name to bless those who see life his way. His arrogance is stunning. What's scary about this is that Saul had become so convinced that evil was good he could invoke God's blessing on evil. Having other people support him was like pouring gasoline on the fire.

Vs 24-29—I don't know if this is funny to anybody else, but it strikes me as being humorous! Saul and his army on one side of the mountain and David and his army on the other side—It reminds me of a cartoon or comedy skit. Saul for all his manipulation and espionage and political maneuvering still couldn't find David. He has to drop his pursuit to go put down a Philistine invasion. And David and his army left the area to dwell in the strong holds at Engedi.

But we'll see in the next chapter that the pursuit has not really ended, it just has been put on hold by Saul! He's still obsessed with David!