

The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 21

David the Fugitive

David, now assured of Saul's murderous intentions, flees from the royal court. He will find allies and enemies before Saul begins to hunt for him.

54. David and the Holy Bread - I Samuel 21:1-9

- David's first destination as he flees Saul is to High Priest and the Tabernacle.
- Nob - traditionally located near Jerusalem, it was a priestly city. Here would have been situated the tabernacle at this time.
- Ahimelech - means "the king is my brother", he was the High Priest.
- Note that David is alone here, but has faithful servants ready to meet him soon.
- Notes on Shewbread
 - See Leviticus 24:5-9
 - These were twelve loaves that were placed on a table in the Tabernacle Sanctuary on each Sabbath. There were stacked in two piles of six loaves each and had frankincense poured over them.
 - Each loaf was made out of 2 omers of flour (roughly 18 cups). One omer appears to be a days rations (Exodus 16:16)
 - The Kohathites were entrusted with its preparation (I Chronicles 9:32)
 - The priests would eat the old bread after it had been replaced with fresh loaves.
- vs. 4 - in being "kept from women", that is that there is practically no chance of them being ceremonially defiled. Three days seems to be the standard time (Exodus 19:15)
- vs. 6 - Why was David and his servants allowed to take of the shewbread since they were not priests?
 - It was available, it was expedient, and its possible that Ahimelech knew of David's anointing.
 - Christ uses this story to defend Himself in Matthew 12:1-8 and Mark 2:25-27. This reiterated that Christ was Lord of the Sabbath, Law, etc. It also is an illustration that the Law itself did not make man holy, but that it was made to show man good and evil.
- vs. 7 - Doeg the Edomite - His name means "fearful, or cautious". Note that he is an Edomite (a descendent of Esau) and not an Israelite by birth. He worked for Saul and will play a terrible role in our next lesson.
- vs. 8 - David, in his haste to flee, did not take any of his armor or weapons.
- vs. 9 - What are the odds that David's trophy was kept here? Well, in God's plan it was exactly where it needed to be when it was needed.
- I also want to note that David may also have sought direction from God through the priest here (see I Samuel 22:10). While not recorded in this chapter, it is altogether likely knowing David's character.

55. David and the King of Gath - I Samuel 21:10-15

- David does not tarry long at Nob (maybe he spotted Doeg...) and now heads to Israel's enemy, the Philistines.
- Gath - one of the five principle cities of the Philistines. Was located on the border of Judah and Philistia. Also, it was Goliath's hometown.
- Achish - "angry". He's also called Abimelech in the title of Psalm 34.
- Why would David run to the enemy in time of trouble? I think this says that Saul's fury was so great that David felt safer amongst his mortal enemies!
- vs. 11 - wouldn't Saul have hated this? They think David is the king!
- vs. 12 - I think David had second thoughts about whatever plan he had in coming here.
- scrabbled - means to write, or in David's case act like he was writing
- David is fortunate to escape with his life. He easily could have been killed or captured.
- David pens Psalm 34 after this incident.