

**“David: In Hiding But Still Helping”
I Samuel 23**

David delivers Keilah from Philistines as God directs . . . (1-6)

- *Guilt-ridden David (22:22) wants to help Keilah. Check 25:15,16. David and the Son of David expect more! How about us?
- *3x David seeks divine guidance (2, 4, 11) using the Ephod w/the Urim and Thummim (30:7,8, Num. 27:21). Saul’s plight = 28:6,7

God delivers David from Saul . . . as God directs (7-14)

- *See the value of a priest w/ Ephod (plus prophet!): David is privy to future / future possibilities (still lots of spying too—9, 15, 26:4). We can see here how David “profited” from Nob’s tragedy (23:6).
- *How spineless is Keilah’s future willingness to give up David? The city would have faced an “ethical conflict” had David stayed.
- *Just whose side is God on? Note Saul’s confidence: “God has delivered him into my hand” (in 7,21). Opportunity is confused with certainty of God’s will, as later in 24:4, 26:8,9). Do we get confused like this sometimes? Are we too glib about God’s plan?

Philistines deliver David from Saul. . . as God protects (15-29)

- *The Ziphites will betray David twice (26:1). Where’s the Love?! Ironically David can only count on Saul’s own son! Covenant time again for these two, as Jonathan aims to keep David’s hope alive. Sadly, Jonathan is right about David but not about himself. They never see each other again thanks to nutty Saul.
- *Irony abounds as God uses the unwitting Philistines to deliver David. They probably attacked to avenge David’s attack but only succeed in freeing him! Again, as w/Saul’s attack on Nob, God uses evil people to get His plan done! The Philistines often fit into God’s workings w/Israel (to judge Eli in 4, to lift up David in 17, to help David here and in 27, and to get rid of Saul in 31).
- *Chapter is full of unlikely events and heroes, as it becomes crystal clear David, the anointed King, can’t be killed