**1 Samuel 22:1-23**

**“Dealing with the trials of wickedness”**

**Introduction**

David is without direction, fleeing in fear.

He went down to Gath in Chapter 21; and what a mess!

Before that he went to the Tabernacle (at Nob in those days), and talked to the priest Ahimelech, and asked for the bread in desperation. He asked for the bread from the table of showbread that was for the priest only while they served. Then he and asked for weapons and received the only weapon they had, which was the sword of Goliath.

Today as we start Chapter 22, we discover David now hiding out back in Israel in a cave located not to far from were he grew up in Bethlehem, a cave in a hill side overlooking the Valley of Elah (where David killed Goliath).

**22:1-2 David in the cave of Adullam with his family and 400 others joining him**

**1 Samuel 22:1-2**

1 David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam.

So when his brothers and all his father’s house heard *it,* they went down there to him.

2 And everyone *who was* in distress, everyone who *was* in debt, and everyone *who was* discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

**Everyone Distressed, everyone in Debt, everyone Discontented (gather to him):**

**1 Corinthians 1:26–31**

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*.

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

31 that, as it is written, “*He who glories, let him glory in the Lord*.”

**David become the captain over them:**

**Isaiah 55:1–13**

1 “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, And your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live;

**And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David**.

4 Indeed **I have given him *as* a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people**.

5 Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations *who* do not know you shall run to you, Because of the Lord your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you.”

6 Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

8 “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the Lord.

9 “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

12 “For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the Lord for a name, For an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.”

**2 Samuel 22:36**

36 “You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great.

**Note:**

In the Bible translation called “The Bible in Basic English” it translates it,

…..Your “**Mercies”** has made me great.

**22:3 David takes his family to Moab**

**1 Samuel 22:3**

3 Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, “Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me.”

**Ruth 4:13;(17b,21b,22)**

13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son.

17 ….. And they called his name Obed. He *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David.

21 …. Boaz begot Obed;

22 Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

**22:4 The prophet Gad tells David he can’t stay at Moab and they went to Judah**

**1 Samuel 22:4**

4 So he brought them before the king of Moab, and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

5 Now the prophet Gad said to David, “Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go to the land of Judah.” So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

**22:6-19 Saul through Doeg kills the priests**

**1 Samuel 22:6-19**

6 When Saul heard that David and the men who *were* with him had been discovered—now Saul was staying in Gibeah under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants standing about him—

7 then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, “Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, *and* make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds?

8 All of you have conspired against me, and *there is* no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; and *there is* not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as *it is* this day.”

9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, “I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

10 And he inquired of the Lord for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.”

11 So the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father’s house, the priests who *were* in Nob. And they all came to the king.

12 And Saul said, “Hear now, son of Ahitub!” He answered, “Here I am, my lord.”

13 Then Saul said to him, “Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?”

14 So Ahimelech answered the king and said, “And who among all your servants *is as* faithful as David, who is the king’s son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house?

15 Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, *or* to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much.”

16 And the king said, “You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father’s house!”

17 Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, “Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because their hand also *is* with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me.” But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the Lord.

18 And the king said to Doeg, “You turn and kill the priests!” So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod.

19 Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep—with the edge of the sword.

**Fulfillment of Prophecy, concerning the former High Priest Eli, and his sons:**

**1 Samuel 2:33**

33 But any of your men *whom* I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age.

**God has Saul destroy the wicked Amalekites (who were a continually threat to Israel physically and spiritually, but Saul wouldn’t do it for God and God’s purposes, but, self-willed Saul, would do it for himself and his purposes:**

**1 Samuel 15:1–4**

1 Samuel also said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord.

2 Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘I will punish Amalek *for* what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.

3 Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’ ”

4 So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah.

**1 Samuel 15:9**

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all *that was* good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

**David contemplation on Doeg:**

**Psalm 52:1-7**

To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of David Told Saul, and Said to Him, “David Has Gone to the House of Ahimelech.”

1 Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man?

The goodness of God *endures* continually.

2 Your tongue devises destruction,

Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully.

3 You love evil more than good,

Lying rather than speaking righteousness. Selah

4 You love all devouring words,

*You* deceitful tongue.

5 God shall likewise destroy you forever;

He shall take you away, and pluck you out of *your* dwelling place,

And uproot you from the land of the living.

Selah

6 The righteous also shall see and fear,

And shall laugh at him, *saying,*

7 “Here is the man *who* did not make God his strength,

But trusted in the abundance of his riches,

*And* strengthened himself in his wickedness.”

**(David resolves himself that God will have to Judge Doeg, but as for himself, he is not going to become a Doeg to fight a Doeg):**

**Psalm 52:8-9**

8 But I *am* like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever.

9 I will praise You forever, Because You have done *it;* And in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for *it* *is* good.

**22:20-23 David gives refuge, acceptance, and comfort to the one remaining priest alive**

**1 Samuel 22:20-23**

20 Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. 21 And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the Lord’s priests.

22 So David said to Abiathar, “I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite *was* there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have caused *the death* of all the persons of your father’s house.

23 Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you *shall be* safe.”

**Conclusion**

We learn much about what was going on in David’s heart during this time, but more importantly, we learn God’s heart and direction on how to walk by faith in these types of situations of trials.

**Psalm 57**

To the Chief Musician. Set to “Do Not Destroy.” a Michtam of David

When He Fled from Saul into the Cave.

1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me!

For my soul trusts in You;

And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge,

Until *these* calamities have passed by.

2 I will cry out to God Most High,

To God who performs *all things* for me.

3 He shall send from heaven and save me;

He reproaches the one who would swallow me up.

Selah

God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.

4 My soul *is* among lions;

I lie *among* the sons of men Who are set on fire,

Whose teeth *are* spears and arrows,

And their tongue a sharp sword.

5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

*Let* Your glory *be* above all the earth.

6 They have prepared a net for my steps;

My soul is bowed down;

They have dug a pit before me;

Into the midst of it they *themselves* have fallen.

Selah

7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;

I will sing and give praise.

8 Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp!

I will awaken the dawn.

9 I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing to You among the nations.

10 For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens,

And Your truth unto the clouds.

11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

*Let* Your glory *be* above all the earth.

**Psalm 142**

A Contemplation Of David.

A Prayer

When He Was in the Cave.

1 I cry out to the Lord with my voice;

With my voice to the Lord

I make my supplication.

2 I pour out my complaint before Him;

I declare before Him my trouble.

3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me,

Then You knew my path. In the way in which I walk

They have secretly set a snare for me.

4 Look on *my* right hand and see,

For *there is* no one who acknowledges me;

Refuge has failed me;

No one cares for my soul.

5 I cried out to You, O Lord:

I said, “You *are* my refuge,

My portion in the land of the living.

6 Attend to my cry,

For I am brought very low;

Deliver me from my persecutors,

For they are stronger than I.

7 Bring my soul out of prison,

That I may praise Your name;

The righteous shall surround me,

For You shall deal bountifully with me.”