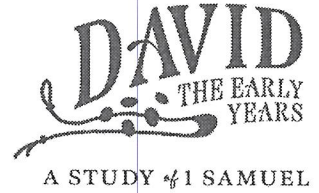


1 SAMUEL 23

March 16-17, 2022



1. Read 1 Samuel 23:1. Keilah was a town in Judah near Philistine territory. What were the Philistines doing in Keilah?

What hardships would this cause for the people living there?

2. Read 1 Samuel 23:2-3. After David learns of Keilah's plight, what does he immediately do?

Record how the Lord answers David and circle the three action verbs.

3. Read 1 Samuel 23:3 again. What is the primary feeling David's men express?

What might be some reasons for this response?

4. Read 1 Samuel 23:4-5. When faced with a significant obstacle to carrying out the Lord's plan, what does David do once again?

Who will ensure a military victory against the Philistines at Keilah?

Imagine David meeting with his men a second time convincing them to go into battle. Write down what David might have said to them. Why would he choose those words?

5. What were the specific outcomes of the battle at Keilah according to 1 Samuel 23:5?

6. Read 1 Samuel 10:1 to remember the two primary duties of Israel's king. Though Saul remains king, how does David act with king-like leadership in 1 Samuel 23:1-5?

7. Read 1 Samuel 23:6 along with 1 Samuel 22:17-23. Who is Abiathar?

8. Read 1 Samuel 23:7-8. Instead of showing concern about the safety of those living within the town of Keilah, what is Saul's only objective?

Look again at Saul's words in 1 Samuel 23:7. What does Saul presume about God?

What has Samuel told Saul that makes his presumption untrue? Also see 1 Samuel 15:26-28.

9. Read 1 Samuel 23:9-14. An ephod was a garment worn by the high priest with a pocket for storing the Urim and Thummim, sacred objects used to cast lots and discern God's will. This is probably how David received answers to his inquiries of the Lord here. How does David address God when he prays? What word does he use to describe himself?

In your own words, describe David's relationship with God. Also read Psalm 54, which David wrote during the events of 1 Samuel 23.

Ponder David's prayers in 1 Samuel 23:11-12 along with his words in Psalm 54. What are one or two truths about God's character that you can lean on the next time life is difficult?

Read 1 Samuel 23:14 again. Despite being in constant danger and in the very difficult wilderness environment, why was David able to survive and evade Saul?

10. Read 1 Samuel 23:15-18. Jonathan sought out David to help him in a time of real need. Write down the specific ways Jonathan served his friend David.

According to Jonathan, Who was to be the source of David's strength?

11. Look again at 1 Samuel 23:15-18 along with the following verses. What do you learn about God's good purposes for friendship among His people?

Romans 12:10

1 Thessalonians 5:11

1 Peter 4:8-10

Think of a woman in your life who most needs a true friend today. Write down one or two ways you can be a godly friend to her in the next week.

12. Read 1 Samuel 23:19-24. Summarize the actions of the Ziphites.

Summarize Saul's plan of action.

13. Read 1 Samuel 23:25-29. What happens that forces Saul to abandon his search for David in verses 27-28?

14. Thinking back on all of chapter 23, list the ways you see God guide and protect David.

15. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

God Directs. God Protects.

1 Samuel 23

David Rescues Keilah

23:1-5

- When David is told of Keilah's hardships, he asks God if he should go there to help.
- In response to God's direction, David convinces his men to fight the Philistines at Keilah.
- As He promised, God gives David a decisive victory.

In times of trouble we pray, _____ to God and obey.

David Flees Keilah

23:6-14

- Saul plans to capture David within the walls of Keilah.
- David asks God what will happen to him next.
- In response to God's answers, David and his men quickly flee into the wilderness.

*In times of trouble, we are confident
God is more _____ than our circumstances.*

David Meets with Jonathan

23:15-18

- Jonathan seeks out David and helps him stay strong in his faith.
- Jonathan confirms David's future as king and pledges loyalty to him.
- Jonathan and David make another covenant before God.

*In times of trouble, we strengthen those around us
and allow others to _____ us.*

David Evades Saul

23:19-29

- The Ziphites betray David's location to Saul.
- Saul and his men chase David and begin to close in on him.
- At the last moment, Saul gets a message about a Philistine raid and abandons his pursuit.
- David and his men dodge Saul once again!
- David goes to live in the oasis of Engedi.

In times of trouble, we believe God is at work even when we _____ see it.

*"The righteous person faces many troubles,
but the LORD comes to the rescue each time." Psalm 34:19 NIV*

EXODUS 15:6-7 “Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.”

ISAIAH 41:10 [F]ear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

HEBREWS 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

ROMANS 5:3-5a Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame.

ROMANS 8:31, 35, 37-39 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.