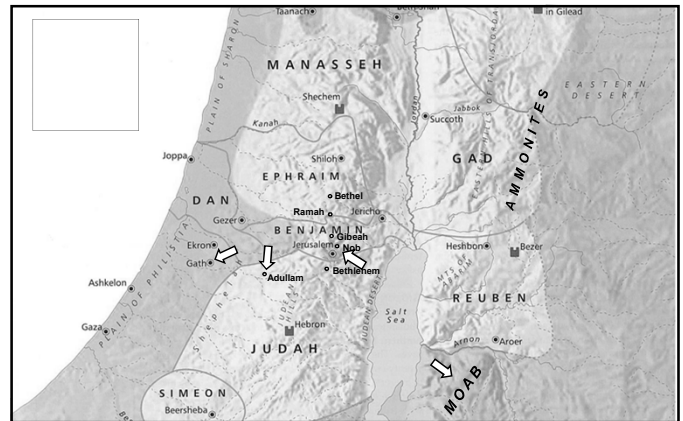


In Search of a King 1-2 SAMUEL



1 Samuel 21:1-22:5

Desperate Measures

Then David came to Nob to Ahimelech the priest; and Ahimelech came trembling to meet David and said to him, "Why are you alone and no one with you?"² David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has commissioned me with a matter and has said to me, 'Let no one know anything about the matter on which I am sending you and with which I have commissioned you; and I have directed the young men to a certain place.'³ Now therefore, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever can be found."⁴ The priest answered David and said, "There is no ordinary bread on hand, but there is consecrated bread; if only the young men have kept themselves from women."⁵ David answered the priest and said to him, "Surely women have been kept from us as previously when I set out and the vessels of the young men were holy, though it was an ordinary journey; how much more then today will their vessels be holy?"

⁶ So the priest gave him consecrated *bread*; for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence which was removed from before the LORD, in order to put hot bread *in its place* when it was taken away.

⁷ Now one of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's shepherds.

⁸ David said to Ahimelech, "Now is there not a spear or a sword on hand? For I brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's matter was urgent."⁹ Then the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah, behold, it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod; if you would take it for yourself, take it. For there is no other except it here." And David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."

(1 Samuel 21:1-9)

Desperate Measures

1. The Lord's Peculiar Provision

- David was provided with "holy" bread, the Lord's special provision
- David was provided with a symbolic sword – a reminder of Yahweh's strength

¹⁰ Then David arose and fled that day from Saul, and went to Achish king of Gath. ¹¹ But the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of this one as they danced, saying, 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands?'" ¹² David took these words to heart and greatly feared Achish king of Gath. ¹³ So he disguised his sanity before them, and acted insanelly in their hands, and scribbled on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva run down into his beard. ¹⁴ Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man behaving as a madman. Why do you bring him to me? ¹⁵ Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this one to act the madman in my presence? Shall this one come into my house?" So David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam...

(1 Samuel 21:10-15)

Desperate Measures

2. The Lord's Peculiar Protection

- David's acting insane surprisingly allowed him to escape the Philistines
- David's protection included a cave, 400 malcontents and the king of Moab

Desperate Measures

Q: *What about David's use of deception?*

- David's use of deception was not a lack of faith but the fruit of his faith

Desperate Measures

3. David's Peculiar Perspective

- David understood his escape as the Lord's deliverance, even as he trusted in the Lord (see Psalm 56 and Psalm 34)

Psalm 56:3-4

*When I am afraid,
I will put my trust in You.
In God, whose word I praise,
In God I have put my trust;
I shall not be afraid.
What can mere man do to me?*

Psalm 34:1-22

⁴ I sought the LORD, and He answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears...

⁶ This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him
And saved him out of all his troubles.

¹⁷ *The righteous cry*, and the LORD hears
And delivers them out of all their
troubles...

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
But the LORD delivers him out of them
all.

➤ *Ultimate safety and deliverance are in
Christ Jesus alone*