### 1 Samuel

## Chapter 22

1Therefore, David got away safely, and he went to the cave of OdolLam... Then when his brothers and the rest of his family heard about it, they went to him there.  
  
2Well thereafter, men who were poor, the debtors, and those with a lot of problems starting coming to him, and he became their leader.  
  
Altogether, there were about 400 men.  
  
  
3Then David moved from there to MizPah in MoAb, and he said to the king of MoAb:  
  
 ‘Please allow my mother and father to stay with you until I know what my God has planned for me.’  
  
4So, since he’d appealed to the king of MoAb personally, the king allowed them to live with him in his citadel.  
  
  
5Then the prophet Gad told David:  
  
 ‘Don’t settle down there in the citadel; you must return to the land of Judah.’  
  
So David went and settled in the city of Hareth. 6And when Saul heard where David and his men were staying, he went and stood on the hill (the one by the plowed fields at RamAh) with his spear in his hand and with all of his servants around him, 7and he said to his servants:  
  
 ‘Listen, you sons of BenJamin,  
  
 ‘Should I really give fields and vineyards to JesSe’s son? For then he would appoint all of you to be his lieutenants and generals, 8since you’re all against me!  
  
 ‘Why, which of you bothered to tell me that my own son had made an agreement with JesSe’s son, and which of you told me that my son has turned my servants into my enemies today?’  
  
9It was then that Doeg the Edomite (the one who was in charge of Saul’s mules) said:  
  
 ‘I saw JesSe’s son going to Nob to visit the Priest AhiMelech (son of AhiTub)... 10He went there to inquire of God, and the Priest gave him some food and the broadsword of the Philistine GoliAth.’  
  
  
11So the king sent for the Priest AhiMelech (son of AhiTub) and his brothers (who were also Priests who were living in Nob). And they all came to the king.  
  
12Then Saul said:  
  
 ‘Listen up, O son of AhiTub! For it’s me, your lord, that’s speaking!’  
  
13Then Saul asked him:  
  
 ‘Why did you go against me and agree to give JesSe’s son bread and a broadsword, and why did you speak to God on his behalf... This man who’s been my enemy down to this day?’  
  
14And AhiMelech replied:  
  
 ‘Who of all your servants is as trustworthy as David? He’s the son-in-law of the king, he’s in charge of your army, and he’s a man of honor in your house!  
  
 15‘So, why are you asking me the reason for my going before God on his behalf?  
  
 ‘Please don’t blame your servant and the entire house of my father about these things that you’re saying, for your servant wasn’t aware of any of these matters, whether small or great.’  
  
16And King Saul said:  
  
 ‘You’re going to die, AhiMelech… You and the entire house of your father!’  
  
17Then he told his guards that were standing there:  
  
 ‘Take them out and kill the Priests of Jehovah, because they’ve sided with David… They knew where he’d run and they didn’t tell me!’  
  
However, the [guards] weren’t willing to lift a hand against the Priests of Jehovah.  
  
18So he said to Doeg:  
  
 ‘Then you – [kill] the Priests.’  
  
Well, Doeg the Edomite slaughtered the Priests of Jehovah on that day… 85 men who wore the sacred vests. 19Then [Saul] attacked the city of the Priests (Nob) and slaughtered all the men, women, children, babies, oxen, sheep, and burros, with broadswords.  
  
20However, one of AhiMelech’s sons (AbiAthar) survived, and he ran to find David... 21And when AbiAthar told David that Saul had executed all the Priests of Jehovah, David said:  
  
 ‘I knew that this would happen when I saw Doeg the Edomite…  
  
 22‘I knew that he would report [seeing me] to Saul, so I’m to blame for the deaths of the house and family of your father.  
  
 23‘Now, you stay here with me!  
  
 ‘Don’t be afraid, because, while I’m watching out for my own life, I’ll also be watching out for yours… I’m going to be your protector.’