

1

Saul's reign as King of Israel. 12:1-31:13

- David chosen and positioned to be the next king of Israel. 16:1-30:30
 - As David fled from Saul a new chapter began in his training to fulfill his calling. This took place against the backdrop of Saul's downward spiral. Chapters 21&22
 - David fled to Nob, where the tabernacle was located at that time. He knew he would receive help there from the high priest and probably felt that this was the one group of people Saul would not treat harshly for helping him.
 - We often think that other people think as we do.

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 - David gave a plausible cover story to further distance the priests from any charge of knowingly giving aid and comfort to an "enemy" of Saul.
 - David asked for bread and was told that the only bread there was the "bread of the Presence" which was put out weekly on a table in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle.

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 - Normally the bread of the Presence was to be eaten by the priest. Ahimelech indicated that he would give it to David if the men he had said he was going to meet were ceremonially clean.
 - David assured him that this was always the case when the men were going on a mission.

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 - Jesus referenced this story on an occasion when the Pharisees accused the disciples of breaking the Sabbath by plucking heads of grain and eating them as they went through a field. Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5

5

The teachings of Jesus from this story:

- *"And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."* (Matthew 12:7-8, ESV)
 - Jesus focused on the character of God that set Him apart from the ideas of the pagan false gods of history. The pagan false gods were seen as unyielding and demanding regardless of the impact on the people who served them. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, on the other hand is seen as One Who is relationally connected to His people and acts toward them with loving kindness and tender mercies.

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 - We need to remember Who has the authority to pronounce judgment. Jesus in pointing out that He is the Lord of the Sabbath, reveals that if a rebuke was in order, He was the One Who would and should issue it.

7

The teachings of Jesus from this story:

- *“And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”* (Mark 2:27-28, ESV)
 - The Sabbath was given to set the nation of Israel apart from other nations and to be a blessing to the people to give them a day of rest from their labors and a time to focus on God. By Jesus day the legalism of the Pharisees had distorted this day to one in which people were terrified all day long that they may break one of the rules related to the Sabbath. It became a day not focused on God but a day that most of the people were happy to see gone, not happy to see come.

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 - After securing the sword of Goliath that had been in the safekeeping of the priests, David fled to the Philistine city of Gath and when his identity became known feigned madness.
 - A person demonstrating madness in this time in history was considered to have been touched by the “gods” and therefore people would be hesitant to cause them harm and even feel an obligation to care for them.

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 - From there David went to the cave of Adullam and was joined by his family and attracted many other troubled and outcast people until he had a small army of 400 men.
 - This was a strategic part of David's training by God. If he could effectively lead such a group of people, which he learned to do, he would be an effective leader.

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 - David entrusted his parents to the king of Moab.
 - Nothing further is mentioned about this but after David became king. 2 Samuel 8:2 records his defeat of Moab and a very severe treatment where two thirds of those captured were executed.

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 - God's care of David is seen in the coming of the prophet Gad to warn David to leave that place and go to a place where he would not easily be found or apprehended.

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 - Saul full of self-focus and self-pity betrays his fears by bemoaning his perception that the loyalty of the people was turning to David.
 - Doeg the Edomite stepped forward and related the visit of David to the place of the Tabernacle.

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 - Saul summoned all of the priest that were at Nob, accused them of giving aid and comfort to his enemy even over their attempt to relate the reality of the story and their loyalty to the king.
 - Saul does the unthinkable by having the priests execute on the spot even though his people would not follow the order. Doeg the Edomite would not have the fear of Yahweh that these had and carried out the order.

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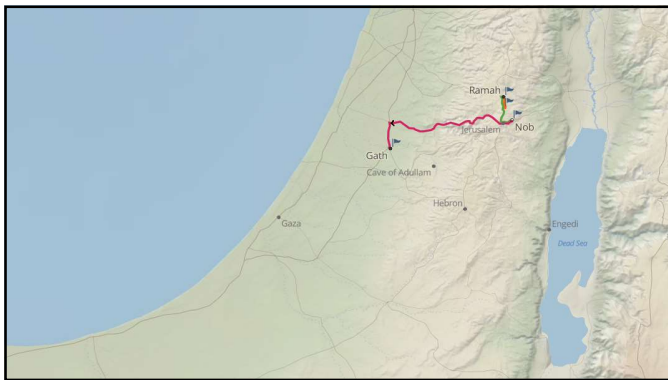
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 - Saul added to this travesty the complete destruction of the city of Nob by killing every living thing. This was a judgment which was only to be carried out at the direct direction of God.
 - Abiathar, the only remaining priest who was now the high priest, escaped and fled to David who pledged to keep him safe.

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 - David wrote his thoughts and assessment of this incident in Psalm 52.

16



17
