

**October 30**

**Scriptures:** Read 1 Samuel 21 & 22

**Key Verse:** “And who among all your servants is so faithful as David,... who is honourable in your house?” (1 Samuel 22:14)

### **Overview**

After David’s sad farewell with Jonathan, he fled to the house of the Lord, which at that time had moved to Nob, not far from Jerusalem. In order to avoid the suspicion of Ahimelech, David lied to conceal the reason of his being there (21:2). Later, when the Philistines of Gath recognized him, he once again behaved deceitfully, feigning insanity in order to protect himself from the king. As with other heroes in the Bible, there is no attempt by the writers of scripture to hide their wrongdoings, and such is a mark of the inspired Word.

The only bread available for David and his men was the holy bread from the table of showbread in the Holy Place, which was renewed every Sabbath. This consecrated bread was only to be eaten by the priests serving in the Holy Place (Leviticus 24:5-9). David reasoned with Ahimelech that, since he and the other men were ceremonially clean, they should be allowed to eat it. Jesus referred to this incident when teaching that the legalistic letter of the law must give way to moral obligations; therefore, feeding the hungry was more important than observing the ceremonial law (Mark 2:25-26).

David was looking for a place of refuge, but he did not find it in Gath. He had to escape from the Philistines there by tricking them into thinking he was insane. To do this, he allowed saliva to run down his beard; in those days, men took great pride in their beards, and no man in his right mind would deface it in such a way. David then fled to a place of safety, the cave of Adullam, which was probably not far from Bethlehem. Many men supported and joined David — those who were discontent with Saul’s rule. With the help of God, these untrained men were organized into a small army of four hundred (22:2).

David’s family also joined him, probably out of fear from Saul, for at that time it was not uncommon for the whole family to be slain because of one member’s mistake (as we see with the household of Ahimelech; 22:18). For added protection, David took his elderly father, Jesse, and his mother to the king of Moab for refuge (22:3-4). The family of David was related to the Moabites through Jesse’s grandmother, Ruth (Ruth 4:13-22).

In a council meeting, Saul tried to get information on the whereabouts of David. Saul was paranoid of even his own men and frustrated that he was unable to harm David, due to God’s providential protection. It seems that, because everyone liked David, they were hesitant to help Saul (18:5; 22:8). The information, however, was offered by Doeg, the Edomite servant of Saul, who had been in Nob when David went there for provisions (21:7). Doeg was probably a proselyte who may have gone there to bring offerings for reasons of purification or in fulfillment of a vow, yet his religion did not reach his heart. He was the only one cruel enough to obey Saul’s insane order to slaughter the priests and massacre their entire village, merely because they

had given aid to David. And those people were innocent, because they were unaware that he was a fugitive.

Before Ahimelech died, he courageously attested to David's purity of character and his faithfulness to the house of Saul (22:14). Had it not been necessary, David would never have organized an army, but he did so only as a defence against Saul's attacks. Through all these circumstances, God was with David. He sought the Lord's guidance through the prophet Gad, who came to play an important role in David's life.

## **Prayer**

Lord, You promised that if we would commit our ways to You, You would direct our paths. Even though our way leads through very difficult places, as was the case in David's life, we're going to keep committed to You and confident in Your direction. Thank You for this assurance!