

**David, Shepherd and King**  
**#8 David Inquires of the Lord - 1 Samuel 23**  
**2/21/10 (AM)**

1. David at Keilah (1-12)

***Division Invites Attack***

When God's people fight among themselves Satan gains an advantage.

James 3:16, "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."

Keilah was a bit isolated located on the edge of Philistine territory in the lowlands of Judah. David at this time is in the forest of Hereth.

- **David \_\_\_\_\_ sought counsel from the Lord**

David had come a long way since he left Gath. He did not just react but prayed for God's guidance.

- **God Answers \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer**

God has promised in His Word that He both hears and answers our prayers, 1 John 5:14-15.

- **David was not \_\_\_\_\_ by men**

David understood his men's concerns because he understood their perspective. David's response was to again seek God's wisdom.

It appears that many of David's Psalms came out of his wilderness experiences, Psalm 27:14 & 62:5.

- **The Next Step Is Always a Step of \_\_\_\_\_**

- **Obedience does not always lessen \_\_\_\_\_**

Many times difficulties increase when we chose to walk by faith. God uses these to strengthen us. Difficulties that come from walking in sin weaken us. Note Saul's hypocritical piety claiming that God had abandoned David. David neither panicked nor did he despair. He again sought counsel from the Lord. These verses reveal to us exactly how David "inquired of the Lord" (4). We learn in verse (6) "Now it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he went down with an ephod in his hand."

The ephod was the breastplate of the High Priest. It contained twelve stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. It also contained the Urim and the Thummim.

Exodus 28:30, "And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the Lord. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the Lord continually."

The words Urim and Thummim mean "lights and perfections". It is not known exactly how they were used to discern God's will. Some believe that they either shown brightly or dimly to indicate God's will. Others believe that they were cast like lots. David now as the anointed of the Lord had access to the ordained method for determining God's will.

- **Divine \_\_\_\_\_ Is Discovered in the Way of Obedience**

Note the difference between what happened to Nob and what happened to Keilah. Because David inquired of the Lord the city was saved.

2. David in the Wilderness of Ziph (14-24)

***David Fled to the Mountains***

Saul had his spies out searching for David but they could never corner him. Two significant things occur at this time.

- **David was \_\_\_\_\_ by his friend**

Jonathan risked his life to come to David. He encouraged David by reminding David that God had anointed him to be the next king. This was evident to everyone even Saul. Jonathan's visit would have encouraged David to bear the hardships he was going through.

- **God \_\_\_\_\_ His People to Encourage His People**

God's word teaches that this is one of the reasons we go through trials.

God encourages us in our trails so that we may encourage others.

2 Corinthians 1:4, "who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

The word comfort is *paraklete*, called alongside to help.

- **David was \_\_\_\_\_ by his kinsmen**

The Ziphites were from the tribe of Judah and the family of Caleb. These were people from David's own tribe. The word "Jeshimon" is not a proper name but means desolation or a desert.

David recorded his feelings at this time in Psalm 54. Spurgeon says of David in his introduction to this Psalm, "He turns to God in prayer, and so strong was his faith that he soon sang himself into delightful serenity."

David is again seen as a type of Christ in this Psalm. Note another of Saul's pious platitudes. He instructed the Ziphites to find David's exact location.

### **Satan Uses God's People to Discourage God's People**

#### 3. David in the Wilderness of Maon (24-29)

##### ***David Moved Farther South***

The word "rock" means cliff or precipice. Some believe that David purposefully abandoned a strategically strong position rather than fight against Saul, the Lord's anointed.

- **Obedience brings deliverance**

God providentially rescued David. Saul and his men "were encircling" (26) David when "a messenger came to Saul" (27-28) saying that "the Philistines have invaded the land."

Saul was forced to leave David. David went to En Gedi an oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea.

**Walking in God's \_\_\_\_\_ Led David from a Cave to an Oasis**