

# TILL I KNOW WHAT GOD WILL DO FOR ME

## 1 SAMUEL 22:3 – 23:29

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~ Our Spiritual Safari has completed two thirds of this historical first book of Samuel the prophet in the Word of God; and if you have your Bible you'll want to open it to this passage. Then, pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment – and then read the text in your Bible. Then, read this report. In our previous report, David became utterly hated by the murderous madman King Saul. David had to flee for his life from the land of Israel. As he was on the lam, David then went to the high priest, Ahimelech, and Ahimelech broke the Mosaic Law by giving David the shewbread and Goliath's sword. We were also refreshed in how this account was used by Jesus when He was accused of breaking the Mosaic Law on the Sabbath by healing and performing miracles. If you have not read our previous report and, indeed, all eleven safari reports thus far in Samuel, I highly suggest you go back and do so now.

In this report, we'll see Saul become incensed in an absolute murderous and pathetic self-pitiful rage; it's altogether frightening, amusing and repulsive simultaneously. David is now the subject of the writer to the Hebrews when they speak of David being in the dens of the earth; specifically saying, "... (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth." We'll see David hiding in those caves, forests and everywhere else he could possibly think of to hide from King Saul. It was not a good time in his life.

We learned that this drastically harsh lesson was God's training and preparation for David to succeed as king of Israel in our last report, also. These next three chapters comprise a several year interval. Some outstanding conservative scholars believe this was as long as ten full years. During that time, David was hunted by Saul like a wild animal; and Saul runs David into exhaustion; and David, in turn, exhausted Saul. David was in constant danger during the entire time; and he says, in Psalms, he was like a partridge – but without a pear tree, and as an owl of the desert or a pelican in the wilderness. I've seen many pelicans on the beaches here in

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Florida, and I cannot imagine a desert pelican. Here are a few other things David had to say about this dark and desperate period in his life:

*Psalm 17:9 From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about ~*

*Psalm 57:4 My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword ~*

*Psalm 102:6 I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert. 7 I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top. 8 Mine enemies reproach me all the day; and they that are mad against me are sworn against me. 9 For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping ~*

Friends, if that's not vivid enough language, then I just don't know what would be. This was a terrible period in the life of this man who had been chosen by God. It is a fearful thing it is to fall into the hands of the Living God. When you enroll in God's University to obtain your doctorate in theology, this is the way you'll begin, I promise you that! This is the standard hazing of the alumni that Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, John Baptist, Saul of Tarsus, Simon Peter and all of the other apostles graduated Magna Cum Laude from – and so did David. If you want to be God's man or woman – this is where you will start.

Keep in mind that, even in this dark period, David is the anointed king of Israel! So, his first royal palace was, actually, a cave called Adullam. This is a rocky mountain pass south of Jerusalem in a valley between Philistia and Hebron. This is the place Saul will press David like a grape. As we read on, we see family and immediate friends come to David and make him their captain; and they were loyal to him unto death. These will later be referred to by the Lord as "... the mighty men of David!" Again, do you really think you are God's man – do you honestly want to be? ~

## **XXII**

**1 David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.**

**2 And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.**

~ David's mighty men at this time were discontented, in distress, dismayed, disenfranchised, discouraged, diminished, doubtful, disheartened, distraught, disillusioned and very other "d" word you can think of in our previous report. Today, friends, we live in an age where this world rejects the Lord Jesus Christ wholesale. But even so, God is calling out a people to His Name. We will later see David have several opportunities given to him to kill Saul, but David chose not to, as David was looking to God – not himself – to deal with his problems! God could wrap Satan up and put him in a hole right now; but He's not doing that. Satan is roaming up and down this earth like a roaring lion as we read this report; but God is simply calling out a people to His Name.

We are entering a modern era where the corruption and injustice of this world will either make you a cynical person or a Christian – there will be no other choice soon. Have you ever felt the whiplash of the oppressive unfairness in this world? Have you ever found yourself with no appeals and no place to turn for a way out? Many people turn to nostrums or drugs and drinking – and some turn to suicide! The man in distress in this last verse means they were persecuted and outcast by King Saul. They fled from Saul and joined David! There have been many periods like this in history, too; Patrick Henry took his own life in his hands in Boston so long ago and without him we wouldn't have an America. See, there is One Who is calling you today if you are in this situation. The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost. The Lord Jesus Christ wants to help you and He is able to help you, too, friends. Christ Himself has suffered being tempted; Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Jesus knows what it means to be despised and to have all of mankind hate Him!

Some of the others who came to David were in debt; and debt is a cancer that destroys under any circumstance. In the day in which we are studying, a man could be sold into slavery for being in debt. Saul was permitting Jewish men to be sold as slaves left and right as a result of him taxing them unfairly. Saul should have been protecting his nation, but he didn't care about them. See, sin has made us debtors to God today; that's why the prayer Jesus taught the disciples to pray with was to include a request to forgive us our debts – as we forgive those who are indebted to us. Well, one way or another, forgiveness *MUST* rest on repayment or discharge of debt. So, those who were in debt had no choice but to flee to David in the middle of the night. Only Christ can ever possibly pay our debt today – and He already has! This is why we are told we are debtors not to the flesh to live after the flesh.

The discontented means they were bitter in their souls because their circumstances and experiences of life had absolutely soured them. Restlessness has utterly swept every nation on the face of this earth tonight. In fact, it has flooded every home in every neighborhood in every town in every state of every country at this time as I write and as you read. The masses march in protest about this and that and everyone is in disagreement. There is a total dissatisfaction of life today in every class and caste. If we do not see the hand of God moving in our lives today, we are heading for disaster! Thank God we can turn to the rejected King – the Lord Jesus Christ – Who says, *“come unto Me all you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest!”* If any man thirsts, let them come to Him. This section of Scripture has so much spiritual meaning that we cannot possibly capture all of its aspects in a lifetime....

***3 And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me.***

***4 And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.***

~ We saw another family who left Bethlehem and went down to Moab. God never told Elimelech to leave when a famine came. That was Elimelech's own mistake; and Naomi suffered greatly as a result. Naturally, that's how Ruth the Moabitess entered the Word of God. I don't think David should have left Israel, because I believe the Lord would have protected David if he had stayed. But I recognize that's a super pious presumption on my part. Either way, it means David was likely out of the will of God at this time and is also likely the reason this story has such a sad aura to it. Remember, Abraham ran away and went down into Egypt, too – out of the will of God – so, that didn't go well for him. Here we see David in a hold and his family in a land where they definitely should not be....

***5 And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth.***

***6 When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that were with him, (now Saul abode in Gibeah under a tree in Ramah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him;)***

***7 Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds;***

***8 That all of you have conspired against me, and there is none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?***

***9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.***

***10 And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.***

**11 Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.**

**12 And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord.**

**13 And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?**

**14 Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?**

**15 Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.**

**16 And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house.**

**17 And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.**

**18 And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.**

**19 And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.**

***20 And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David.***

***21 And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests.***

***22 And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father's house.***

***23 Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.***

~ Saul has developed extreme paranoia, but it was somewhat warranted, because his own son is on the verge of attempting a coup d'état against him. Saul's own men are refusing to carry out orders. Well, this was a disgraceful and disgusting act Saul perpetrated via Doeg on Ahimelech the innocent high priest and his family. Doeg was a dastardly and damnable man who was willing to do anything, obviously. Ahimelech had some high motives, and he defended David; and I believe David will later deeply regret deceiving Ahimelech. Well, Ahimelech tells Saul the honest truth; and he is killed for doing so. Saul is completely unhinged at this time. This was a serious crime committed by the king himself. Saul has gone so far in his rebellion and sin against God that he cannot stop. Saul's bitter vengeance is the only motive for killing the entire city of Nob in addition to the entire priestly line of Israel.

Paul speaks of that "little root of bitterness." I think we need to be very careful about that, friends. It germinates in the hearts and souls of many of God's men, and it is a vicious and terrible thing to allow to grow. It happens in churches by men who have no desire whatsoever to bring glory to the name of Christ; they just want to vent their grievances or steal all the money. It is truly amazing how some people have such profound hatred against others - but for what reason, they don't even know. This happens all the time, from the pastor down to the members and even the janitor in the church. This is why we can't be too sure of many who are active in the "Lord's service" today; some are motivated by the strangest and most unimaginable things. In the early stages of growth, it can be almost

impossible to distinguish the tares and the wheat, too, by the way, but I digress, sort of....

### **XXIII**

***1 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors.***

***2 Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.***

***3 And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?***

***4 Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.***

***5 So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.***

***6 And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand.***

***7 And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.***

***8 And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.***

***9 And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod.***

**10 Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake.**

**11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me up into his hand? will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD God of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down.**

**12 Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up.**

**13 Then David and his men, which were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go . And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbare to go forth.**

**14 And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.**

**15 And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.**

**16 And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.**

**17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.**

**18 And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.**

**19 Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?**

***20 Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of thy soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand.***

***21 And Saul said, Blessed be ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me***

***22 Go, I pray you, prepare yet, and know and see his place where his haunt is, and who hath seen him there: for it is told me that he dealeth very subtilly.***

***23 See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hideth himself, and come ye again to me with the certainty, and I will go with you: and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land, that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Judah.***

***24 And they arose, and went to Ziph before Saul: but David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon.***

***25 Saul also and his men went to seek him. And they told David: wherefore he came down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon.***

***26 And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain: and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them.***

***27 But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land.***

***28 Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place Selahammahlekoth.***

***29 And David went up from thence, and dwelt in strong holds at Engedi.***

~ So, our safari ends this report with David running from one end of Israel to the other, being relentlessly dogged by Saul. David continues to flee with roughly six hundred men or so. After David delivers the city of Keilah, the Lord told David to get out of town immediately. Well, David believes God, so, he does just as he is told. Notice how faithful and true Jonathan was to David; he reveals himself to be a very outstanding man. Jonathan's attitude and actions remind me of John the Baptist. John said, "... *I must decrease so that Christ might increase.*" Well, even so, David is on the run now, and Saul knew what was happening in Israel; but he refused to come to terms and accept reality. We're going to conclude at this point, but we'll resume our expedition through the entire Word of God in the sound doctrine of the apostles right here - in the next leg of our Spiritual Safari ~