

DAVID THE FUGITIVE
1 Samuel 21:1-15

INTRODUCTION

Nov 29, 1981

1. Scripture records at least 10 flights of David in his effort to escape the hatred and sword of Saul. Two of these are in this chapter.
2. Were it not for other Scripture, it would appear David despaired of life itself in his fugitive escapades. Thank God for a rich Psalm which explains his great trust in the Lord (56).

1. DAVID'S FLIGHT vv. 1, 10.

After leaving Jonathan (20:42), David chose to find refuge in Nob with the Lord's priests (v. 1). Ultimately this led to the tragic killing of 85 priests (22:18). From Nob, David went to Gath, one of five major Philistine cities (cf. 1 Sam. 6:17).

2. DAVID'S FACE v. 11.

Upon his arrival in Gath, David was recognized. It may have been the sword of Goliath which identified him (v. 9). Whatever, even Gath had heard the praises of David (cf. 18:6, 7). Hence, tho "king of the land," he was despised (cf. Matt. 27:11-14).

3. DAVID'S FEAR v. 12.

The words of Gathites provoked David to fear (cf. v. 10). This sort of fear brings a snare (Prov. 29:25). Oh to learn trust in God and not fear!

4. DAVID'S FAKE vv. 13-15.

Fear led David to ridiculous activity.

a. He changed his behaviour

"Changed" means to "do something a second time." The Hebrew for "behaviour" is "understanding," hence his understanding was disfigured.

b. He feigned madness

The hithpoel form of the Hebrew verb means "to be foolish." A different form of the same verb is translated "praise."

c. He scrabbled

The verb means to "make a sign or mark." This was to demonstrate his madness.

d. He salivated

This was considered an intolerable indignity. David did it to betray his true feelings.

5. DAVID'S FAITH Psalm 56.

a. His prayer vv. 1-4.

Basic petition is for "mercy" (v. 1). This was because his enemies sought to: 1) Swallow (vv. 1, 2). This means "to pant after." 2) Oppress (v. 1). This means to "crowd, press." 3) Fight (v. 2). This is generic term for wage war. It also means to eat or consume.

b. His complaint vv. 5-11.

Further reasons are advanced by David for God's mercy. The enemy: 1) Wrests his words (v. 5). Verb means "to afflict or give pain to." 2) Gather themselves (v. 6). Here is troop concentration (cf. v. 2). 3) Hide themselves (v. 6). This is the thought of ambush. 4) Mark steps (v. 6). Suggests observing or stalking one's heels to kill. 5) Wait (v. 6). Obvious idea is hope for death.

c. His pledge vv. 9-13.

Here is trust at its best: 1) God is for me (v. 9). 2) I will praise (vv. 4, 10, 12). 3) I will trust (vv. 3, 11). 4) I will not be afraid (v. 11). 5) I will vow (v. 12).

CONCLUSION What a reservoir of faith David had. He had the Lord. He was David's sufficiency for his soul and he expected for life too (v. 13). May the Lord be our stabilization too both now and forever. Amen.