

1 Samuel 23

King James Version (KJV)

23 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors. (This city was located on the border between Israel and the Philistine empire. They were stealing the peoples' grain)

²Therefore 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. (David is asking God through Abiathar with the Urim and Thummim)

(People will continue to see David as their savior and the rightful leader of Israel. His popularity with the people of Israel will continue to grow until they make him king of Judah)

³And 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? (Saul had thousands of troops looking to kill David. The Philistines will have even more men than Saul did)

⁴Then 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. (God will fight the battle for David's men. They cannot lose. This will give David's men the courage that they will need to fight the philistines; and what they will need to stand against Saul and his thousands of soldiers)

⁵So 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. (They received the spoils of war in order to feed and sustain David's men and their families. They were on the run, so they couldn't settle down in order to raise crops)

⁶And 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. (The ephod held the Urim and Thummim) (Abiathar had stayed behind with the families, when David went to Keilah to fight the Philistines)

⁷And 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. (Keilah = enclosed, in Hebrew) (delivered = rejected – better translation)

(As if God would help a sick murderer like Saul. God didn't reject David. Saul is delusional. He should have known that he was the rejected one; not David)

⁸And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. (Saul is willing to fight Israelites against Israelites in order to murder David. God hates murder. God also hates civil war)

⁹And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod. (It's always a good idea to consult with God on difficult decisions)

¹⁰Then 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. (Many innocent lives are in jeopardy. Saul is a ruthless murderer. David is doing the right thing in asking God's counsel)

¹¹Will 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.

¹²Then 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. (They will have no choice against the combined armies of Saul. Saul is the guilty one here; not the people of Keilah)

NOTE: (This is a type for when the deceived masses of the world will deliver the Elect up before the antichrist, in the end days of this Age) See Mark-13:3-23

¹³Then 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 forbore to go forth. (David's army <now 600 men> was growing, as people woke up to Saul's evil and his corruption)

¹⁴And 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. (No one can prevail against God; regardless of how powerful his army is)

(The world will learn that lesson again at Armageddon and at Haman-Gog. God will fight both of those battles in the end days)

¹⁵ And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood. (This is in Judah, between the mountains of Judah and the Dead Sea)

¹⁶ And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. (Jonathan was helping to build David's confidence. He's telling David that he's doing the right thing, in order to encourage him. Saul is the criminal here; not David)

(We read in many Psalms written by David at this time that he was often depressed. Through all of that, David always remained faithful to 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. (Saul knows that David will be the next king. That's why he's trying to murder him. Unfortunately, Jonathan will not see that day. He will die in battle against the Philistines)

¹⁸ And they two made a covenant before the LORD: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house. (They renewed their covenant before God)

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? (Jeshimon = desolation) (This location is a high hill; and offers good views in all directions)

See Psalms-54 (the Ziphites are called Ziphums)

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. (They are looking for rewards for betraying David to the corrupt king)

²¹ And Saul said, Blessed be ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me. (Saul was acting as if David was the evil one. Saul was completely mad at this time. His paranoia had taken control of him)

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. (haunt = foot; where he is)

(It's not David who dealt subtly. It was God, protecting him from Saul)

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. (all the thousands of Judah – Saul is willing to go family be family in Judah, until he finds David)

(Saul is setting up a network of spies to track David, so that he can come down and kill him)

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. (Jeshimon = a desolation) (Maon was further south than Ziph)

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. (The people told David that the people of Ziph had ratted him out to Saul)

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. (Saul had David surrounded, with a far greater army)

²⁷ But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land. (This was divine intervention by God, to protect David from Saul)

(While Saul is trying to murder David, the real enemy had attacked the country. What a pathetic excuse for a king)

²⁸ Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place Selahammahlekoth. (Selahammahlekoth = the rock of divisions)

²⁹ And David went up from thence, and dwelt in strong holds at Engedi. (Engedi= the fountain of the kid)