

David Escapes and Saul Murders the Priests (I Samuel 21-22)

Parts: Narrator
Saul
David
Ahimelech
Doeg
Abiathar
guards/messengers

SCENE 1 David is seen by Doeg the Edomite

Narrator:

Now David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest.

Ahimelech (surprised):

"Why are you alone, and no one is with you?"

David:

"The king has ordered me on some business, and said to me, 'Do not let anyone know anything about this business.' And I have told my men to wait for me at such and such a place."

"What do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find."

Ahimelech:

"There is no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread. You can have it, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women."

David:

"Truly, women have been kept from us about three days since I came out. And the young men's containers are holy."

(Ahimelech gives David holy bread.)

Narrator:

Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day. And his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chief of the herdsmen who belonged to Saul.
(Doeg notices David and Abimelech from a distance, and sneaks up closer and tries to listen.)

David:

"Is there not a spear or a sword on hand here? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste."

Ahimelech:

"The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, there it is, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it."

David:

"There is none like it; give it to me."

Narrator:

Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. ... [Then he] departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. ...

SCENE 2 Saul rages over David's escape**Narrator:**

Now Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered. And Saul was sitting under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him.

Saul:

"Hear now, you 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? All of you have conspired against me, and there is no one who tells me that *my son* has made a covenant with the son of Jesse. And there is not one of you who is sorry for me or tells me that *my son* has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day."

Doeg (steps forward):

"I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech. And Ahimelech inquired of Yehowah for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

Saul:

"Bring Ahimelech the priest, and all his father's house, to me!"

(A messenger goes out and returns with the priests.)

Saul:

"Hear now, son of Ahitub!"

Ahimelech:

"Here I am, my lord."

Saul:

"Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait?"

Ahimelech:

"And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house? Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, or to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much."

Saul:

"You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house!"

Saul (to the guards):

"Turn and kill the priests of Yehowah, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me."

Narrator:

But the king's servants would not lift their hands to strike the priests of Yehowah.

Saul (to Doeg):

"You turn and kill the priests!"

(Doeg draws his sword and kills the priests. One of them, Abiathar, escapes.)

Narrator:

And Doeg killed eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod on that day. He also struck Nob, the city of the priests, with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep.

But one of the sons of Ahimelech, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David, carrying the ephod in his hand.

SCENE 3 Abiathar escapes to David

Abiathar (out of breath and sad):

"Saul has slain my parents and my brothers, all of Yehowah's priests and their families, with the edge of the sword!"

David (angry with himself):

"I *knew* that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul!"

(now sad) "I have caused the death of all the persons of your father's house."

(now kindly to Abiathar) "Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe."

(The End)