

David Saves Keilah

1 And it was told to David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are at war against Keilah. They are robbing and trampling upon the threshing floors." 2 Therefore David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the Lord said to David, "Go and attack these Philistines and save Keilah." 3 But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more so if we go to Keilah, to go after the plunder of the Philistines?" 4 Then David inquired of the Lord once again. And the Lord answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hands." 5 And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, and the Philistines fled from his presence, and David carried off their livestock and struck them with a mighty blow. David saved the inhabitants of Keilah. 6 Now when Abiathar the son of Abimelech fled to David and was with David at Keilah, he went down with an ephod in his hand. 7 And Saul was told that David went to Keilah. So Saul said, "God sold him into my hand, for he shut himself in by entering a city with gates and bars." 8 Then Saul charged all the people to go down to war against Keilah and to hold David and his men as prisoners. 9 When David knew Saul had not kept silent about the evil against him, David said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod of the Lord." 10 Then David said, "O Lord God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city because of me. 11 Will he close in upon me? Will Saul come down now, as Your servant has heard? Lord God of Israel, tell Your servant." And the Lord said, "He will close in upon you." 12 So David and his men, about four hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was announced to Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.

David Hides in the Desert

13 And David stayed in the strongholds of the wilderness and remained in the mountain of Ziph, which was dry country. Saul sought him every day, but the Lord did not deliver him into his hands. 14 So David saw that Saul had come out to seek him. And David was on the arid mountain in New Ziph. 15 Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in New Ziph and strengthened his hands in the Lord. 16 And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that." 17 So the two of them made a covenant before the Lord. And David stayed in New Ziph, and Jonathan went to his own house. 18 Then the Ziphites came up from the dry places to Saul, who was upon the hill, saying, "Behold, is David not hiding with us in Messara, in the strongholds in New Ziph, in the hill of Hachilah on the south of Jeshimon? 19 Now come down to us, according to all the desire of the king." They cornered him in for the hands of the king. 20 And Saul said, "Blessed are you of the Lord, for you have toiled on my account. 21 Please go and make more preparations. See the place where his hideout is and tell me quickly, lest by any means he escape through cunning. 22 See therefore and know, and we will go with you. And if he is in the land, I will search for him among the thousands of Judah." 23 So the Ziphites arose and went before Saul. But David and his men were in the Desert of Maon, in the wilderness of Maon, westward and to the right of Jessaemon. 24 So Saul and his men went to seek him. It was reported to David, and he went down to the rock in the Desert of Maon. And Saul heard and pursued David in the Desert of Maon. 25 Then Saul and his men went on one side of this mountain, and David and his men on the other side of this mountain. And David was hiding himself to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them. 26 But a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hasten and come here quickly, for the Philistines have invaded the land!" 27 Therefore Saul turned back from pursuing David and went to meet the Philistines in battle. So they called that place the Rock of Dividing.

1 Kingdoms 24

David Spares Saul's Life

1 Then David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds at En Gedi. 2 Now when Saul returned from following the Philistines, it was reported to him, saying, "David is in the desert of En Gedi." 3 Then he took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the face of Sadaïem. 4 On the way, he came across a flock of sheep, and nearby there was a cave. Saul entered the cave to make preparations. Now sitting in the recesses of this same cave were David and his men. 5 And David's men said to him, "Look! This is the day of which the Lord spoke to you, that He would deliver your enemy into your hands, to do to him as it seems good from your perspective." So David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 6 Then it happened that David's heart afflicted him afterward, because he cut the corner of his robe. 7 And David said to his men, "The Lord forbid me, that I should do this to my lord, for he is the anointed of the Lord." 8 By these words David persuaded his men not to rise up and kill Saul. So Saul got up from the cave and went his way. 9 After Saul departed, David went out from the cave and cried out to Saul, saying, "My lord, O king!" And Saul looked back, and David, bowing to the ground, prostrated himself. 10 And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of the people who say, 'Behold, David seeks your life'?" 11 Take notice! This day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you into my hand in the cave; but I would not kill you. I spared you and said, 'I will not put my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' 12 Here in my hand is the corner of your robe! I cut off the corner, but did not kill you. See and know today, there is no evil or impiety or breach of faith in my hand. I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. 13 Let the Lord pass judgment between you and me, and let the Lord vindicate me from you. But my hand shall not be against you. 14 As the ancient proverb says, 'Out of lawlessness shall come wrongdoing, but my hand will not be against you.' 15 Now after whom do you seek, O King of Israel? Whom do you hunt after? Are you after a dying dog or perhaps a flea? 16 Let the Lord be judge and jury, each one in my midst, and each one in your midst. And let the Lord observe and decide my judgment and vindicate me from your hand." 17 And it came to pass, when David finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Truly this is your voice, O son David." And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. 18 Then he said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you repaid me with good, but I repaid you with evil. 19 Today you make known how you dealt well with me, how when the Lord delivered me into your hand today, you did not kill me. 20 For if a man finds his enemy in distress and yet in a good way sends him out, the Lord will reward him with good, just as you did today. 21 And now behold, I know that you shall be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hands. 22 Therefore by the Lord, swear now to me that you will not cut off my seed after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house." 23 So David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his place, but David and his men went up to the stronghold at Messara.

1 Kingdoms 25

The Death of Samuel

1 And Samuel died, and all Israel gathered together and lamented for him, and they buried him at his home in Ramah.

David and Abigail

And David arose and went down to the Desert of Maon.