

VV STUDY NOTES: 6th JULY 2024

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1 Samuel 21: 1 – 22:5 (David and the Holy Bread, David Escapes)

This story of the Consecrated Bread comes with more questions than answers. We would say today that it opens a 'can of worms'.

1. Were there multiple centres of worship in Israel at the time?

Originally, the Tabernacle was the focal point of worship and sacrifice.

We have already seen that different leaders had set up their own centres of worship, and there were different centres who had priests with Ephods.

Would this suggest there had been a fragmentation of the religious unity of the nation?

Would it suggest that they may have been more like today than we might think?

2. Why did David pretend he was on the king's business?

Was he trying to deceive Ahimelek, or protect him?

3. Ahimelek "trembled" as did the elders in Bethlehem when Samuel arrived.

Does this suggest that a spirit of fear is a common experience in the history of humanity?

How often does FEAR drive human decision making?

How is this displaying itself in the world today?

4. The consecrated bread involved was like the leftovers after communion.

The current consecrated bread (bread of the Presence) had been newly baked.

Priests or Levites who were ritually clean ate the old bread.

Did Ahimelek break the rules?

Did David violate the rules?

5. What do you think of the statement that Doeg the Edomite is "detained before the Lord"? The Hebrew word means held back, restrained, kept in a firm hold, arrested, locked up.

6. Would the fact that Ahimelek gave David Goliath's sword trigger a reaction in Saul when he finds out?

7. DAVID ON THE MOVE

- Flees to Achish king of Gath. Uses his acting skills to feign madness.
- Then he goes to the Cave of Adullam (the stronghold) but gets the king of Moab in Mizpah to provide sanctuary for his family.
- His army of 400 could be described as misfits: "all those in distress or in debt or discontented".
- He has a personal seer, or prophet by the name of GAD.
- GAD tells him not to stay in the stronghold but go to Judah where he hides on the forest of Hereth.
- Gath was one of the 5 Phillistine cities, but they still have a significant presence and garrisons in the heart of Israel. Chapter 23 tells us they have a garrison in Bethlehem.
- Saul was somehow restricted by their oversight even within Israel's own territory.

What questions would these events trigger in your mind?

What does it tell us about David as a person?