

## Grace

### I Samuel 23: 15-34 and chapter 24 – Catherine Taylor

Grace can be defined as courteous good-will, to do honor or credit to someone or something by one's presence or, undeserved favor. It seems to me that David exhibited all three of these qualities in his interactions with Saul.

### *Locations*

**Keilah** – The Citadel - The earliest historical record of Keilah is found in the Amarna letters from the 14th century BCE. In some of them, Qeilah and her king Shuwardatha are mentioned.<sup>1</sup> It is possible to infer from them the importance of this city among the cities of Canaan that bordered near Egypt before the conquest of Canaan by the Israelites.

According to the First Book of Samuel, the Philistines had made an inroad eastward as far as Keilah and had begun to appropriate the country for themselves by plundering its granaries until David prevented them.

**The Wilderness of Ziph** – Ziph ( Romanized Zip) was a town in the Judean Mountains south-east of Hebron. Here David hid himself from Saul (Psalm 54). The name of Zif is found about four miles south of Hebron, attached to a rounded hill of some 100 feet in height, which is called Tell Zif.

**Horesh** – The name means “forest”. It was located in the Wilderness of Ziph. There's disagreement about any other possible information.

**Maon** – in the Arabah south of the desert. The rift valley is along the edge of the Dead Sea – and I of course wonder about the significance of that.

**En Gedi** - *means* "the spring of the kid goat" in Hebrew, is a desert oasis on the western shore of the Dead Sea that appears in the Bible many times. The oasis is known for its beauty and natural resources and has been home to people for thousands of years. It features waterfalls, pools, streams, and two freshwater springs, one of which is the only one along the Dead Sea's western shore. The area is also home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, rabbits, leopards, and ibex, as well as exotic birds and beautiful foliage.

## **Lenses –**

**Ephod** - an elaborate garment worn by the high priest, and upon which the Priestly breastplate containing the Urim and Thummim rested.

## ***Names of God***

***God – lohim – majesty*** – plural in form; singular in meaning.

***Lord God*** – Yahweh – the personal or covenant God. Indicates relationship

## ***Literary devices***

1. Irony

## ***Questions***

1. Vs. 6, What was the significance of Abiathar bringing an ephod with him as he escaped to David?
2. Vs. 7 –. What do you think that Saul used *lohim* in this phrase.
3. God has alienated him (David) into my hand. What do you think is the meaning of his use of that particular descriptive phrase?
4. What do you think it indicates about David that he used Yahweh as he talked about God?
5. Vs. 14 – What do you think was the writer’s intent when they wrote “But Lohim did not deliver David into his (Saul’s) hand”.
6. Vs. 16 – What meaning do you make of Jonathan leaving his father’s camp and going to David.

7. What do you make of him using *lohim* when he talked with David about his father?
8. Vs. 18 – What does it say to you that Jonathan and David made a covenant before Yahweh about their intended relationship?
9. I find it very ironic that Saul only uses Yahweh when he is part of a covenant of perfidy.
10. Vs. 24 – what do you make of the Philistines raiding ‘the land’ just as Saul is about to attack David.
11. 24:1 – I just love that this place means the rock of the mountain goats. What meaning do you think the name may have meant to David and his folk?
12. 24:4-7 What do you think is meant to David and his men to use the name Yahweh in this conversation.
13. 24: 8-15 What do you make of the fact that David used the name Yahweh as he spoke to Saul?
14. 24: 16-21 What do you make of the fact that Saul used Yahweh in this conversation with David?

I just love that it turns out that we have 7x2 questions!

As always I am looking forward to our conversations. And, as always, in the midst of so many things going on with our families, I wish you unexpected blessings.

*Catherine*

