

David Escapes Gath By Feigning Insanity (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 21:13–22:1a

21:13 So he disguised his sanity before them, and acted insanely in their hands, and scribbled on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva run down into his beard.

14 Then Achish said to his servants, “Behold, you see the man behaving as a madman. Why do you bring him to me?”

15 Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this one to act the madman in my presence? Shall this one come into my house?”

22:1a So David departed from there

I Will Bless the Lord at All Times (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 34

A Psalm of David when he feigned madness before Abimelech, who drove him away and he departed.

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul will make its boast in the LORD;
The humble will hear it and rejoice.
- 3 O magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 They looked to Him and were radiant,
And their faces will never be ashamed.
- 6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him
And saved him out of all his troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him,
And rescues them.
- 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; [cf. [1 Pet 2:3](#)]
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
- 9 O fear the LORD, you His saints;
For to those who fear Him there is no want.
- 10 The young lions do lack and suffer hunger;
But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.
- 11 Come, you children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 Who is the man who desires life
And loves *length of days* that he may see good?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil
And your lips from speaking deceit.
- 14 Depart from evil and do good;
Seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous
And His ears are *open* to their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
To cut off the memory of them from the earth. [[1 Pet 3:10–12](#)]
- 17 *The righteous cry*, and the LORD hears
And delivers them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted

- And saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
But the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- 20 He keeps all his bones,
Not one of them is broken. [[John 19:36](#); cf. [Exod 12:46](#); [Num 9:12](#)]
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked,
And those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- 22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,
And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

The Cave of Adullam (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 22:1b

1b and escaped to the cave of Adullam;

Bring My Soul Out of Prison (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalms 142

Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer.

- 1 I cry aloud with my voice to the LORD;
I make supplication with my voice to the LORD.
- 2 I pour out my complaint before Him;
I declare my trouble before Him.
- 3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me,
You knew my path.
In the way where I walk
They have hidden a trap for me.
- 4 Look to the right and see;
For there is no one who regards me;
There is no escape for me;
No one cares for my soul.
- 5 I cried out to You, O LORD;
I said, "You are my refuge,
My portion in the land of the living.
- 6 "Give heed to my cry,
For I am brought very low;
Deliver me from my persecutors,
For they are too strong for me.
- 7 "Bring my soul out of prison,
So that I may give thanks to Your name;
The righteous will surround me,
For You will deal bountifully with me."

Saul Slaughters the Priests of Nob (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 22:1c–23

David Moves His Parents to Safety in Moab

- 1c and when his brothers and all his father's household heard of it, they went down there to him.
- 2 Everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him; and he became captain over them. Now there were about four hundred men with him.

3 And David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother come *and stay* with you until I know what God will do for me."

4 Then he left them with the king of Moab; and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

5 The prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

Saul Complains of Treachery

6 Then Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered. Now Saul was sitting in Gibeah, under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing around him.

7 Saul said to his servants who stood around him, "Hear now, O Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse also give to all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds?"

8 For all of you have conspired against me so that there is no one who discloses to me when my son makes *a covenant* with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you who is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me to lie in ambush, as *it is* this day."

9 Then Doeg the Edomite, who was standing by the servants of Saul, said, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

10 He inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

Saul Sends for the Priests of Nob

11 Then the king sent someone to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's household, the priests who were in Nob; and all of them came to the king.

12 Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord."

13 Saul then said to him, "Why have you and the son of Jesse conspired against me, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he would rise up against me by lying in ambush as *it is* this day?"

14 Then Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, even the king's son-in-law, who is captain over your guard, and is honored in your house?"

15 Did I *just* begin to inquire of God for him today? Far be it from me! Do not let the king impute anything to his servant *or* to any of the household of my father, for your servant knows nothing at all of this whole affair."

Saul Slaughters the Priests and the Entire City of Nob

16 But the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's household!"

17 And the king said to the guards who were attending him, "Turn around and put the priests of the LORD to death, because their hand also is with David and because they knew that he was fleeing and did not reveal it to me." But the servants of the king were not willing to put forth their hands to attack the priests of the LORD.

18 Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn around and attack the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned around and attacked the priests, and he killed that day eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod.

19 And he struck Nob the city of the priests with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and infants; also oxen, donkeys, and sheep *he struck* with the edge of the sword.

Abiathar Escapes to David

20 But one son of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David.

21 Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.

22 Then David said to Abiathar, “I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have brought about *the death* of every person in your father’s household.

23 Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life, for you are safe with me.”

Why Do You Boast in Evil, O Mighty Man? (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 52

For the choir director.

A Maskil of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul and said to him, “David has come to the house of Ahimelech.”

- 1 Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man?
The lovingkindness of God *endures* all day long.
- 2 Your tongue devises destruction,
Like a sharp razor, O worker of deceit.
- 3 You love evil more than good,
Falsehood more than speaking what is right. *Selah.*
- 4 You love all words that devour,
O deceitful tongue.
- 5 But God will break you down forever;
He will snatch you up and tear you away from *your* tent,
And uproot you from the land of the living. *Selah.*
- 6 The righteous will see and fear,
And will laugh at him, *saying,*
- 7 “Behold, the man who would not make God his refuge,
But trusted in the abundance of his riches
And was strong in his evil desire.”
- 8 But as for me, I am like a green olive tree in the house of God;
I trust in the lovingkindness of God forever and ever.
- 9 I will give You thanks forever, because You have done *it,*
And I will wait on Your name, for *it is* good, in the presence of Your godly ones.

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