

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

1 Samuel 22:1–2

- 1 So David left there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and the rest of his father's family learned about it, they went down there to him.
- 2 All those who were in trouble or owed someone money or were discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. He had about four hundred men with him.

You Are My Refuge (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 142

A well-written song by David, when he was in the cave; a prayer.

- 1 To the LORD I cry out;
to the LORD I plead for mercy.
- 2 I pour out my lament before him;
I tell him about my troubles.
- 3 Even when my strength leaves me,
you watch my footsteps.
In the path where I walk
they have hidden a trap for me.
- 4 Look to the right and see!
No one cares about me.
I have nowhere to run;
no one is concerned about my life.
- 5 I cry out to you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my shelter,
my security in the land of the living."
- 6 Listen to my cry for help,
for I am in serious trouble!
Rescue me from those who chase me,
for they are stronger than I am.
- 7 Free me from prison,
that I may give thanks to your name.
Because of me the godly will assemble,
for you will vindicate me.

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

1 Samuel 22:3–23

David Moves His Parents to Safety in Moab

3 Then David went from there to Mizpah in Moab, where he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother stay with you until I know what God is going to do for me."

4 So he had them stay with the king of Moab; they stayed with him the whole time that David was in the stronghold.

5 Then Gad the prophet said to David, "Don't stay in the stronghold. Go to the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

Saul Complains of Treachery

6 But Saul found out the whereabouts of David and the men who were with him. Now Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree at an elevated location with his spear in hand and all his servants stationed around him.

7 Saul said to his servants who were stationed around him, "Listen up, you Benjaminites! Is Jesse's son giving fields and vineyards to all of you? Or is he making all of you commanders and officers?"

8 For all of you have conspired against me! No one informs me when my own son makes an agreement with this son of Jesse! Not one of you feels sorry for me or informs me that my own son has commissioned my own servant to hide in ambush against me, as is the case today!"

9 But Doeg the Edomite, who had stationed himself with the servants of Saul, replied, "I saw this son of Jesse come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob.

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

Saul Sends for the Priests of Nob

11 Then the king arranged for a meeting with the priest Ahimelech son of Ahitub and all the priests of his father's house who were at Nob. They all came to the king.

12 Then Saul said, "Listen, son of Ahitub." He replied, "Here I am, my lord."

13 Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and this son of Jesse? You gave him bread and a sword and inquired of God on his behalf, so that he opposes me and waits in ambush, as is the case today!"

14 Ahimelech replied to the king, "Who among all your servants is faithful like David? He is the king's son-in-law, the leader of your bodyguard, and honored in your house!

15 Was it just today that I began to inquire of God on his behalf? Far be it from me! The king should not accuse his servant or any of my father's house. For your servant is not aware of all this—not in whole or in part!"

Saul Slaughters the Priests and the Entire City of Nob

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

17 Then the king said to the messengers who were stationed beside him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, for they too have sided with David! They knew he was fleeing, but they did not inform me." But the king's servants refused to harm the priests of the LORD.

18 Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike down the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests. He killed on that day eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod.

19 As for Nob, the city of the priests, he struck down with the sword men and women, children and infants, oxen, donkeys, and sheep—all with the sword.

Abiathar Escapes to David

20 But one of the sons of Ahimelech son of Ahitub escaped and fled to David. His name was Abiathar.

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

22 Then David said to Abiathar, "I knew that day when Doeg the Edomite was there that he would certainly tell Saul! I am guilty of all the deaths in your father's house!

23 Stay with me. Don't be afraid! Whoever seeks my life is seeking your life as well. You are secure with me."

The Steadfast Love of God Endures (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 52

For the music director;

A well-written song by David. It was written when Doeg the Edomite went and informed Saul: "David has arrived at the home of Ahimelech."

- 1 Why do you boast about your evil plans, O powerful man?
God's loyal love protects me all day long!
- 2 Your tongue carries out your destructive plans;
it is as effective as a sharp razor, O deceiver.
- 3 You love evil more than good,
lies more than speaking the truth. (Selah)
- 4 You love to use all the words that destroy,
and the tongue that deceives.
- 5 Yet God will make you a permanent heap of ruins.
He will scoop you up and remove you from your home;
he will uproot you from the land of the living. (Selah)
- 6 When the godly see this, they will be filled with awe,
and will mock the evildoer, saying:
- 7 "Look, here is the man who would not make God his protector!
He trusted in his great wealth
and was confident about his plans to destroy others."
- 8 But I am like a flourishing olive tree in the house of God;
I continually trust in God's loyal love.
- 9 I will continually thank you when you execute judgment;
I will rely on you, for your loyal followers know you are good.

No Good Deed (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 23:1–13

1 They told David, “The Philistines are fighting in Keilah and are looting the threshing floors.”

2 So David asked the LORD, “Should I go and strike down these Philistines?” The LORD said to David, “Go, strike down the Philistines and deliver Keilah.”

3 But David’s men said to him, “We are afraid while we are still here in Judah! What will it be like if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?”

4 So David asked the LORD once again. But again the LORD replied, “Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand.”

5 So David and his men went to Keilah and fought the Philistines. He took away their cattle and thoroughly defeated them. David delivered the inhabitants of Keilah.

6 Now when Abiathar son of Ahimelech had fled to David at Keilah, he had brought with him an ephod.

7 When Saul was told that David had come to Keilah, Saul said, “God has delivered him into my hand, for he has boxed himself into a corner by entering a city with two barred gates.”

8 So Saul mustered all his army to go down to Keilah and besiege David and his men.

9 When David realized that Saul was planning to harm him, he told Abiathar the priest, “Bring the ephod!”

10 Then David said, “O LORD God of Israel, your servant has clearly heard that Saul is planning to come to Keilah to destroy the city because of me.

11 Will the leaders of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down as your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, please inform your servant!” Then the LORD said, “He will come down.”

12 David asked, “Will the leaders of Keilah deliver me and my men into Saul’s hand?” The LORD said, “They will deliver you over.”

13 So David and his men, who numbered about six hundred, set out and left Keilah; they moved around from one place to another. When told that David had escaped from Keilah, Saul called a halt to his expedition.

The Wilderness of Ziph (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 23:14–25

David Hides in the Wilderness of Ziph

14 David stayed in the strongholds that were in the desert and in the hill country of the desert of Ziph. Saul looked for him all the time, but God did not deliver David into his hand.

15 David realized that Saul had come out to seek his life; at that time David was in Horesh in the desert of Ziph.

Jonathan Visits David at Horesh

16 Then Jonathan son of Saul left and went to David at Horesh. He encouraged him through God.

17 He said to him, “Don’t be afraid! For the hand of my father Saul cannot find you. You will rule over Israel, and I will be your second in command. Even my father Saul realizes this.”

18 When the two of them had made a covenant before the LORD, David stayed on at Horesh, but Jonathan went to his house.

The Ziphites Betray David

19 Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah and said, “Isn’t David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh on the hill of Hakilah, south of Jeshimon?”

20 Now at your own discretion, O king, come down. Delivering him into the king’s hand will be our responsibility.”

21 Saul replied, “May you be blessed by the LORD, for you have had compassion on me.

22 Go and make further arrangements. Determine precisely where he is and who has seen him there, for I am told that he is extremely cunning.

23 Locate precisely all the places where he hides and return to me with dependable information. Then I will go with you. If he is in the land, I will find him among all the thousands of Judah.”

24 So they left and went to Ziph ahead of Saul. Now David and his men were in the desert of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon.

25 Saul and his men went to look for him. But David was informed and went down to the rock and stayed in the desert of Maon.

When Saul heard about it, he pursued David in the desert of Maon.

The Lord Upholds My Life (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 54

For the music director, to be accompanied by stringed instruments;

A well-written song by David. It was written when the Ziphites came and informed Saul: “David is hiding with us.”

- 1 O God, deliver me by your name!
Vindicate me by your power!
- 2 O God, listen to my prayer!
Pay attention to what I say!
- 3 For foreigners attack me;
ruthless men, who do not respect God, seek my life. (Selah)
- 4 Look, God is my deliverer!
The Lord is among those who support me.
- 5 May those who wait to ambush me be repaid for their evil!
As a demonstration of your faithfulness, destroy them!
- 6 With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you!
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good!
- 7 Surely he rescues me from all trouble,
and I triumph over my enemies.

The Strongholds of En Gedi (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

1 Samuel 23:26–29

26 Saul went on one side of the mountain, while David and his men went on the other side of the mountain. David was hurrying to get away from Saul, but Saul and his men were surrounding David and his men so they could capture them.

27 But a messenger came to Saul saying, “Come quickly, for the Philistines have raided the land!”

28 So Saul stopped pursuing David and went to confront the Philistines. Therefore that place is called Sela Hammahlekoth.

29 Then David went up from there and stayed in the strongholds of En Gedi.

Let Your Glory Be Over All the Earth (c. 1022 – c. 1012 BC)

Psalm 57

For the music director; according to the al-tashcheth style;

A prayer of David, written when he fled from Saul into the cave.

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God! Have mercy on me!
For in you I have taken shelter.
In the shadow of your wings I take shelter
until trouble passes.
- 2 I cry out for help to the sovereign God,
to the God who vindicates me.
- 3 May he send help from heaven and deliver me
from my enemies who hurl insults! (Selah)
May God send his loyal love and faithfulness!
- 4 I am surrounded by lions;
I lie down among those who want to devour me;
men whose teeth are spears and arrows,
whose tongues are a sharp sword.
- 5 Rise up above the sky, O God!
May your splendor cover the whole earth!
- 6 They have prepared a net to trap me;
I am discouraged.
They have dug a pit for me.
They will fall into it! (Selah)
- 7 I am determined, O God! I am determined!
I will sing and praise you!
- 8 Awake, my soul!
Awake, O stringed instrument and harp!
I will wake up at dawn!

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| 9 | I will give you thanks before the nations, O Master! I will sing praises to you before foreigners! |
| 10 | For your loyal love extends beyond the sky, and your faithfulness reaches the clouds. |
| 11 | Rise up above the sky, O God! May your splendor cover the whole earth! |

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