

1 SAMUEL

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CHAPTER
TWENTY
THREE



ShareFaith
KIDS



**THE STORY OF DAVID:
DAVID SPARES SAUL**

DAVID SPARES SAUL

AFTER HEARING THAT THE PHILISTINES WERE FIGHTING AGAINST KEILAH AND STEALING FOOD FROM THE PEOPLE...

...DAVID PRAYED FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE ABOUT WHETHER HE SHOULD GO INTO BATTLE AGAINST THE PHILISTINES.

THE LORD TOLD DAVID...

GO, ATTACK THE PHILISTINES AND SAVE KEILAH!

BUT DAVID'S MEN WERE AFRAID OF THE PHILISTINES...

...SO, AGAIN, DAVID ASKED THE LORD...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

GO DOWN TO KEILAH, FOR I AM GOING TO GIVE THE PHILISTINES INTO YOUR HAND.



SO, DAVID AND HIS MEN WENT TO KEILAH, FOUGHT THE PHILISTINES, AND CARRIED OFF THEIR LIVESTOCK.

HE INFLICTED HEAVY LOSSES ON THE PHILISTINES AND SAVED THE PEOPLE OF KEILAH

ONE OF DAVID'S MEN WAS A PRIEST NAMED ABIATHAR WHO HAD ESCAPED FROM SAUL WHO HAD TRIED TO KILL HIM.

WHEN ABIATHAR LEFT, HE BROUGHT WITH HIM A SPECIAL ITEM OF CLOTHING PRIESTS WORE, CALLED AN EPHOD.

WHEN SAUL HEARD THAT DAVID HAD GONE TO KEILAH, A CITY SURROUNDED BY GATES AND BARS, HE THOUGHT THAT HE HAD GAINED THE UPPER HAND.

GOD HAS DELIVERED HIM INTO MY HANDS!

SAUL CALLED UP ALL HIS FORCES TO BATTLE DAVID AND HIS MEN.

DAVID KNEW THAT SAUL WAS PLOTTING AGAINST HIM, HE SAID TO ABIATHAR THE PRIEST...

BRING THE EPHOD.



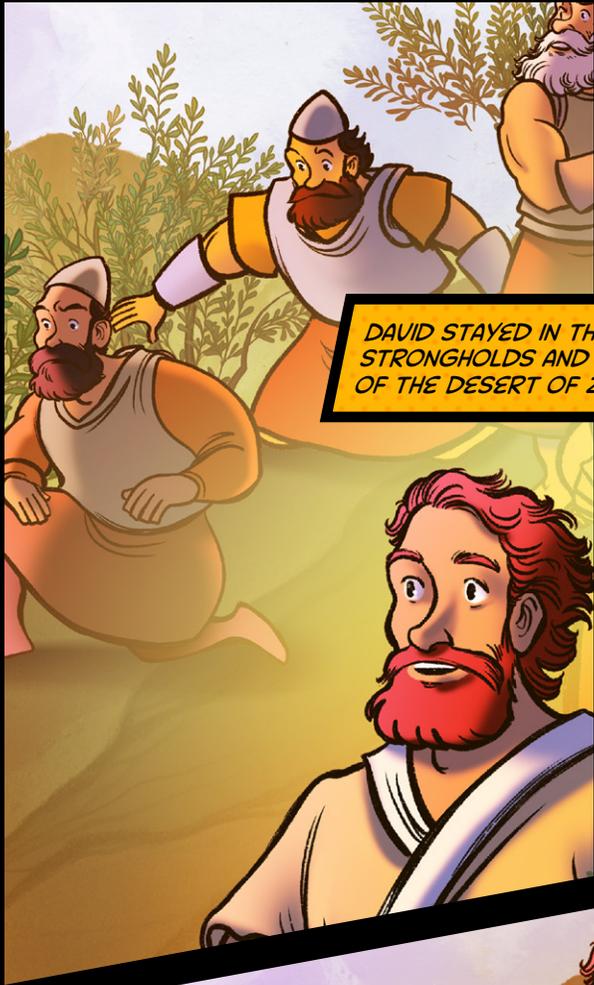
DAVID PRAYED FOR WISDOM, ASKING...

LORD, WILL SAUL COME DOWN, AS YOUR SERVANT HAS HEARD?

WILL THE PEOPLE OF KEILAH SURRENDER ME AND MY MEN TO SAUL?

THE LORD TOLD DAVID THAT SAUL WAS COMING AND THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD SURRENDER THEM OVER TO SAUL.

SO, DAVID AND HIS MEN, ABOUT 600 IN NUMBER, LEFT KEILAH. WHEN SAUL WAS TOLD THAT DAVID HAD ESCAPED FROM THE CITY, HE DID NOT GO THERE.



DAVID STAYED IN THE WILDERNESS STRONGHOLDS AND IN THE HILLS OF THE DESERT OF ZIPH.



DAY AFTER DAY SAUL SEARCHED FOR HIM, BUT GOD DID NOT GIVE DAVID INTO HIS HANDS.



WHILE DAVID WAS AT HORESH IN THE DESERT OF ZIPH...

...HE LEARNED THAT SAUL HAD COME TO KILL HIM.

SAUL'S SON, JONATHAN, WENT TO DAVID AT HORESH AND HELPED HIM FIND STRENGTH IN GOD.

DON'T BE AFRAID!

MY FATHER WILL NOT LAY A HAND ON YOU.

YOU WILL BE KING OVER ISRAEL, AND I WILL BE SECOND TO YOU.

EVEN MY FATHER SAUL KNOWS THIS.

THE TWO OF THEM MADE A COVENANT BEFORE THE LORD BEFORE JONATHAN RETURNED HOME, LEAVING DAVID OUT IN THE WILDERNESS WITH HIS MEN.

THE ZIPHITES
CAME TO SAUL...

DAVID IS
HIDING IN THE
STRONGHOLDS
AT HORESH.

SAUL BLESSED THEM
FOR THEIR OFFER.

COME DOWN
WHENEVER IT
PLEASES YOU,
AND WE WILL
GIVE HIM INTO
YOUR HANDS.

GO AND
GET MORE
INFORMATION.

THEY TELL
ME DAVID IS
VERY CRAFTY.

FIND OUT ABOUT ALL
THE HIDING PLACES HE
USES, AND COME BACK
TO ME WITH DEFINITE
INFORMATION.

THEN I WILL GO
WITH YOU...

...IF HE IS IN THE AREA,
I WILL TRACK HIM
DOWN AMONG ALL
THE CLANS OF JUDAH.

SO, THE ZIPHITES SET OUT
AHEAD OF SAUL TO GATHER
INFORMATION ON DAVID.



SAUL AND HIS MEN THEN
BEGAN THEIR SEARCH...

...AND WHEN DAVID WAS
TOLD ABOUT IT...

...HE WENT DOWN TO THE ROCK AND
STAYED IN THE DESERT OF MAON.



WHEN SAUL HEARD THIS, HE WENT INTO THE
DESERT OF MAON IN PURSUIT OF DAVID.

SAUL WAS GOING ALONG ONE SIDE OF THE
MOUNTAIN, AND DAVID AND HIS MEN WERE ON
THE OTHER SIDE, HURRYING TO GET AWAY
FROM SAUL.



AS SAUL AND HIS FORCES WERE CLOSING IN
ON DAVID AND HIS MEN TO CAPTURE THEM, A
MESSENGER CAME TO SAUL.



COME QUICKLY!
THE PHILISTINES
ARE RAIDING
THE LAND.

THEN SAUL BROKE OFF HIS PURSUIT
OF DAVID AND WENT TO FIGHT OFF
THE INVADING THE PHILISTINES.

ONCE SAUL HAD TAKEN CARE OF THE PHILISTINE THREAT, HE WAS TOLD THAT DAVID WAS NOW IN THE DESERT OF ENGEDI.

SAUL CALLED UP THREE THOUSAND OF HIS BEST MEN FROM ALL ISRAEL AND SET OUT TO LOOK FOR DAVID AND HIS MEN NEAR THE WILDGOATS' ROCKS.

ALONG THE WAY, SAUL CAME TO THE SHEEP PENS WHERE THERE WAS A CAVE NEARBY.

SAUL WENT INTO THE CAVE TO RELIEVE HIMSELF NOT KNOWING THAT DAVID AND HIS MEN WERE FAR BACK IN THE CAVE.

THE MEN SAID...

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD SPOKE OF WHEN HE SAID TO YOU, 'I WILL GIVE YOUR ENEMY INTO YOUR HANDS FOR YOU TO DEAL WITH AS YOU WISH.'

THEN DAVID CREPT UP UNNOTICED AND CUT OFF A CORNER OF SAUL'S ROBE.

AFTERWARD, FEELING GUILTY FOR HAVING CUT OFF A CORNER OF SAUL'S ROBE, DAVID FORBID HIS MEN TO ATTACK SAUL.

SAUL LEFT THE CAVE AND WENT ON HIS WAY UNHARMED.

THEN DAVID WENT OUT OF THE CAVE AND CALLED OUT TO SAUL...

WHEN SAUL LOOKED BEHIND HIM, DAVID BOWED DOWN AND PUT HIS FACE TO THE GROUND.

MY LORD THE KING!

WHY DO YOU LISTEN WHEN MEN SAY, 'DAVID IS BENT ON HARMING YOU'? EVEN THOUGH THE LORD DELIVERED YOU TO MY HANDS AND SOME OF MY MEN TOLD ME TO KILL YOU, I SPARED YOUR LIFE.

AS PROOF OF HIS STORY, DAVID HELD UP THE PIECE OF SAUL'S ROBE HE HAD CUT OFF.

I CUT OFF THE CORNER OF YOUR ROBE BUT DID NOT KILL YOU. I HAVE NOT WRONGED YOU, BUT YOU ARE HUNTING ME DOWN TO TAKE MY LIFE.

I HAVE DONE NOTHING TO DESERVE BEING HUNTED DOWN.

MAY THE LORD BE OUR JUDGE AND DECIDE BETWEEN US.

MAY HE CONSIDER MY CAUSE AND UPHOLD IT...

MAY HE VINDICATE ME BY DELIVERING ME FROM YOUR HAND.

WHEN DAVID FINISHED SAYING THIS, SAUL ASKED...

IS THAT YOUR VOICE, DAVID MY SON?

AND HE WEPT ALOUD.

YOU ARE MORE RIGHTEOUS THAN I

MAY THE LORD REWARD YOU WELL FOR THE WAY YOU TREATED ME TODAY.

I KNOW THAT YOU WILL BE KING AND THAT THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN YOUR HANDS.

SAUL ASKED DAVID TO SWEAR NOT TO KILL OFF HIS FAMILY WHEN HE TOOK THE THRONE...

...AND DAVID AGREED.

THE END