

## 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 22

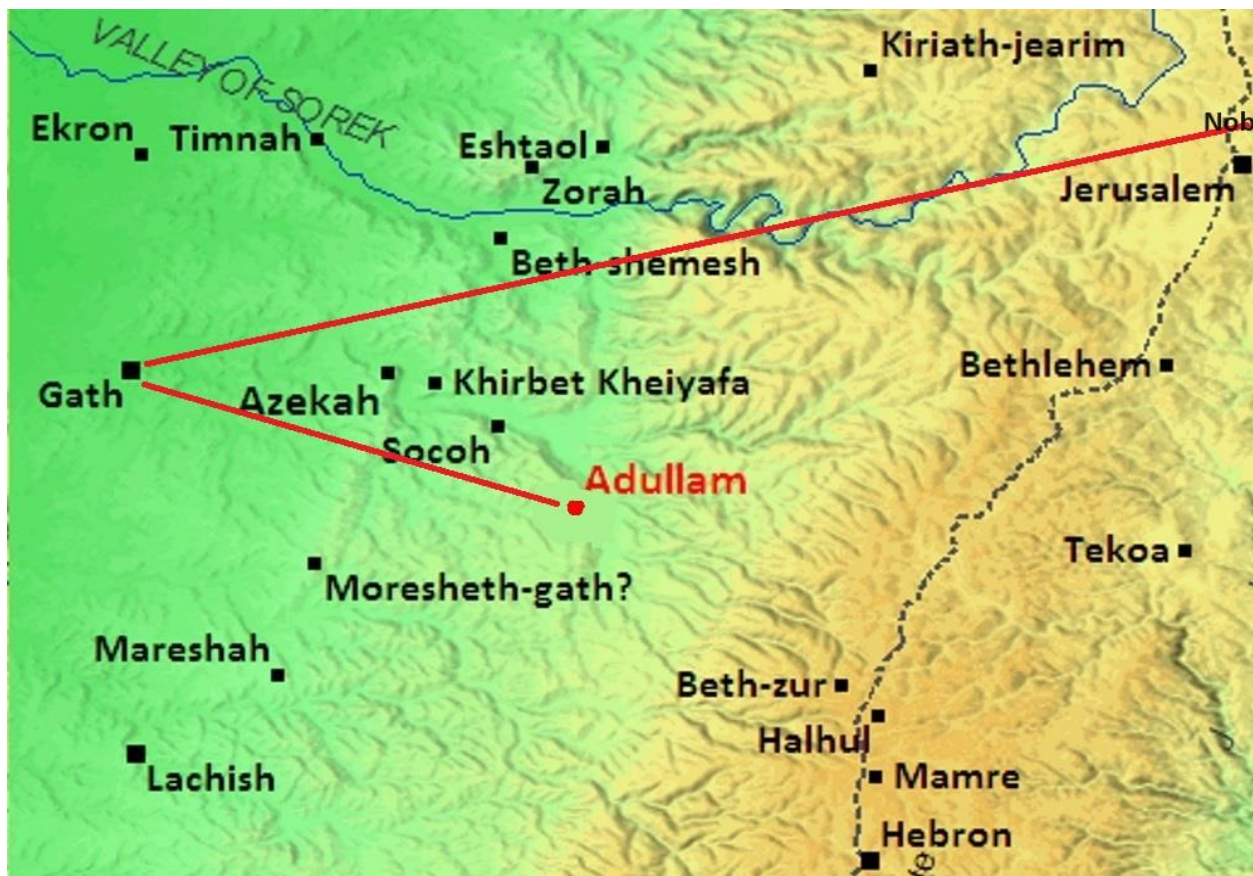
Verses 1 - 2

So David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam; and when his brothers and all his father's household heard *about it*, they went down there to him. <sup>2</sup> Then 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.

So David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam; and when his brothers and all his father's household heard *about it*, they went down there to him.

Staying in Gath was not a safe option so David escaped to the cave of Adullam. This place was in Judah where there are hundreds of caves.

See pic 2205



<sup>2</sup> Then 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.

David's supporters at this time were the outcasts of society but as time passed others joined with him that were brave and heroic men. See 1 Chronicles 12:1

Verses 3 - 5

<sup>3</sup> 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." <sup>4</sup> Then he left them with the king of Moab; and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. <sup>5</sup> But Gad the prophet said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold; leave, and go into the land of Judah." So David left and went into the forest of Hereth.

<sup>3</sup> 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."

See Map 2210



David had three good reasons to seek refuge for his parents with the king of Moab?

1. As time went by Saul was more and more likely to harm his parents.
2. Jesse was a grandson of Ruth the Moabite.
3. Saul had recently fought the Moabites making David and Moab compadres against the king of Israel. The enemy of my enemy is a friend.

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

His parents stayed with the King in Moab and David stayed at a stronghold somewhere in Moab.

**<sup>5</sup> But Gad the prophet said to David, “Do not stay in the stronghold; leave, and go into the land of Judah.” So David left and went into the forest of Hereth.**

This is the first mention of this prophet in the Bible. He became the king's seer after David became king.

2 Samuel 24:11

**<sup>11</sup> When David got up in the morning, the word of the Lord came to Gad the prophet, David's seer, saying.....**

After David's death, he wrote a history of his reign.

See 1 Chronicles 29:29

**<sup>29</sup> Now the acts of King David, from the first to the last, are written in the chronicles of Samuel the seer, in the chronicles of Nathan the prophet, and in the chronicles of Gad the seer**

The prophet warned David not to stay in Moab and that he should go to Judah.

So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth not the town of Hereth

See map 2215



Verses 6 - 10

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

<sup>7</sup> Saul said to his servants who were standing in front of him, "Hear now, you Benjaminites! Will the son of Jesse really give all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds?"

<sup>8</sup> For all of you have conspired against me so that there is no one who informs me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you who cares about me or informs me that my son has stirred up my servant against me to lie in ambush, as *it is* this day." <sup>9</sup> Then Doeg the Edomite, who was standing in front of the servants of Saul, responded and said, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. <sup>10</sup> And he inquired of the Lord for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

**<sup>6</sup> Then Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered.**

For some time Saul had not heard anything about David but now he knew David was in Judah and the head of 400 men.

**<sup>7</sup> Saul said to his servants who were standing in front of him, “Hear now, you Benjaminites! Will the son of Jesse really give all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds?”**

Saul's court, including servants and military commanders, was standing before the king for a meeting that he had called. He reminds them that the benefits they now enjoy as members of his court would probably end if David became king because David would favor members of his own tribe (Judah).

**<sup>8</sup> For all of you have conspired against me so that there is no one who informs me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you who cares about me or informs me that my son has stirred up my servant against me to lie in ambush, as it is this day.”**

It is likely that Jonathan did not tell any of the servants about the covenant between David and himself. He would have no reason to do so.

Also, no one had warned the king about any danger posed from David because none existed. David was not inclined to attack Saul and Jonathan never prompted David to take any action against his father.

**<sup>9</sup> Then Doeg the Edomite, who was standing in front of the servants of Saul, responded and said, “I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. <sup>10</sup> And he inquired of the Lord for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.”**

It was true that Ahimelech helped David but he did so because David had told him that he was on a secret mission from the king. Also, there was no intent by David to rise up against the king.

Saul assumes the motives behind Ahimelech's and David's actions were evil but that was not the case. David had always done good things for Saul but the king could not see beyond his own evil thoughts.

Verses 11 - 19

<sup>11</sup> Then the king sent *a messenger* 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. <sup>12</sup> Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." And he replied, "Here I am, my lord." <sup>13</sup> 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*?"

<sup>14</sup> Then Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, the king's *own* son-in-law, who is commander over your bodyguard, and is honored in your house? <sup>15</sup> Did I *just* begin to inquire of God for him today? Far be it from me! Do not let the king impute anything against his servant *or* against any of the household of my father, because your servant knows nothing at all of this whole affair." <sup>16</sup> But the king said, "You shall certainly die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's household!" <sup>17</sup> 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 inform me." But the servants of the king were unwilling to reach out with their hands to attack the priests of the Lord. <sup>18</sup> 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 on that day eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> He also struck Nob the city of the priests with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and infants; *he also struck* oxen, donkeys, and sheep with the edge of the sword.

<sup>13</sup> 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*?"

Saul had a very fertile mind; unfortunately all that grew were weeds.

<sup>14</sup> Then Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, the king's *own* son-in-law, who is commander over your bodyguard, and is honored in your house?"

All of Israel saw David as the one who saved Israel by killing Goliath and he was part of Saul's family and administration. To not help him would be treasonous.

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

As far as Ahimelech knew, what he had done for David recently was in keeping with what he had done for him in the past.

**<sup>16</sup> But the king said, “You shall certainly die, Ahimelech, you and all your father’s household!”**

Unfortunately, using logic and common sense with a mad man is futile. People who see conspiracies are seldom convinced of the truth no matter how many facts they are presented with.

**<sup>17</sup> 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 inform me.” But the servants of the king were unwilling to reach out with their hands to attack the priests of the Lord.**

Even if the servants knew the king was wrong about the conspiracy, it still required an act of bravery on their part not to follow the orders of the king. Good for them. ☺

**<sup>18</sup> 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 on that day eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> He also struck Nob the city of the priests with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and infants; he also struck oxen, donkeys, and sheep with the edge of the sword.**

This was a despicable crime on the part of Saul & Doeg and only God can provide an appropriate judgment on them for doing this.

Some people might wonder why God would allow this to happen. The answer to that question is that this was a judgment of God on the house of Eli.

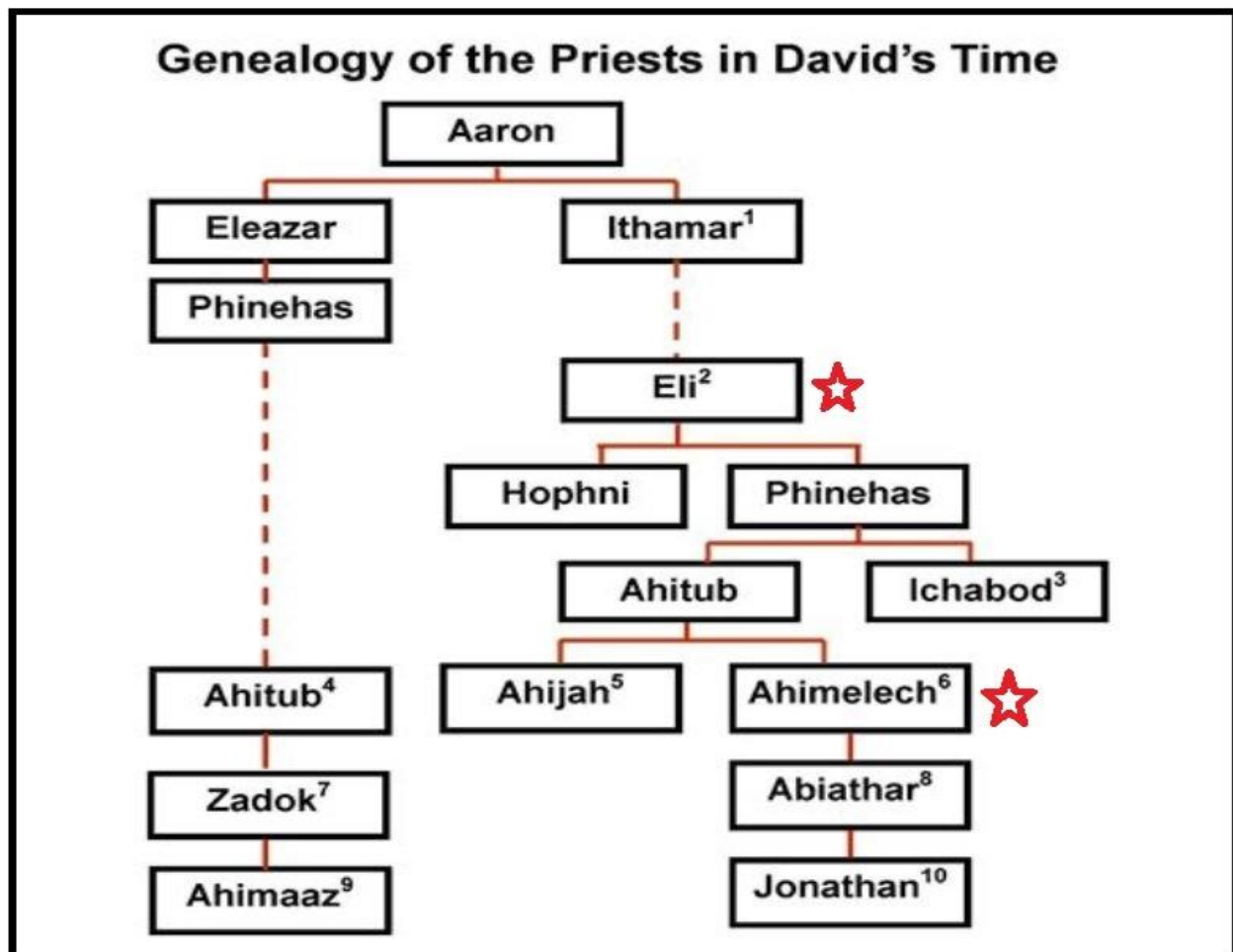
See 1 Samuel 2:29-33

<sup>29</sup> Why are you showing contempt for My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded *for My dwelling*, and *why* are you honoring your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the choicest of every offering of My people Israel?’

<sup>30</sup> Therefore the Lord God of Israel declares, ‘I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father was to walk before Me forever’; but now the Lord declares, ‘Far be it from Me—for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be insignificant. <sup>31</sup> Behold, the days are coming when I will eliminate your strength and the strength of your father’s house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. <sup>32</sup> And you will look at the distress of My dwelling, in *spite of* all the good that I do for Israel; and there will never be an old man in your house. <sup>33</sup> Yet I will not cut off every man of yours from My altar, so that your eyes will fail *from weeping* and your soul grieve, and all the increase of your house will die in the prime of life.

75 years had passed since this prophecy was spoken about the house of Eli.

See chart 2220





Verses 20 - 23

**<sup>20</sup> But one son of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled to David. <sup>21</sup> Abiathar informed David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord.**

**<sup>22</sup> Then David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would certainly tell Saul. I myself have turned against every person in your father's household. <sup>23</sup> Stay with me; do not be afraid, even though he who is seeking my life is seeking your life. For you are safe with me."**

**<sup>20</sup> But one son of Ahimelech, named Abiathar, escaped and fled to David.**

Abiathar may have escaped because as the acting High priest he stayed behind at the Tabernacle while all the rest of the priests answered Saul's summons.

**<sup>22</sup> Then David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would certainly tell Saul. I myself have turned against every person in your father's household.**

To a certain degree David felt responsible for the death of the priests and their families because if he had not asked for help from Ahimelech this tragedy would not have taken place.

**<sup>23</sup> Stay with me; do not be afraid, even though he who is seeking my life is seeking your life. For you are safe with me."**

God had promised David that he would become king so even though his current situation looked bleak he was confident that his life was secure.