

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 39: Chapter 23: David Looks to God and is Protected

31 March 2017

The Bible says that we can be confident *“that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”* (Phil. 1:6). The Lord wants to *“Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ”* (Heb. 13:21). We must learn to be totally dependent upon the Lord to make us what we ought to be. No one can be saved apart from Jesus Christ. Likewise, apart from Christ, it is impossible to live a proper Christian life. We must give control of our lives entirely to the Lord and let His Holy Spirit do the necessary perfecting *“until Christ be formed in you”* (Gal. 4:19). If you try to perfect your own life, the Lord will humble you so you can see that you need Him to do that work. This is what David learned after many attempts to run his life apart from God.

Vss. 1-2 David learns that the Philistines are threatening the livelihood of his people in Keilah, a city of Judah. David immediately **“inquired of the Lord”** before making any decisions. This is an important turning point in the life of David. He is now fully trusting the Lord.

Vss. 3-4 When David’s men fear, he goes right back to God in prayer. He is becoming instant in prayer, as we also should be (Rom. 12:12). He’s not trusting himself anymore. He’s trusting God (Prov. 3:5-6). The Lord answered and gave David further assurance of victory.

Vss. 5-6 David and his men were obedient to the Lord and they saved the people of Keilah. An ephod, brought by Abiathar the priest enabled David to have direct communication with God.

Vss. 7-8 Saul told his people **“God hath delivered him [David] into mine hand.”** God is not doing anything for Saul. Saul is not looking to God. Saul, as every politician does, uses the name of God in his speeches when it benefits him politically. Saul doesn’t care if he’s operating against God’s purposes; he doesn’t even inquire of God to find out. His actions are led by pure hatred.

Vss. 9-11 David learned that Saul **“practiced mischief against him,”** so he went directly to God in prayer for direction. Notice that God corrects the order of David’s inquiry. The priority is backwards. First, Saul will come down; second, the men of Keilah will betray David. Our prayers are not always right, but God calmly answers and deals with what is important first.

Vs. 12 The very people you helped will deliver you up to your enemy. This is a lesson every Christian ought to learn. Don’t expect gratitude and don’t be surprised when you are betrayed by the very people you helped (Job 2:4, Rom. 5:7).

Vs. 13 David and his men chose to leave Keilah. His men increased from 400 to 600 (1 Sam. 22:2).

Vs. 14 Just as Saul's enemy "**sought him EVERY day,**" the Christian's enemies never rest from pursuing us; waiting for a chance to devour us (1 Pet. 5:8, Mt. 4:1), conform us (Rom. 12:2), or weaken us through lustful sins (2 Pet. 2:18). We can't afford to take a break from our righteous path; the moment we do, the enemy will attack. (See Eph. 2:2-3).

How to stand against the Devil: **Nahum 2:1.** Never underestimate this enemy!

Vs. 15 David is "**in the wilderness of Ziph.**" Ziph means "*a refining place.*" The process of refining removes impurities (Psalm 12:6-7, Mal. 3:3). Those who are "after the flesh" are used by God to persecute those who are "born after the spirit" (Gal. 4:29) for the purpose of refining them (1 Pet. 1:7).

JONATHAN: A PICTURE OF A WORLDLY CHRISTIAN

Vss. 16-18 Jonathan (a type of the Christian) loved David (the Lord, in type). Jonathan is trying to be a part of both worlds; the world of David, and the world of his upbringing (the world, the flesh, and the Devil, represented by Saul). He thinks he can live this way and still reign with David one day (vs. 17). He's not willing to put God first (Mat. 6:33) and take up his cross and follow the Lord (Luke 9:23) and go "without the camp, bearing his reproach" (Heb. 13:13).

Just as Jonathan would not reign with David, the Christian who is unwilling to lay down their life and follow Christ should not expect that they will reign with Him in His kingdom (2 Tim. 2:11-13). If we deny Him, he also will deny us (to reign with Him). You are saved by grace. You reign by works.

A TRIBULATION PICTURE

Vss. 19-29 Saul (Type of the Antichrist), while pursuing David and his men, suddenly gets a report of an enemy attack that causes him to call off his attack on David and go fight another battle.

During the Tribulation, the same thing will happen. The Israelites will be fleeing, the Antichrist and the armies of the world will be closing in, ready to destroy them. Suddenly, something causes those armies to turn around, giving the Israelites time to escape to safety. (See 2 Kings 7:6, 19:7, Isa. 17:13, 37:7, Jer. 50:43-44).
