

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

The Cave of Adullam

- David fled from Philistia [1 Sam 22:1a].
 - Note that he “departed” and “escaped”.
 - The word for “escape” is מָלַט (malat) which means to “slip away” or “escape”.
 - David had fled to Philistia, so the need for an “escape” only materialized when he realized he was in danger because he had been recognized by the servants of Achish [1 Sam 21:11-12].
- The Cave of Adullam
 - Adullam was a royal city of the Caananites [Josh 12:15; 15:35].
 - Hirah, the Adullamite, was a friend of Judah [Gen 38:1] – Judah’s wife was an Adullamite.
 - Adullam was in the valley of Elah, the site of David’s triumph over Goliath [1 Sam 17:2].
 - At Adullam there is a 500 foot high hill with many caverns, some capable of holding 200-300 men.
- Jesse and his household came to be with David for refuge [1 Sam 22:1b].
 - The Scripture does not say why Jesse sought refuge at that particular time.
 - This is reminiscent of when Jacob and his family came to Joseph for refuge [Gen 46:2-4].
 - Jesus would take his family to Capernaum to seek refuge for a few days [John 2:12].
- A large group of distressed people came to David seeking refuge [1 Sam 22:2].
 - This would indicate that something bad was going on in the land (Saul’s madness?) that was deeply troubling people and causing them to seek refuge.
 - This was a large group – about 400 men.
 - David became their leader.
- Somewhere in this process David repented and confessed his sins [Psalm 56, 34].
 - He came to realize that he should fear God, not man [Psalm 56:11-13].
 - He praised the Lord who delivered him from danger and from fear [Psalm 34:1-4].
 - He began to teach the crowd that had gathered around him about God [Psalm 34:9-14].
- David secured a safe place for his family in Moab [1 Sam 22:3-4].
- The prophet Gad warned David not to stay in the cave [1 Sam 22:5].
 - Gad would be involved throughout David’s life.
 - David heeded Gad’s warning and went to the forest in Hereth.