

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

Keilah Delivered

- David is notified that the threshing floors at Keilah are being plundered by the Philistines [1 Sam 23:1].
 - A threshing floor is a large, flat, round surface where grain is threshed to separate the chaff.
 - Keilah was a fortified city in the south toward Edom allotted to Judah [Josh 15:21 ... 44] and reoccupied in Nehemiah's time [Neh 3:17-18].
- David inquired of the Lord regarding His will concerning the Philistines [1 Sam 23:2].
 - David wanted to know if he should attack (נָכַח, nacad = strike, smite) the Philistines.
 - The Lord responded to David telling him to attack the Philistines with the result that he would deliver (יָשַׁע, yasha' = save, deliver) Keilah.
- David's men told him they were afraid, so he inquired of the Lord again [1 Sam 23:3-4].
 - David inquired a second time on behalf of his men, not because he doubted the Lord.
 - The Lord assured David that he would bring about the victory over the Philistines and instructed him to arise and go to Keilah.
- Just as the Lord had promised, David was granted victory over the Philistines and delivered Keilah [1 Sam 23:5].
- Amilelech's son Abiathar, having escaped from Saul's massacre, came down to David at Keilah with the priest's ephod in hand [1 Sam 23:6].
- Saul learned of David's whereabouts and summoned his men to go down and kill David and his men [1 Sam 23:7-8].
 - In his carnality, Saul convinced himself that his sinful desire was the will of God.
 - Saul was familiar with the fortifications at Keilah and believed he would use them to defeat David.
- David heard that Saul was up to no good, so he inquired of the Lord, this time using Abiathar's ephod [1 Sam 23:9-12].
 - David had previously successfully inquired of the Lord which shows us that the priest's ephod was not necessary to make inquiry of God.
 - The Lord confirmed that Saul was coming down after David and would attack the city of Keilah.
 - The Lord also confirmed that, under the threat of attack, the men of Keilah would surrender David and his men to Saul.
 - This is interesting given that David and his men had just delivered Keilah from the Philistines.
 - As we shall see, David and his men did not remain in Keilah, so the answer the Lord gave David regarding being surrendered never came to pass.
 - This is an extremely important passage in terms of understanding God's foreknowledge.
 - God's foreknowledge encompasses way more than just the things that actually occur – God is able to foreknow what will happen as well as all of the things that could have happened if the circumstances were different (omniscience).

- David and his men left Keilah and went to the wilderness of Ziph [1 Sam 23:13-14].
 - At this point David has about 600 men.
 - When Saul learned that they had left Keilah, he quit pursuing them.
 - Saul was undeterred, however, and continued to seek David's life in the wilderness.
 - This unrelenting pursuit is a foreshadowing of Satan's pursuit of Jesus trying to tempt Him in the wilderness [Luke 4:1-13].
 - The Lord protected David from Saul's pursuits, holding Saul to his own vow [1 Sam 19:6].