

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

The Rock of Escape

- Even though David and his men were hiding in the wilderness of Ziph they were under constant threat from Saul [1 Sam 23:14].
 - At some point David became aware that Saul was seeking his life [1 Sam 23:15].
 - NOTE: David and his men were hiding in a forested area (Horesh is חֹרֶשׁ, choresh = forest) [2 Chr 27:4; Isa 17:9; Ezek 31:3].
- Saul meant David harm, but Jonathan came to David to encourage him [1 Sam 23:16-18].
 - The phrase “encouraged him” is actually “strengthened his hand”.
 - This phrase means to encourage someone toward some deed [Jdgs 9:23-24; Ezra 1:5-6; 6:22; Neh 6:9; Jer 23:14; Ezek 13:22; Zech 8:9-13].
 - David and Jonathan made another covenant at their parting [v 18 cp. 1 Sam 18:3; 20:16, 42].
 - David honored these covenants even though he would never again see his beloved friend Jonathan in this world [1 Sam 31:2; 2 Sam 9:1; 21:7].
- Unfortunately for David, the Ziphites decided to rat him out [1 Sam 23:19-20].
 - Saul attempted to give the Ziphites a blessing because their disloyalty to David was to his benefit [1 Sam 23:21].
 - Saul then convinced the Ziphites to do his dirty work to ferret out David and expose his whereabouts [1 Sam 23:22-24a].
- Saul and his men followed the Ziphites to Ziph and then to Maon [1 Sam 23:24b-25].
 - Some of David's sympathizers (some of the Ziphites?) told David that Saul was coming so he went to the rock of Maon.
 - Saul and his men pursued David to Maon and had David and his men surrounded [1 Sam 23:26].
- Saul's plan to seize David was interrupted by a Philistine raid [1 Sam 23:27-28].
 - This is clearly a case of God's overruling will as He allowed Saul to pursue his evil plans, but thwarted them and rescued David.
 - This event was so significant that the rock of Maon was renamed the Rock of Escape.