

Dr. Robert Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 13, 1 Sam. 21-23 David on the Run, Saul on a Rampage Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 13, 1 Sam 21-23, David on the Run, Saul on a Rampage, Biblicalearning.org, BeL

Dr. Chisholm's lecture covers 1 Samuel chapters 21-23, focusing on David's flight from Saul. **Chapter 21 depicts David on the run**, seeking provisions and weapons while deceiving Ahimelech. **Chapter 22 highlights Saul's escalating persecution of David**, including the massacre of priests at Nob. **Chapter 23 illustrates God's guidance, encouragement, and protection of David**, as David delivers the people of Keilah and escapes Saul with divine assistance despite the fact that Saul is still seeking to end David's life. The lecture looks at the contrasts between Saul and David, and how God is working behind the scenes.

2. 21 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Chisholm, Session 13 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → 1 Samuel).



**Chisholm_Samuel_S
ession 13.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 13, 1 Sam 21-23, David on the Run, Saul on a Rampage

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from Dr. Chisholm's lecture on 1 Samuel 21-23:

Briefing Document: 1 Samuel 21-23

Main Themes:

- **David on the Run (Chapter 21):** David's flight from Saul, his reliance on deception, and his ironic "becoming Goliath" by trusting in weapons rather than God.
- **Saul on the Rampage (Chapter 22):** Saul's escalating paranoia and violence, culminating in the massacre of the priests of Nob.
- **The Lord Guides, Encourages, and Protects David (Chapter 23):** Despite Saul's continued pursuit, God intervenes to guide, encourage, and protect David through various means (prophets, Abiathar, Jonathan, Philistines).

Detailed Summary:

1. David on the Run and the "Becoming Goliath" Irony (1 Samuel 21):

- David seeks provisions from Ahimelech, the priest at Nob, using a deceptive story about a secret mission from Saul. "David comes up with an explanation. It's not a really good one, but he says to Ahimelech, the priest, the king sent me on a mission, and he said to me, no one is to know anything about the mission I am sending you on."
- Ahimelech provides consecrated bread, bending the rules based on David's assurance of his men's ritual purity.
- Doeg the Edomite, one of Saul's servants, witnesses this encounter, setting the stage for later betrayal.
- David obtains Goliath's sword, but Chisholm argues that David trusts in the sword itself, and that David's bravery/faith is gone: "He is now armed with Goliath's weapon. And then it gets worse. Verse 10, that day David fled from Saul."

- David flees to Gath (Goliath's hometown), but, after being recognized, feigns insanity to escape King Achish. Achish's reaction provides a touch of dark humor. "Achish said to his servants, verse 14, I find this one of the more humorous passages in the Old Testament. Look at the man. He's insane. Why bring him to me? Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here to carry on like this in front of me? Must this man come into my house?"
- David's experiences are a study in diminishing faith.

2. Saul's Rampage and the Massacre at Nob (1 Samuel 22):

- David gathers a band of malcontents at the cave of Adullam. "And then all those who were in distress or debt or discontented gathered around him and he became their commander. About 400 men were with him."
- David places his parents under the protection of the King of Moab, highlighting a connection to his Moabite ancestry.
- The prophet Gad instructs David to return to Judah. "The prophet Gad says to David, do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah."
- Saul, "spear in hand," accuses his Benjamite officials of conspiring with David.
- Doeg the Edomite informs Saul about Ahimelech's assistance to David.
- Saul summons Ahimelech and the priests of Nob and accuses them of treason.
- Ahimelech defends his actions, emphasizing David's loyalty.
- Saul orders the execution of Ahimelech and the priests, but his Israelite guards refuse.
- Doeg the Edomite carries out Saul's order, killing 85 priests and slaughtering the entire town of Nob, including women, children, and animals. This parallels Saul's failure to completely destroy the Amalekites, a command he disobeyed. "That day he killed 85 men who wore the linen ephod. He also put to the sword Nobe, the town of the priests... Do you find this ironic? Why did Saul forfeit his throne? What did he do? When the Lord told him to wipe out the Amalekites, man, woman, child, and animals, did Saul do it? No."
- Abiathar, Ahimelech's son, escapes and joins David.
- David expresses remorse, feeling responsible for the tragedy.

3. Divine Guidance, Encouragement, and Protection (1 Samuel 23):

- David inquires of the Lord about defending Keilah from the Philistines and receives divine assurance. "And so, he inquires of the Lord saying, shall I go and attack these Philistines? And the Lord answered him, go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah."
- David defeats the Philistines and saves Keilah.
- Saul plans to besiege Keilah, seeing it as an opportunity to capture David, but this shows warped thinking. "Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah and he said, and Saul called up all his forces for battle to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men. David has saved an Israelite town. That doesn't signify with Saul."
- David, through Abiathar and the ephod, inquires of the Lord and learns that the citizens of Keilah will betray him to Saul.
- David and his men escape Keilah, averting capture. This illustrates God's omniscience and ability to reveal potential futures. "And David asked, well, in that case, will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my men to Saul? And the Lord said they will."
- Jonathan seeks out David in the desert of Zeph and encourages him, reaffirming David's future kingship and his own loyalty. "Jonathan helps David find his strength in God...He says, don't be afraid. My father Saul will not lay a hand on you."
- The Ziphites offer to betray David to Saul.
- Saul blesses the Ziphites for their "concern" for him, revealing his distorted perspective.
- Saul resumes his pursuit of David.
- The Lord diverts Saul's attention by causing the Philistines to raid the land, providing David with a providential escape. "A messenger shows up and the messenger comes to Saul and says, come quickly, the Philistines are raiding the land. And so, Saul, after all, he's the king of Israel, he can't let the Philistines invade his land. And so, he breaks off the pursuit of David and he goes to meet the Philistines."

Key Ideas and Analysis:

- **The contrast between David and Saul:** David, despite his flaws and moments of weakness, is ultimately guided by the Lord and acts in the best interests of Israel. Saul, driven by paranoia and tribalism, descends into violence and disregards divine law.
- **The role of faith and memory:** David's initial reliance on deception and weapons reflects a lapse in faith, while the Philistines inadvertently remind him of his past victories through God's power.
- **The consequences of sin:** Saul's sin and disobedience have devastating consequences, not only for himself but also for his family and the priests of Nob.
- **God's sovereignty and omniscience:** Despite human actions, God continues to guide events and protect David, demonstrating his control and knowledge of the future.
- **The Edomites as antagonists:** Doeg's role in the massacre highlights the Edomites as enemies of Israel in the Old Testament narrative.

4. Study Guide: Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 13, 1 Sam 21-23, David on the Run, Saul on a Rampage

1 & 2 Samuel, Session 13 Study Guide: 1 Samuel 21-23

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. In 1 Samuel 21, what lie does David tell Ahimelech the priest to obtain bread and a weapon?
2. What specific item does David request from Ahimelech, and what is its significance?
3. Who is Doeg the Edomite, and what role does he play in the events at Nob?
4. Why does David pretend to be insane when he goes to Achish, king of Gath?
5. Who are the people who gather around David at the cave of Adullam, and what does this suggest about David's growing influence?
6. Why does David seek refuge for his parents with the king of Moab?
7. What prompts the prophet Gad to instruct David to return to the land of Judah?
8. What prompts Saul to kill the priests of Nob, and what is particularly disturbing about his actions?
9. How does the story of David saving Keilah from the Philistines contrast with Saul's actions in chapter 22?
10. How does God communicate with David in chapter 23, and what specific information does David receive?

Quiz Answer Key

1. David lies to Ahimelech, claiming he is on a secret mission for the king and that his men are waiting for him at a specific location. This lie is intended to explain why he is alone and needs provisions, masking the fact that he is fleeing from Saul.
2. David requests the sword of Goliath, the Philistine giant he killed in 1 Samuel 17. The sword symbolizes David's past victory and God's power, but in this context, David seems to rely on the weapon itself rather than faith in God.

3. Doeg the Edomite is Saul's chief shepherd who witnesses David's encounter with Ahimelech at Nob. He later informs Saul about Ahimelech's assistance to David, leading to Saul's massacre of the priests and their families.
4. David pretends to be insane to avoid being recognized and killed by Achish, the king of Gath. He fears the Philistines will view him as an enemy due to his past victories against them, including the killing of Goliath.
5. Those in distress, in debt, or discontented gather around David at the cave of Adullam, forming a band of about 400 men. This suggests that David is becoming a leader for the marginalized and those who are dissatisfied with Saul's rule.
6. David seeks refuge for his parents with the king of Moab because of his Moabite ancestry through his great-grandmother Ruth. He hopes to ensure their safety during his time as a fugitive.
7. The prophet Gad instructs David to return to the land of Judah, indicating that God wants David back in his own territory. This suggests a divine direction for David to fulfill his destiny within Israel.
8. Saul kills the priests of Nob because Doeg informs him that they aided David, which Saul interprets as conspiracy and disloyalty. What's particularly disturbing is Saul's willingness to kill the Lord's priests, defying religious authority.
9. David saving Keilah from the Philistines demonstrates his dedication to protecting the Israelites, while Saul is focused on hunting David. This contrast highlights David's righteousness and his fulfilling of his divinely appointed role.
10. God communicates with David through Abiathar the priest, who brought the ephod (a priestly garment used for seeking divine guidance). Through the ephod, God informs David that Saul will come to Keilah and the citizens will surrender David to him.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the character of David in 1 Samuel 21-23. How does his behavior in these chapters contrast with his earlier portrayal as a faithful warrior? What factors contribute to his actions, and what does this reveal about his human nature?
2. Discuss the theme of leadership in 1 Samuel 21-23. How do David and Saul exemplify different styles of leadership, and what are the consequences of their respective approaches?
3. Explore the role of God's guidance and protection in the life of David in 1 Samuel 21-23. How does God intervene in David's circumstances, and what do these interventions reveal about God's character and purposes?
4. Examine the significance of Doeg the Edomite in 1 Samuel 22. How does his presence and actions contribute to the overall narrative, and what does he represent in the context of the story?
5. Compare and contrast the actions of Ahimelech and Jonathan in their interactions with David. How do their actions influence the events of 1 Samuel 21-23?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Nob:** A priestly town where Ahimelech and other priests reside; destroyed by Saul for aiding David.
- **Ahimelech:** The priest at Nob who provides David with consecrated bread and Goliath's sword.
- **Doeg the Edomite:** Saul's chief shepherd who informs Saul that Ahimelech aided David; carries out Saul's order to kill the priests of Nob.
- **Gath:** A Philistine city and Goliath's hometown; David flees there seeking refuge but pretends to be insane to escape.
- **Achish:** The king of Gath to whom David flees; he dismisses David as insane.
- **Adullam:** A cave where David escapes to and is joined by his family and other discontented Israelites.
- **Moab:** A region east of the Dead Sea; David places his parents under the protection of the king of Moab due to his Moabite ancestry.
- **Gad:** A prophet who instructs David to return to the land of Judah.
- **Ephod:** A priestly garment used for seeking divine guidance; Abiathar brings the ephod to David when he flees from Saul.
- **Keilah:** An Israelite town that David saves from the Philistines; David later flees Keilah when he learns that the citizens may betray him to Saul.
- **Ziphites:** Residents of Ziph who inform Saul of David's whereabouts.
- **Omniscience:** The state of knowing everything, particularly attributed to God; demonstrated in God's ability to tell David what will happen under certain conditions.
- **Concecrated Bread:** Also known as the Bread of the Presence. The Aaronic priests could eat the bread in a holy place after it was removed and replaced by fresh bread on the Sabbath.

5. FAQs on Chisholm, 1 & 2 Samuel, Session 13, 1 Sam 21-23, David on the Run, Saul on a Rampage, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided text:

FAQ: 1 Samuel 21-23

- **Why is 1 Samuel 21 called "David on the Run," and how does David ironically become like Goliath in this chapter?**
- In 1 Samuel 21, David is fleeing from Saul, who is trying to kill him. The chapter is called "David on the Run" because it depicts David's desperate attempts to escape Saul's pursuit. David ironically becomes like Goliath because he obtains Goliath's sword from Ahimelech, the priest at Nob. He then flees to Gath, Goliath's hometown, armed with his sword, essentially entering enemy territory with their champion's weapon. This marks a stark contrast from his previous reliance on the Lord during his battle with Goliath and shows how he forgot to trust in God and instead trusted in the sword.
- **What questionable actions does David take in 1 Samuel 21, and what motivates them?**
- David deceives Ahimelech, the priest, claiming to be on a secret mission for Saul. He also claims to have men meeting him, which isn't accurate at that time. Later, he pretends to be insane in Gath to avoid being harmed by Achish, the king of Gath. These actions are motivated by fear and a desire for self-preservation as he desperately tries to escape Saul's wrath.
- **What prompts Saul to kill the priests of Nob in 1 Samuel 22, and who carries out the massacre?**
- Saul's paranoia and belief that everyone is conspiring against him lead him to kill the priests of Nob. Doeg the Edomite informs Saul that Ahimelech had helped David. Saul accuses the priests of conspiring with David and orders his guards to kill them, but they refuse. He then orders Doeg to kill them, and Doeg carries out the massacre, killing 85 priests and destroying the entire town of Nob.

- **What is the significance of Doeg being an Edomite in the narrative?**
- Doeg's Edomite identity is significant because the Edomites were traditional enemies of Israel. The author emphasizes his identity to further paint Saul's actions in a negative light as aligning himself with an enemy of Israel against the priests of the Lord.
- **What does David do to assist the people of Keilah, and how does Saul react to this?**
- David, guided by the Lord, attacks the Philistines who are raiding Keilah, saving the town and its inhabitants. He defeats the Philistines, carries off their livestock, and inflicts heavy losses on them. Saul sees this as an opportunity to capture David. He believes David has trapped himself in Keilah and prepares to besiege the city, despite the fact that David just saved an Israelite town.
- **How does the Lord guide and protect David in 1 Samuel 23?**
- The Lord guides David through the priest Abiathar and the ephod, answering his questions about Saul's plans and the intentions of the people of Keilah. The Lord warns David that Saul will come to Keilah and that the citizens of Keilah will surrender him to Saul. Because of this warning, David escapes before Saul arrives. The Lord also protects David by diverting Saul's attention with a Philistine raid, preventing Saul from capturing him. He also encourages him through his son, Jonathan.
- **What role does Jonathan play in encouraging David in 1 Samuel 23?**
- Jonathan seeks out David in the wilderness and encourages him by reaffirming his belief that David will be king of Israel and that Saul will not succeed in harming him. Jonathan helps David find his strength in God. He also makes a covenant with David, pledging his loyalty and support. This helps to strengthen David's resolve and trust in the Lord.

- **How does Saul's pursuit of David contrast with David's actions in 1 Samuel 21-23, and what does this reveal about their character?**
- Saul's pursuit of David is characterized by paranoia, violence, and a disregard for God's will, exemplified by the massacre of the priests. David, while flawed and sometimes deceitful, seeks guidance from the Lord and protects the people of Israel. This contrast highlights Saul's descent into wickedness and his unsuitability as king, while showcasing David's potential as a leader who, despite his imperfections, is ultimately committed to God's will and the well-being of his people. It also serves as an apology for David.