

1 Samuel 21-22

The Outlaw King

1. 21:1-9 – ‘Unlawful’ Eating

- a. 1 – Nob is the ‘high place’ where the tabernacle and the priests were (14:3)
- b. 1-2 – David claims he is ‘alone’ on a secret mission and needs help.
- c. 3-6 – David requests bread and receives old shewbread to eat.
 - i. The shewbread was replaced weekly on the Sabbath – Lev 24:5-8
 - ii. It was for Aaron and his sons to eat – Lev 24:9
 - iii. David’s reasons: 1) they are pure, 2) it is ‘in a manner common’
 - iv. Saul usurped the role of priest/prophet: a priest grants David’s request.
 - v. David hungered but did not use his power as king to force bread. Mt 4:3
- d. 7 – An Edomite ‘detained’ doing religious duty, spies David to betray him.
- e. 8-9 – 1st request: break bread with 12 loaves, 2nd a sword to fight. Heb 9:28

2. 21:10-15 – Unlawful Company

- a. 10 – The ruler of Israel sought to kill David, so he flees to Gentile land.
- b. 11-12 – The Philistine servants knew what Saul did not. John 7:14-31
- c. 13-15 – David appears to the king as a mad man, and he lets him go.
- d. David writes Psalm 34 – “the LORD... delivered me from all my fears”
- e. David as a stranger and ‘outlaw’ to Israel teaches Peter – 1 Pet 1:1, 2:3, 3:10-12
- f. David (with the Holy Ghost) is rejected just like Christ and his followers. Ps 34:20

3. 22:1-5 – Captain of the Distressed

- a. 1 – “his father’s house” now also at risk of Saul went to meet/hide with David.
- b. 2 – “*distressed, in debt, discontented*” gathered to him, too – Lk 4:18, Matt 11:28
- c. David becomes Lord of lowly, king of the rejected, captain of distressed. Heb 13:13
- d. 3-4 – David hides his parents in Moab (Ruth?) til the prophet instructed otherwise.
 - i. Psalm 54, 57, 142 will be covered later in the book.
- e. 5 – Gad instructs to return to Judah (Gad co-author of this book 1 Chron 29:29)

4. 22:6-15 – Saul, the Conspiracy Theorist

- a. 6-8 – Saul assumes everyone is working for David who is trying to kill him.
 - i. List loyal to David: Jonathan, Michal, Ahimelech, Gad, the people, God.
- b. 9-10 – Doeg betrays David and priests as one doubting David’s anointing (Judas?)
 - i. David writes Psa 52 about the lying mischief of Doeg and all anti-Christ.
- c. 11-13 – “*rise against me*” – Ahimelech did not conspire against Saul (see 21:2)
- d. 14-15 – Ahimelech’s defense is the faithfulness and honor of David – 1 Pet 3:13-16
- e. “*Did I then begin...?*” No new thing to help David, but never in conspiracy.

5. 22:16-19 – Sauls Rage Against the Priests

- a. 16 – “*thou shalt surely die*” – A command fulfilling the prophecy of 1 Sam 2:31-35
- b. 17 – “*But the servants ... would not...*” – Their obedience to God greater than Saul.

- c. 18 - *"to Doeg, Turn thou..."* - Jews turned to Romans to kill Jesus, also Mal 1:2-3
- d. 19 - *"Nob, smote he ..."* - Mercy to the Amalekites, but not to the city of priests.
- e. This is all over David, the anointed of the Lord, given bread when he hungered.
- f. Israel would later canonize the madness of Saul and justify David.
- g. Jesus references this event to the Pharisees in Matthew 12:1-14
 - i. Mt 12:3 - *"Have ye not read what David did?"* whom they justify, in 1 Sam 21.
 - ii. The Pharisees knew Ahimelech was justified to feed David and his men.
 - iii. Why? He was the king. Saul was chasing him. He was pure. Common bread.
 - iv. There was one greater than David there anointed of the Lord: Jesus.
 - v. v5 - *"have ye not read... priests profane?"* In their work to sacrifice, make bread
 - vi. Work was not forbidden by those serving the Lord. (Jesus is the Lord.)
 - vii. v7 - *"If ye had known..."* - Hos 6:6, mercy > sacrifice - 1 Sam 15:22
 - viii. Israel rejected truth, so God punished them with no kingdom (like Saul)
 - ix. v10-13 - Jesus did not heal to break the law, but to fulfill it. Pharisees erred.
 - x. v14 - *"council ... how they might destroy him"* - They were as mad as Saul.
- h. Jesus compares his own rejection and persecution to that of Saul against David.

6. 22:20-23 - Abiathar Survives

- a. 20 - *"Abiathar... fled after David"* - where he knew he would be protected.
- b. 21-22 - *"I have occasioned the death..."* - As Christ did the apostles. Lk 21:12, 16-17
- c. 23 - *"Abide with me"* - He even sounds like Jesus now - John 15:4,13-14,20, Acts 4:27
- d. *"with me thou shalt be in safeguard"* - with the anointed there is security John 10:28-30
 - i. John 5:16-18 Jesus did not break the Sabbath, he was lord of it.
- e. Both David and Jesus treated as outlaws by those who did not keep the law.
- f. David was anointed of God and by his persecution gained a faithful following.