

A Corner of Saul's Robe

1 Samuel 24

Psalm 57

by Don Falkos

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Saul took three thousand elite troops and went to the wilderness of En Gedi in search of David. Along the way Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. As it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave. David's men whispered to him, "Now's your chance. Kill him."

David crept up and cut off a corner of Saul's robe. Then he held back his men so they wouldn't kill Saul.

After Saul left the cave, David came out and shouted after him, "My lord the king!" Saul looked back, and David said, "Just now, in the cave, the Lord placed you at my mercy. But I would never harm the Lord's anointed one. Look! I was close enough to cut this piece of cloth from the corner of your robe. But I did not kill you. I have not wronged you in any way or rebelled against you, and yet here you are hunting me down to kill me."

Saul began to weep. He said to David, "You are a better man than I am. You have treated me well even though I treated you so badly. You could have killed me, but you didn't. May the Lord reward you for your kindness. Now I know it's true. You will be king of Israel. Swear to me by the Lord that when you become king you will not kill my descendants and wipe out my family name."

David swore an oath to Saul. Then Saul and his men went home. And David went back to En Gedi singing praises to God. "Your unfailing love and faithfulness are with me always. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory shine over all the earth."