

## **David Runs from Saul**

1 Samuel 21:1 – 22:5

1 Chronicles 12:8-18

Psalms 34, 56, and 142

by Don Falkos

copyright 2017 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

David went to see Ahimelech, the priest, and said, "My men and I need food. Give me five loaves of bread."

The priest replied, "I don't have any ordinary bread. You can have the consecrated bread if your men haven't slept with any women recently."

"No, they haven't been with any women!" Then David asked, "Do you have a spear or a sword? I need a weapon!"

"I only have the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah."

"Give it to me!"

David left with the holy bread and the sword of Goliath. One of Saul's servants, Doeg the Edomite, saw and overheard all that transpired.

David went to Gath, a Philistine city. But the Philistines said, "Isn't this David, the one people sing about, 'Saul has killed his thousands, and David his tens of thousands'?"

David was afraid. He asked God for protection. Then he pretended to be insane, scratching at doors and drooling down his beard. The king of Gath said, "Get rid of this madman."

David left Gath praising God that his ruse had succeeded. He escaped to the cave of Adullam, the Stronghold. He prayed, "I am alone. No one cares about me. But you, O Lord, are my refuge. You are all I really want in life. Rescue me from my enemies."

Others joined David at the Stronghold – men who were in trouble or in debt or who were just discontented. Mighty warriors also came. David asked them, "Have you come to help me or betray me?" They replied, "We are with you. Success!" Eventually there were four hundred men with David, and he was their leader.