

David on the Move

1 Samuel 23

Psalm 54

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The Philistines invaded Keilah. The Lord told David, "Go and attack the Philistines! I will help you defeat them."

David and his men went to Keilah to rescue its people. They trounced the Philistines and took all their livestock.

The Lord warned David, "Saul is on his way to destroy this city because you are here. And know this: the people of Keilah will betray you to him."

David and his men, now numbering about 600, escaped to the hill country of Ziph. Saul did not attack Keilah. Instead he headed for Ziph to hunt for David and kill him.

Jonathan went to David and said, "Don't be afraid. God will never allow my father to find you. You are going to be the king of Israel." The two men once again swore loyalty to each other in the name of the Lord. Then Jonathan went back home.

The men of Ziph told Saul where David was hiding. Saul said, "David is very crafty. Give me as much information as you can about his hiding places. I'll track him down, even if I have to search all of Judah!"

David prayed, "Save me, O God; defend me; sustain me. Turn the evil plans of my enemies against them."

David and his men were on the move, hurrying to get away from Saul. Meanwhile Saul was searching for them along the other side of the mountain. Just as Saul was closing in on David, an urgent message reached him that the Philistines were once again raiding Israel. Saul broke off the chase and went to fight the Philistines. David and his men moved to the Stronghold of En Gedi, a place with many nearly inaccessible caves.