

Doeg the Edomite

1 Samuel 22:6-23

Psalm 52

by Don Falkos

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Saul shouted at his officers, "Has David promised you riches and military promotion? Is that why you've all conspired against me? Not one of you bothered to tell me that my own son had sworn loyalty to him and encouraged him to kill me!"

Then Doeg the Edomite spoke to Saul, "When I was at the Tabernacle, I saw David talking to the priest, Ahimelech. Ahimelech consulted the Lord for him. Then he gave David provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

King Saul immediately sent for Ahimelech and all the priests serving with him. Saul shouted at Ahimelech, "Why have you and David conspired against me? You gave him food and a sword and consulted God for him. And now, with your help, he's trying to kill me!"

Ahimelech replied, "David is your most faithful servant. I did consult God for him, but this was not the first time. Please, my king, I've done nothing wrong. I didn't know about any plot against you."

Saul ordered his bodyguards to execute Ahimelech and the others, but they refused to kill the priests of the Lord. Then the king said to Doeg, "You do it." So Doeg the Edomite killed all eighty-five priests and their families and their livestock.

Only Abiathar, a son of Ahimelech, escaped. He fled to David, who said, "When I saw Doeg the Edomite at the Tabernacle, I should have known he would tell Saul. He has a loose tongue that cuts like a sharpened razor. I have caused the death of your entire family. Stay with me, and don't be afraid. I will protect you. The same man wants to kill both of us."