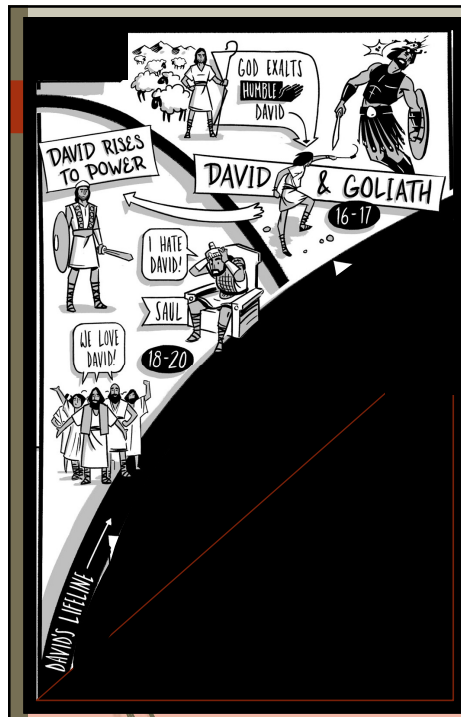


Week Twenty 26  
1 Samuel 21 – 31 Death of Saul

PASTOR'S  
**BIBLE STUDY**

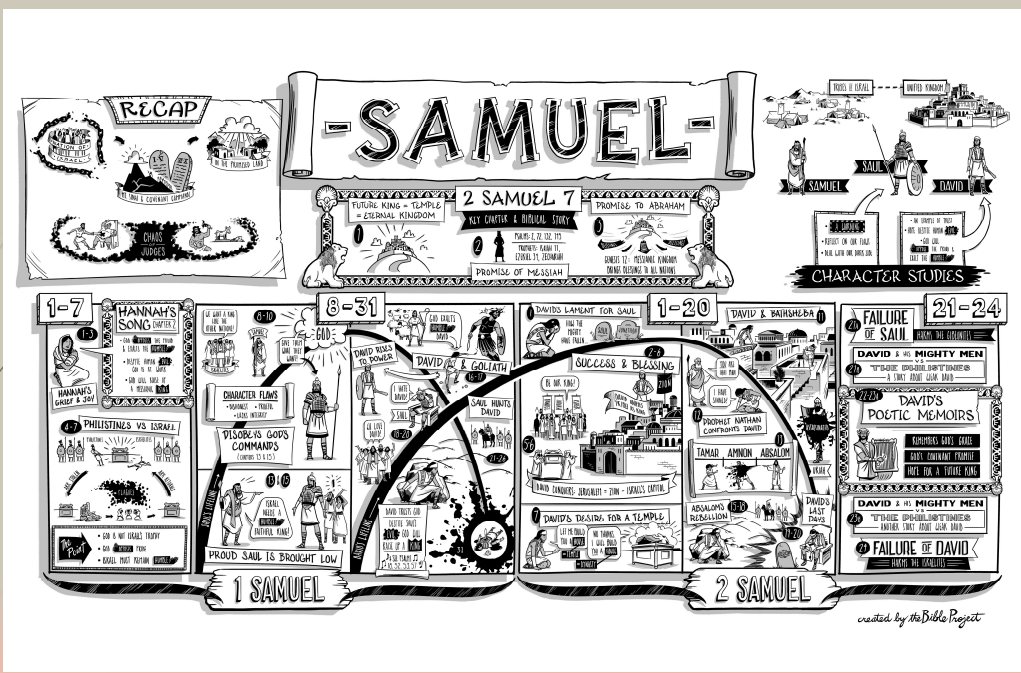


## Conclusion

### What's going to happen to David?

- David is a wanted felon on the run
- He's approximately 20 years old
- He will spend the next 10 years on the move
- What will he do?

# Lets begin







1 Samuel 21 NIV


### David at Nob

**21** [a] David went to Nob, to Ahimelek the priest. Ahimelek trembled when he met him, and asked, “Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?”

**2** David answered Ahimelek the priest, “The king sent me on a mission and said to me, ‘No one is to know anything about the mission I am sending you on.’ As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place. **3** Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find.”

 <sup>4</sup> But the priest answered David, “I don’t have any ordinary bread on hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here—provided the men have kept themselves from women.”

<sup>5</sup> David replied, “Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever  I set out. The men’s bodies are holy even on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!” <sup>6</sup> So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

 <sup>7</sup> Now one of Saul’s servants was there that day, detained before the LORD; he was **Doeg the Edomite**, Saul’s chief shepherd.

<sup>8</sup> David asked Ahimelek, “Don’t you have a spear or a sword here? I haven’t brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king’s mission was urgent.”

<sup>9</sup> The priest replied, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one.”

David said, “There is none like it; give it to me.”



# David flees to the Philistine City of Gath





### David at Gath

<sup>10</sup> That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath. <sup>11</sup> But the servants of Achish said to him, "Isn't this David, the king of the land? Isn't he the one they sing about in their dances:

"Saul has slain his thousands,  
and David his tens of thousands'?"

<sup>12</sup> David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath. <sup>13</sup> So he pretended to be insane in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

14 Achish said to his servants, “Look at the man! He is insane! Why bring him to me? 15 Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here to carry on like this in front of me? Must this man come into my house?”

## David strikes a deal with King Achish

- ▶ Kill him or talk to him
- ▶ David will tell his story to King Achish
- ▶ King Achish will hire him as a mercenary
- ▶ He will now work as a mercenary for the enemy of Israel
  - ▶ David will put together an army of 600 (23:16) fellow mercenaries from as far away as Hittite territory (26:6) (Eastern Turkey today)
  - ▶ They will serve with David for the 10 years he is running from King Saul
  - ▶ In the 10 years David will hone his skills as a military commander
  - ▶ These men will become the core of his future military when he becomes King

## David strikes a deal with King Achish (Continued)

- ▶ David will serve but will not destroy the Israelites
  - ▶ He will play a very dangerous game as a double agent
  - ▶ Passing information to Jonathan
  - ▶ When told to attack an Israelite city he will attack another (30) and kill everything in it bringing back the loot to King Achish

1 Samuel 22 NIV

### **David at Adullam and Mizpah**

**22** David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. <sup>2</sup> All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him.





How is David related to the Moabites?

His Great-Great grandparents Ruth and Boaz

<sup>3</sup> From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?" <sup>4</sup> So he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was in the stronghold.

<sup>5</sup> But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

### Saul Kills the Priests of Nob

<sup>6</sup> Now Saul heard that David and his men had been discovered. And Saul was seated (back against the tree), spear in hand, under the tamarisk tree on the hill at Gibeah (in the central mountain range), with all his officials standing at his side. <sup>7</sup> He said to them, "Listen, men of Benjamin! Will the son of Jesse give all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make all of you commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds? <sup>8</sup> Is that why you have all conspired against me? No one tells me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is concerned about me or tells me that my son has incited my servant to lie in wait for me, as he does today."

<sup>9</sup> But **Doeg the Edomite**, who was standing with Saul's officials, said, "I saw the son of Jesse come to Ahimelek son of Ahitub at Nob. <sup>10</sup> Ahimelek inquired of the LORD for him; he also gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

Doeg was an Edomite, chief herdsman to Saul, King of Israel.

A ingratiating, slippery man

<sup>11</sup> Then the king sent for the priest Ahimelek son of Ahitub and all the men of his family, who were the priests at Nob, and they all came to the king. <sup>12</sup> Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." "Yes, my lord," he answered.

<sup>13</sup> Saul said to him, “Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, giving him bread and a sword and inquiring of God for him, so that he has rebelled against me and lies in wait for me, as he does today?”

He has done nothing wrong

<sup>14</sup> Ahimelek answered the king, “Who of all your servants is as loyal as David, the king’s son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard and highly respected in your household? <sup>15</sup> Was that day the first time I inquired of God for him? Of course not! Let not the king accuse your servant or any of his father’s family, for your servant knows nothing at all about this whole affair.”

<sup>16</sup> But the king said, “You will surely die, Ahimelek, you and your whole family.”

<sup>17</sup> Then the king ordered the guards at his side: “Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because they too have sided with David. They knew he was fleeing, yet they did not tell me.”

Saul’s men once again refuse to obey the King and slaughter God’s Priests

**But the king’s officials were unwilling to raise a hand to strike the priests of the LORD.**

**18** The **king then ordered Doeg**, “You turn and strike down the priests.” So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. **19** He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with its men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys and sheep.

**20** But one son of Ahimelek son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled to join David.

**21** He told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.

**22** Then David said to Abiathar, “That day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, I knew he would be sure to tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of your whole family. **23** Stay with me; don’t be afraid. The man who wants to kill you is trying to kill me too. You will be safe with me.”

David again shows his character in his reaction to what has happened

1 Samuel 24 NIV

### David Spares Saul's Life

**24** [a]After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." <sup>2</sup> So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crag of the Wild Goats.

**Today En Gedi is a nature preserve in Israel**

**You enter into a dead end boxed canyon**

The walls  
are  
riddled  
with  
caves in  
the  
limestone  
cliffs





Wild Goats  
Are Ibex a  
species of  
wild goat

<sup>3</sup> He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself.

**He would have entered and turned to look out towards his men as he raised his robe to relieve himself.**

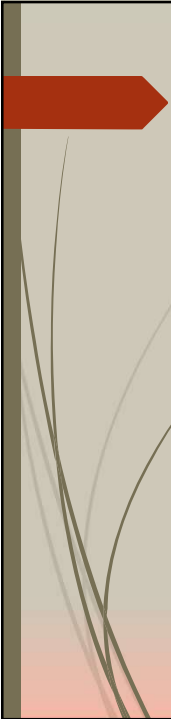
David and his men were far back in the cave. <sup>4</sup> The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said<sup>[b]</sup> to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'

David could have easily killed King Saul. Why didn't he?


" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

<sup>5</sup> Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. <sup>6</sup> He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." <sup>7</sup> With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

<sup>8</sup> Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.



<sup>9</sup> He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you’?” <sup>10</sup> This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, ‘I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the LORD’s anointed.’ <sup>11</sup> See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. <sup>12</sup> May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.



<sup>13</sup> As the old saying goes, ‘From evildoers come evil deeds,’ so my hand will not touch you.

<sup>14</sup> “Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?” <sup>15</sup> May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.”

<sup>16</sup> When David finished saying this, Saul asked, “Is that your voice, David my son?” And he wept aloud. <sup>17</sup> “You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you



badly. <sup>18</sup> You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. <sup>19</sup> When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today. <sup>20</sup> I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. <sup>21</sup> Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."

<sup>22</sup> So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

## It's Not Over

- ▶ Saul will continue to hunt David though he swore he would not.
- ▶ The Conflict with Philistines keep getting bigger
  - ▶ There will be a showdown
  - ▶ Chapter 31:1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell dead on Mount Gilboa.
- ▶ Who will lead the Israel Army – King Saul or Jonathan
- ▶ How will David get out of leading the Philistine Army?

## David and his men will be at the lead of the Philistines

They are King Achish personal body guards.  
(Chapter 29 - David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish).

In battle they would move forward with the King as he leads them into battle.

1 Samuel 29 NIV

### **Achish Sends David Back to Ziklag**

**29** The Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, and Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel. **2** As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish. **3** The commanders of the Philistines asked, "What about these Hebrews?" Achish replied, "Is this not David, who was an officer of Saul king of Israel? He has already been with me for over a year, and from the day he left Saul until now, I have found no fault in him."

4 But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish and said, “Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master’s favor than by taking the heads of our own men?” 5 Isn’t this the David they sang about in their dances:

“Saul has slain his thousands,  
and David his tens of thousands’?”

6 So Achish called David and said to him, “As surely as the LORD lives, you have been reliable, and I would be pleased to have you serve with me in the army. From the day you came to me until today, I have found no fault in you, but the rulers don’t approve of you. 7 Now turn back and go in peace; do nothing to displease the Philistine rulers.”

Remember David has been playing the King as he shared information with Jonathan

8 “But what have I done?” asked David. “What have you found against your servant from the day I came to you until now? Why can’t I go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?”

<sup>9</sup> Achish answered, “I know that you have been as pleasing in my eyes as an angel of God; nevertheless, the Philistine commanders have said, ‘He must not go up with us into battle.’ <sup>10</sup> Now get up early, along with your master’s servants who have come with you, and leave in the morning as soon as it is light.”

WHEW



<sup>11</sup> So David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

**When the Philistines moved North they left the Southern territory unprotected**

**The Amalekites have raided and looted the territory**


1 Samuel 30 NIV

### David Destroys the Amalekites

**30** David and his men reached Ziklag (where David and his men brought their families to protect them from King Saul) on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, <sup>2</sup> and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way. - To sell them into slavery!

<sup>3</sup> When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.


<sup>4</sup> So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. <sup>5</sup> David's two wives had been captured— Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. <sup>6</sup> David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.



<sup>7</sup> Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, <sup>8</sup> and David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?"

"Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue."

**So, David leads the men on a forced march up the Via Maris (Way by the Sea) trade route towards Damascus)**



<sup>9</sup> David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Valley, where some stayed behind. <sup>10</sup> Two hundred of them were too exhausted to cross the valley, but David and the other four hundred continued the pursuit.

....

...<sup>16</sup> He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and reveling because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah. <sup>17</sup> David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled. <sup>18</sup> David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. <sup>19</sup> Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back. <sup>20</sup> He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, "This is David's plunder." ...

1 Samuel 31 NIV

### **Saul Takes His Life**

**31** Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell dead on Mount Gilboa. <sup>2</sup> The Philistines were in hot pursuit of Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. <sup>3</sup> The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically.

<sup>4</sup> Saul said to his armor-bearer, “Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me.”

But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it. <sup>5</sup> When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him. <sup>6</sup> So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together that same day.

<sup>7</sup> When the Israelites along the valley and those across the Jordan saw that the Israelite army had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their towns and fled. And the Philistines came and occupied them.

<sup>8</sup> The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. <sup>9</sup> They cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and they sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among their people. <sup>10</sup> They put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths and fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.

Remember at the beginning. The town that was given the condition of treaty to take the right eye of every man?

<sup>11</sup> When the people of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul,



12 all their valiant men marched through the night to Beth Shan.

They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan and went to Jabesh, where they burned them.

13 Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days.

**40 years after Saul rescued Jabesh Gilead  
the people of Jabesh Gilead rescue  
the bodies of Saul and his sons.**

## Conclusion

### The King is dead

- With the death of Saul and his three sons
- The door is open for David to become King