

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

1 SAMUEL 19-22

Former American President Harry Truman was speaking of Washington DC politics when he said, “If you really want a friend in this city... buy a dog.”

A royal court, as well as, a capitol city - are full of people jockeying for position and power. Under such conditions meaningful friendships are difficult to develop.

That’s what made the bond and friendship between David and Jonathan so remarkable. Jonathan was the *traditional heir to Israel’s throne*. He was *Saul’s blood*. David was the *spiritual heir to Israel’s throne*. He was *God’s choice*.

Yet they overcame the potential for rivalry and remained pals. In tonight’s chapters we see the depth of a *brotherly bond* and a love between friends.

1 Samuel 19 “Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David.”

And remember what they had in common... Both men were jealous for God’s honor. They had a daring faith. Neither was afraid to step out, and act on their faith. Jonathan attacked a Philistine garrison. David conquered a Philistine giant.

And it’s interesting how a common faith and a love for God can create a brotherhood and a loyalty between men - stronger than blood.

This is why Jonathan ratted on Saul, “Jonathan told David,

saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide. And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father about you.

Then what I observe, I will tell you."

Thus Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been very good toward you.

For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?" So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed."

Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things.

So Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as in times past." It took courage for Jonathan to confront the king and go to bat for David.

I wonder how willing we are to stand up for our friends... when it might *risk our reputation, or become an inconvenience, or upset our well-being...*

In Jonathan's case, he was willing to risk his very life for his friend?

It reminds me of the man leaving his doctor's office. He said, "Doc, since we're such good friends I won't insult you with

payment for your services. But I do want you to know I have remembered you in my last will and testament.”

The doctor responded, “That’s very kind, but can I see the prescription I just gave you? I need to make a little change.” Neither man was a very good friend.

The old saying still applies, “True friends are like diamonds they are real and rare. False friends are like leaves... they’re scattered everywhere.”

If you have a loyal, committed friend, like Jonathan, you’re a rich person.

Verse 8 “And there was war again; and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a mighty blow, and they fled from him.”

And I’m sure the chorus that Saul hated to hear was once again playing in the city of Jerusalem. The girls sang it in the streets - the DJs were giving it airplay on the radio - “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”

David won *Saul’s victories*, but they enraged *Saul’s jealousies*.

“Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand.”

And we know from earlier experiences what’s about to happen... **David duck!** Not *Donald duck*... but literally, David *duck*... *get down!*... *duck and down*...

Verse 10 “Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he

drove the spear into the wall.

So David fled and escaped that night.” For the next 20 years David will be on the run – a fugitive. He won’t return to the palace until he is appointed king.

Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning.” Goons sent by Saul set up an ambush outside David’s house.

“And Michal, David's wife...” Remember she was also Saul’s daughter... “told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed."

Michal is in the same situation as her brother, Jonathan. Will she side with her husband or father? She makes the right move, and protects an innocent man.

God expects His people to obey their governmental authorities... *unless the king’s command is in conflict with God’s will.* That was obviously the case here.

What Peter and the apostles said to the Jewish Sanhedrin could’ve been said by Michal to her father - Acts 5:29, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Here’s what’s interesting, while a hit squad stakes out the house waiting for morning light to assassinate David – he’s inside singing praises to God. How do we know? Psalm 59 is prefaced, “when Saul sent men, and they watched the house in order to kill him.” Psalm 59 is the words David wrote this very night.

It’s interesting how the psalm begins and ends. It starts, “Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; Defend me from those who rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of

iniquity, and save me from bloodthirsty men.”

And it ends in verse 16, “But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning...” Remember Saul’s goons were planning to kill David at daybreak. You wonder if He shouted the line “Your mercy in the morning” loud enough for the assassins to hear. “For You have been my defense and refuge in the day of trouble. To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy.” David responds to *persecution* with *praise!*

“So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped. And Michal took an image and laid it in the bed, put a cover of goats’ hair for his head, and covered it with clothes. So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, “He is sick.” Why an illness stops you from killing someone doesn’t make sense. Maybe it’s in the assassin’s code, “Don’t kill a sick people.”

“Then Saul sent the messengers back to see David, saying, “Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him.” Notice the intensity of the king’s hatred. Saul wants to deal the death blow personally... with his own hand.

“And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats’ hair for his head. Then Saul said to Michal, “Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?”

And Michal answered Saul, “He said to me, ‘Let me go! Why should I kill you?’” She claims David threatened her life to help him escape. It was a lie. Rather than stand up to her dad, Michal falsely accuses David to save her own skin.

So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.

Now it was told Saul, saying, "Take note, David is at Naioth in Ramah!"

Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied." The delegation from Saul came inspired by the anger and jealousy of a madman, but suddenly God overtakes them, and they become inspired by the power of the Holy Spirit.

They begin to speak ecstatic, spontaneous messages from God.

"And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also." God keeps overtaking the messengers. Every time Saul sends a guy to Naioth to do his dirty work he gets saved! At some point you need to ask, who holds more sway and power over men... King Saul, or the Holy Spirit?

"Then (Saul) also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is at Sechu. So he asked, and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And someone said, "Indeed they are at Naioth in Ramah." So he went there to Naioth in Ramah."

And this time God overtakes the king himself... "Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and

prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night.

Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" My, oh my, a nude prophet... *a preacher streaker*... You can be sure Saul spoke *the bear facts*, and he proclaimed *the naked truth*. This was a real experience with God.

Saul's nakedness was probably an expression of humility and remorse – but it didn't translate into faith and character. Here's what people don't realize – you can waste an experience with God if you don't apply it and act in accordance with it.

Saul's experience ended up just diversion so David could escape again.

In chapter 20 David catches up with his friend, Jonathan. "Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan..." He pours out his heart, "What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?" He's confused. He's uncertain. David is asking Jonathan, "Why does Saul want to kill me when all I've done is be a faithful servant?"

David has been loyal to Saul, but how can he return to his royal court?

"So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from

me? It is not so!" Jonathan believes if David returns to his father's court, he can protect his friend. He'll be privy to all Saul's plans.

"Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' David doesn't agree. *If Saul can kill, he can certainly lie.*

"But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death." So Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you yourself desire, I will do it for you." Jonathan doesn't argue. David knows his father too well. He's right.

David concocts a plan to determine Saul's intentions, and as a result his future.

"And David said to Jonathan, "Indeed tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat. But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third day at evening. If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked permission of me that he might run over to Bethlehem, his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.'

"If he says thus: 'It is well,' your servant will be safe.

But if he is very angry, then be sure that evil is determined by him.

Therefore you shall deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. Nevertheless, if there is iniquity in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?"

And Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! For if I knew certainly that evil was determined by my father to come upon you, then would I not tell you?"

Verse 10 "Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me, or what if your father answers you roughly?" And Jonathan said to David, "Come, and let us go out into the field." So both of them went out into the field.

Then Jonathan said to David: "The LORD God of Israel is witness!" He's taking an oath. "When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, or the third day, and indeed there is good toward David, and I do not send to you and tell you, may the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan. But if it pleases my father to do you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety.

And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father."

Jonathan blesses David, but he wants David to bless him...
"And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die; but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."

So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "Let the LORD require it at the hand of David's enemies." Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul."

In verse 18 Jonathan gives David a signal to communicate

what he learns of Saul's intentions. "Then Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow is the New Moon; and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty. And when you have stayed 3 days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid on the day of the deed; and remain by the stone Ezel. Then I will shoot 3 arrows to the side, as though I shot at a target; and there I will send a lad, saying, 'Go, find the arrows.'

If I expressly say to him, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you; get them and come' - then, as the LORD lives, there is safety for you and no harm. But if I say thus to the young man, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you' - go your way, for the LORD has sent you away." Here's the signal... Arrows shot to your side... you're safe. Arrows over your head... you need to run for your life.

Verse 23 "And as for the matter which you and I have spoken of, indeed the LORD be between you and me forever." If you need to *flee*... remember *me*.

Then David hid in the field. And when the New Moon had come, the king sat down to eat the feast. Now the king sat on his seat, as at other times, on a seat by the wall." It seems strange that the king was off to himself rather than in the midst of the table. It's probably another indication of Saul's insecurities and paranoia.

"And Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty. Nevertheless Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has happened to him; he is unclean, surely he is unclean."

And it happened the next day, the second day of the month, that David's place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his

son, "Why has the son of Jesse not come to eat, either yesterday or today?" So Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked permission of me to go to Bethlehem. And he said, 'Please let me go, for our family has a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. And now, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me get away and see my brothers.' Therefore he has not come to the king's table."

Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman!" That's the equivalent of a cuss word.

"Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness? For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom..." Saul tries to disguise his hatred of David as a concern for Jonathan's right to the throne.

"Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die."

"And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?" Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David."

I guess, you can say, *Jonathan gets the point!*

Saul's jealousy is out of control. He claims to care about Jonathan's right to the throne - then tries to end it himself on the end of a spear. His dad is deranged.

“So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully. And so it was, in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad was with him.

Then he said to his lad, "Now run, find the arrows which I shoot."

As the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him. When the lad had come to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried out after the lad and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?" His words are intended for David.

“And Jonathan cried out after the lad, "Make haste, hurry, do not delay!"

So Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows and came back to his master. But the lad did not know anything. Only Jonathan and David knew of the matter. Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, "Go, carry them to the city."

As soon as the lad had gone, David arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so.” It was a tearful farewell.

“Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.'" Jonathan knows the next king of Israel will be David - *not him*. Thus, he makes David promise kindness towards his heirs... “So (David) arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.”

Reluctantly, here is where I need to bring up an unsavory point. I wish I didn't have to mention it, and run the risk of tarnishing a beautiful story of friendship. But if I don't mention it – someone else will... You need to be aware of the heresy...

There are homosexuals who justify their perversion by pointing to David and Jonathan - and suggesting that theirs was a homosexual relationship. This is ludicrous. Verse 41 does say, “**they kissed one another**”, but Jonathan and David lived in an oriental culture where a kiss was customary among men.

A kiss was a sign of friendship – the equivalent of a handshake – not some kind of romantic gesture. You see this today among Arab or Russian men.

That anyone would mistake the depth of friendship - and emotion shared - between David and Jonathan as some kind of perverted attachment is an indictment against the shallowness of most male friendships today.

Men tend to act macho. They assume *repressing* – not *expressing* - emotion is a sign of real manhood. *A couple of guys getting teary-eyed must be weird.*

I disagree. Men are human. They feel as well as think and act. Male emotion comes out on the battlefield when a brother is wounded - or on the football field in the midst of celebration. I think men should be expressive at other times as well.

Don't be confused. David and Jonathan had a healthy, holy, brotherly love for each other. They model the depth that men

can experience in godly friendships.

Chapter 21 “Now David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest.” Evidently, after the Philistine’s assault on the Tabernacle in Shiloh in the days of Eli - whatever was left was moved to the city of Nob. The priesthood was stationed in Nob.

“And Ahimelech was afraid when he met David, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one is with you?" Evidently, there were a few men with David, but compared the company in which most celebrities traveled David was alone.

A superstar like David usually rode into town with a posse’.

“So David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has ordered me on some business, and said to me, 'Do not let anyone know anything about the business on which I send you, or what I have commanded you.'" Obviously, this was a lie.

“And I have directed my young men to such and such a place.

Now therefore, what have you on hand? Give me five loaves of bread in my hand, or whatever can be found." David, and the few men with him are on the run and they need some food. They’re getting hungry. They’re famished.

“And the priest answered David and said, "There is no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread..." This was the sacred showbread – 12 loaves that were eaten only by the priest. The showbread spoke of fellowship with God. The word “showbread” literally means “bread of faces”. It conjures

up the idea of eating with God at His table – face to face. FB Meyer referred to it as “[presence-bread](#)”.

Only the priest ate this bread, but Ahimelech is about to make an exception.

We learned in Leviticus a bodily emission made a man ceremonially unclean.

This priest is about to violate a basic Jewish tradition - let David have priestly bread - he wants to at least make sure he observes a modicum of protocol...

“Then David answered the priest, and said to him, "Truly, women have been kept from us about three days since I came out. And the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in effect common, even though it was sanctified in the vessel this day." Sacred showbread was always fresh. David says the bread they're about to eat is common since it had already been taken off the altar.

That's the point in verse 6 “So the priest gave him holy bread; for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the LORD, in order to put hot bread in its place on the day when it was taken away.”

It's interesting in Matthew 12 Jesus uses David's example in 1 Samuel 21 to refute the legalistic Pharisees. They accuse Jesus of violating the Law by allowing his disciples to pluck and eat grain on the Sabbath Day.

Jesus answers them in Matthew 12:3-4, “Have you not read (He's referring to our text) what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful

for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?”

In the same passage Jesus also quotes Hosea 6:6, “I desire mercy and not sacrifice.” It was never God’s intention to put *religious ritual* above *human need*.

The Law was given to help mankind, not hurt him. And when the letter of the Law contradicts the intent of the Law, then the spirit of the Law takes precedent.

Feeding a hungry man is far more holy than lighting a candle or giving a tithe.

“Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD. And his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chief of the herdsmen who belonged to Saul.” It turns out this Doeg is a spy for King Saul. He rats on David.

And David said to Ahimelech, "Is there not here on hand a spear or a sword? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste." So the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, there it is, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it. For there is no other except that one here."

And David said, "There is none like it; give it to me." You wonder if he didn’t pick it up – massage the grip – swing it a time or two – and relive the moment when he used this sword to defend God’s glory, and chop off the giant’s head.

The priest was probably holding on to the sword as a keepsake. Maybe he planned to put it up for sale at the big Jerusalem Memorabilia auction.

Here's the point don't turn weapons into keepsakes. The keepsakes we care about are heavenly treasures. What God gives us on earth needs to be used.

Verse 10 “Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.” And it was probably not a good idea to wear Goliath's sword down Main St. in Goliath's hometown. “And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

Why David flees to the land of the Philistines we're not sure - especially to Goliath's hometown. Maybe David thought the Philistines had forgotten him.

David might've figured that enemy territory was the only place Saul wouldn't be willing to chase him. David felt safe from Saul's fury behind Philistine borders.

Verse 12 “Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. So he changed his behavior before them, feigned madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard.” David goes animalistic – he acts like a madman.

And it works! “Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me?" Don't we already have enough crazy people in Gath? “Have I need of madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

In other words, get him out of my sight. David's scheme succeeds.

It's interesting, two psalms, 34 and 56 are written in the aftermath of this episode. And both extol how God delivers His people in times of trouble.

Listen to David in Psalm 34:17-19 "The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all."

In Chapter 22 David attracts a crowd, "David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about 400 men with him."

The cave of Adullam was a stronghold in the Valley of Elah. It was near the site where David slew Goliath. It became David's camp – one of his hideouts in Israel.

And what a motley crew he attracts. He's joined by a bunch of misfits - **the distressed - the debtors - the discontented.** It sounds like Calvary Chapel?

This is also what will happen later to the son of David, Jesus the Messiah.

When Jesus came to earth He reached out in love and accepted the down and out. Jesus was followed by the outcasts and disenfranchised of society.

He brought *rest to the distressed*. He *forgave the debtor and made him heir of His riches*. And He gave *peace and deep down satisfaction to the discontented*.

You and I are among Jesus' 400. We've joined His posse'. We've become Jesus' mighty men. Jesus has given us a fresh start, and a new identity.

“Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab (east of the Dead Sea); and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me." He's seeking safety and refuge for his family.

David was worried Saul might harm his family to get to him. Saul was fully capable of kidnapping and extortion. David hopes Moab will provide his family political asylum. He hopes the Moabites will provide his family a safe house.

Recall David had Moabite blood. His great-grandma, Ruth, was from Moab.

“So he brought them before the king of Moab, and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go to the land of Judah." Further south.

“So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.”

Verse 6 **“When Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered - now Saul was staying in**

Gibeah under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants standing about him – then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds?" "I'm the king – not David. I'm the one who can reward you and promote you. Fight for me..."

"All of you have conspired against me, and there is no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; and there is not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day." Saul is sulking again. He's having a pity party. He feels Jonathan has betrayed him, and everyone has sided with his son.

"Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, "I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. And he inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine." This dog, Doeg, rats out Ahimelech for helping David.

"So the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were in Nob. And they all came to the king.

And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub!" And he answered, "Here I am, my lord." Then Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?"

So Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house?" In other words, I thought David was on your team!

He continues in verse 15, "Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, or to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much."

Remember, David told Ahimelech he was on a mission for the king.

"And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house!" Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me." Again Saul issues a rash order...

"But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD." To take your sword to the priest was to slaughter God's anointed.

"And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" Doeg the dog was the only man evil enough to do the dirty deed. He does Saul's dirty work.

"So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day 85 men who wore a linen ephod." The ephod was the smock worn by the priests.

"Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing

infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep - with the edge of the sword.” Doeg carries out Saul’s bloodthirsty wishes.

Verse 20 “Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD's priests. So David said to Abiathar, "I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have caused the death of all the persons of your father's house.”

Notice David’s tender, humble, repentant heart. He could’ve – perhaps should’ve – blamed Saul’s rage or Doeg’s diabolical self-seeking – for this disaster. Instead David holds himself responsible.

If David hadn’t pretended to be on a royal mission... Of course, if Ahimelech had known the truth it’s probable he would’ve been more inclined to help David.

But David’s first impulse was to search his own heart – rather than blame someone else. Here’s the mark of a true leader, and a man after God’s heart.

Ahimelech’s son, Abiathar, is his sole survivor – his only heir. David will pay his debt to the perished priest, Ahimelech, by insuring the safety of his son.

In the last verse of chapter 22 David promises Abiathar, “Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe.”

Let me close tonight with some important typology.

Get the picture... David is king, but he’s yet to take the throne. In the meantime, he’s gathering up society’s rejects -

and his followers are objects of persecution.

Saul, the usurper sits on the throne, and vents his rage on David's merry men.

And it's all a picture of Jesus. Though Jesus is King of the earth, Satan still sits on the throne. He too is a usurper, and he persecutes Jesus and His followers.

But one day, King Jesus will take the throne, and rule over the earth. Satan will be judged, and the followers of Jesus will reign and rule with Him. *What a day!*