

1 Samuel 21

King James Version (KJV)

21 Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee? (Something is up, since a prince of the kingdom is traveling with very few companions)

(Ahimelech was a descendant of the crooked judge and high priest Eli, and his crooked sons. God judged that no man of Eli's family would live long enough to be old)

²And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed my servants to such and such a place. (David is pretending that he is on a secret mission for the king)

³Now therefore what is under thine hand? give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present. (Asking for food to travel with)

⁴And the priest answered David, and said, There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. (No common bread, only the shew bread in the tabernacle. It was replaced every 7 days, and was only eaten by the priests. The priests will let David and his men eat it if they are spiritually clean by the Laws of God – not have had sex for certain days)

⁵And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel. (David had been anointed by Samuel, and did prophecy, although he wasn't a priest – not of Aaron's progeny)

⁶So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away. (Ahimelech is stretching the law a bit by letting David & his men eat the showbread)

⁷Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul. (Edomites were

descendants of Esau. Doeg must have been living in Israel, probably working for Saul) see Psalm-52

⁸ And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste. (When would a warrior like David forget to take his weapons if he's on a mission. Ahimelech must have decided to not ask any further)

⁹ And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me. (Goliath's sword must have been important to Israel that it was kept in the sanctuary, by the ephod. It was probably a symbol for their victory over the Philistines, and their re-gained freedom)

¹⁰ And David arose and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. (David is seeking refuge with Saul's mortal enemies- the Philistines. Goliath was from Gath)

¹¹ And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? (They recognized him) (king of the land – this is a title based on David's deeds as a mighty warrior. They didn't know that Samuel had anointed David to be the real king of Israel)

¹² And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

¹³ And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard. (It was considered bad luck to kill a madman, so the Philistines didn't harm David)

¹⁴ Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me? (He doesn't want any bad luck. Only a madman would go to the king of his enemies)

¹⁵ Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? shall this fellow come into my house? (Throw him out)

