

David Flees from Saul

CHARACTERS: Ahimelech, David, Merab, Michal, Servant 1, Doeg, Saul, Gad, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 9 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 21-24, Psalm 57

AHIMELECH: (*fearfully*) Why are you alone and no one is with you?

DAVID: The king told me not to let anyone know anything about the mission He sent me on. I have stationed my young men at a certain place. Now what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread or whatever can be found.

AHIMELECH: There is no ordinary bread on hand. However, there is consecrated bread.

MERAB: Lurking in the shadows eavesdropping was one of Saul's servants, Doeg the Edomite, chief of Saul's shepherds.

DAVID: Do you have a spear or sword on hand? I didn't even bring my sword or my weapons since the king's mission was urgent.

AHIMELECH: Only the sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed. If you want to take it, then take it, for there isn't another one here.

DAVID: There's none like it! Give it to me.

MICHAL: David fled to King Achish of Gath, one of the five Philistine cities.

MERAB: David pretended to be insane in their presence.

MICHAL: He acted like a madman around them, scribbling on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

SERVANT 1: Isn't this David, the king of Israel?

KING ACHISH: Look! You can see the man is crazy. Why did you bring him to me?

SERVANT 1: Don't they sing about him during their dances: Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands?

KING ACHISH: Do I have such a shortage of crazy people that you brought this one to act crazy around me? Get him out of here.

MERAB: David left Gath and took refuge in the cave of Adullam.

MICHAL: He composed this psalm.

DAVID: Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge.

ALL: I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

DAVID: I cry out to God Most High, to God, who vindicates me.

ALL: He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me—

DAVID: God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.

ALL: I am in the midst of lions; I am forced to dwell among ravenous beasts—

DAVID: men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

ALL: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

DAVID: They spread a net for my feet— I was bowed down in distress.

ALL: They dug a pit in my path—but they have fallen into it themselves.

DAVID: My heart, O God, is steadfast,

ALL: my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.

DAVID: Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre!

ALL: I will awaken the dawn.

DAVID: I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;

ALL: I will sing of you among the peoples.

DAVID: For great is your love, reaching to the heavens;

ALL: your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

DAVID: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

ALL: let your glory be over all the earth.

MICHAL: When David's brothers and his father's whole family heard, they went down and joined him there.

MERAB: In addition, every man who was desperate, in debt, or discontented rallied around him, and he became the leader of about 400 men.

MICHAL: David sought help from the king of Moab.

DAVID: Please let my father and mother stay with you until I know what God will do for me.

MERAB: David left them in the care of the king of Moab while David was in the stronghold.

GAD: I have a message from God. Don't stay in the stronghold. Leave and return to the land of Judah.

DAVID: I will obey and go to the forest of Hereth.

SAUL: Listen, men of Benjamin: Is Jesse's son going to give all of you fields and vineyards? Do you think he'll make all of you commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds? That's why all of you have conspired against me!

DOEG: David has been spotted.

SAUL: Nobody tells me when my own son makes a covenant with Jesse's son. None of you cares about me or tells me that my son has stirred up my own servant to wait in ambush for me, as is the case today.

DOEG: I saw Jesse's son come to AHIMELECH: at Nob. AHIMELECH: inquired of the Lord for him, gave him provisions and the sword of Goliath.

DAVID: Bring AHIMELECH: the priest and his father's entire family, all who are priests in Nob. (to AHIMELECH:) Listen, son of Ahitub!

AHIMELECH: I'm at your service, my lord.

SAUL: Why did you and Jesse's son conspire against me? You gave him bread and a sword and inquired of God for him, so he could rise up against me and wait in ambush, as is the case today.

AHIMELECH: Who among all your servants is as faithful as David? He is the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard, and honored in your house. Please don't let the king make an accusation against your servant or any of my father's household, for your servant didn't have any idea about all this.

SAUL: You will die, Ahimelech—you and your father's whole family! (to guards) Kill all the priests of the Lord because they sided with David. For they knew he was fleeing, but they didn't tell me.

MERAB: But the king's servants would not lift a hand to execute the priests of the Lord.

SAUL: (to Doeg) Go and execute the priests!

MICHAL: (sadly) So Doeg the Edomite went and executed the 85 priests himself.

ABIATHAR: David, I am a son of AHIMELECH:. Saul has killed the priests of the Lord and all the men, women, children, infants, oxen, donkeys, and sheep in Nob.

DAVID: (weighed down with grief and regret) I knew that Doeg the Edomite was there that day and that he was sure to report to Saul. I myself am responsible for the lives of everyone in your father's family. Stay with me. Don't be afraid, for the one who wants to take my life wants to take your life. You will be safe with me."

MICHAL: Jonathan came to David in the Wilderness of Ziph.

MERAB: He encouraged Davis in his faith in God.

JONATHAN: Don't be afraid, for my father Saul will never lay a hand on you. You yourself will be king over Israel, and I'll be your second-in-command. Even my father Saul knows it is true.

MICHAL: When Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he went to look for David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

MERAB: Saul went into the cave David was hiding in to relieve himself.

JOAB: (*whispering*) Look, this is the day the Lord told you about: 'I will hand your enemy over to you so you can do to him whatever you desire.

DAVID: (*whispering*) I will never lift my hand against Saul, since he is the Lord's anointed.

MICHAL: David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe.

MERAB: Saul left the cave and David got up, went out of the cave.

DAVID: My lord the king! Why do you listen to the words of people who say, 'Look, David intends to harm you'? You can see with your own eyes that the Lord handed you over to me today in the cave.

JOAB: (*aside*) Even though I advised David to kill Saul.

DAVID: I took pity on you and said: I won't lift my hand against my lord, since he is the Lord's anointed. See, my father! Look at the corner of your robe in my hand, for I cut it off, but I didn't kill you.

ALL: Look and recognize that there is no evil or rebellion in David.

DAVID: I haven't sinned against you even though you are hunting me down to take my life. May the Lord judge between you and me, and may the Lord take vengeance on you for me, but my hand will never be against you.

ALL: Who has the king of Israel come after? What are you chasing after?

DAVID: A dead dog? A flea? May the Lord be judge and decide between you and me. May He take notice and plead my case and deliver me from you."

SAUL: Is that your voice, David my son? (*weeping*) You are more righteous than I am, for you have done what is good to me though I have done what is evil to you. When the Lord handed me over to you, you didn't kill me.

ALL: May the Lord repay you with good for what you've done for me today.

SAUL: Now I know for certain you will be king, and the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand. Therefore swear to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family.

DAVID: I promise

MICHAL: Saul went back home, and David and his men went up to the stronghold.

David, Nabal, and Abigail

CHARACTERS: David, Merab, Michal, Abigail, Nabal, Servant 1 & 2

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 25

DAVID: Go greet Nabal, in my name. Remind him we were a wall around your shepherds. Ask him give whatever he can afford to us during the sheep shearing feast.

NABAL: (*contemptuously*) Who is David? Many slaves these days are running away from their masters. Am I supposed to take my bread, my water, and my meat that I butchered for my shearers and give them to these men? No!

MERAB: One of Nabal's young men informed Abigail, Nabal's wife, an intelligent and beautiful woman.

MICHAL: (*aside to audience*) Nabal was surly and mean.

SERVANT 1: Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he yelled at them.

SERVANT 2: The men treated us well.

SERVANT 1: Now consider carefully what you must do, because there is certain to be trouble for our master and his entire family.

SERVANT 2: He is such a worthless fool nobody can talk to him!

ABIGAIL: Hurry! Load up the donkeys with 200 loaves of bread, wine, five butchered sheep, a bushel of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of pressed figs.

SERVANT 1: Right away.

ABIGAIL: Go ahead of me. I will be right behind you.

MERAB: As she rode the donkey down a mountain pass hidden from view, she saw David and his men coming toward her.

ABIGAIL: (*falling at his feet*) My lord accept this gift and pay no attention to this worthless man Nabal. As surely as the Lord lives and as you yourself live, it is the Lord who kept you from bloodshed and avenging yourself by your own hand. The Lord is certain to make a lasting dynasty for you because you fight the Lord's battles.

DAVID: Praise to the Lord God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today! Your discernment is blessed, and you are blessed. Go home in peace.

MICHAL: About 10 days later, the Lord struck Nabal dead.

DAVID: Praise the Lord who championed my cause against Nabal's insults and restrained His servant from doing evil. The Lord brought Nabal's evil deeds back on his own head.

SERVANT 2: (to Abigail) David proposes marriage to you.

ABIGAIL: I accept.

David Again Spares Saul

CHARACTERS: Merab, David, Michal, Abishai, Saul

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 1 Samuel 26

MERAB: Saul and 3,000 troops searched for David.

DAVID: Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me by your might.

ALL: Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth.

DAVID: Arrogant foes are attacking me; ruthless people are trying to kill me— people without regard for God.

ALL: Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.

DAVID: Let evil recoil on those who slander me; in your faithfulness destroy them.

ALL: I will praise your name, Lord, for it is good.

MICHAL: David went to the place where Saul had camped.

ABISHAI: Look! There is Saul, lying inside the inner circle of the camp with the troops camped around him.

DAVID: Who will go with me into the camp to Saul?

ABISHAI: I'll go with you.

MERAB: That night they snuck down, right next to Saul and the spear stuck into the ground next to him.

MICHAL: No one saw them, no one knew, and no one woke up; they all remained asleep because a deep sleep from the Lord came over them

ABISHAI: Today God has handed your enemy over to you. Let me thrust the spear through him into the ground just once. I won't have to strike him twice!

DAVID: Because of the Lord, I will never lift my hand against the Lord's anointed. Let God deal with him. Instead, take the spear and the water jug by his head, and let's go.

MERAB: David crossed to the other side on top of the mountain with a considerable space between them.

DAVID: (*shouting*) Abner, why didn't you protect your lord the king when one of the people came to destroy him? Now look around; where are the king's spear and water jug that were by his head?

SAUL: Is that your voice, my son David?

DAVID: Yes. Why are you chasing me? What evil have I done?

SAUL: I have sinned. Come back, my son David, I will never harm you again because today you considered my life precious. I have been a fool! I've committed a grave error.

DAVID: May the Lord repay every man for his righteousness and his loyalty. I wasn't willing to lift my hand against the Lord's anointed, even though the Lord handed you over to me today. Just as I considered your life valuable today, so may the Lord consider my life valuable and rescue me from all trouble.

ALL: God has delivered you from all your troubles,

DAVID: and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.