

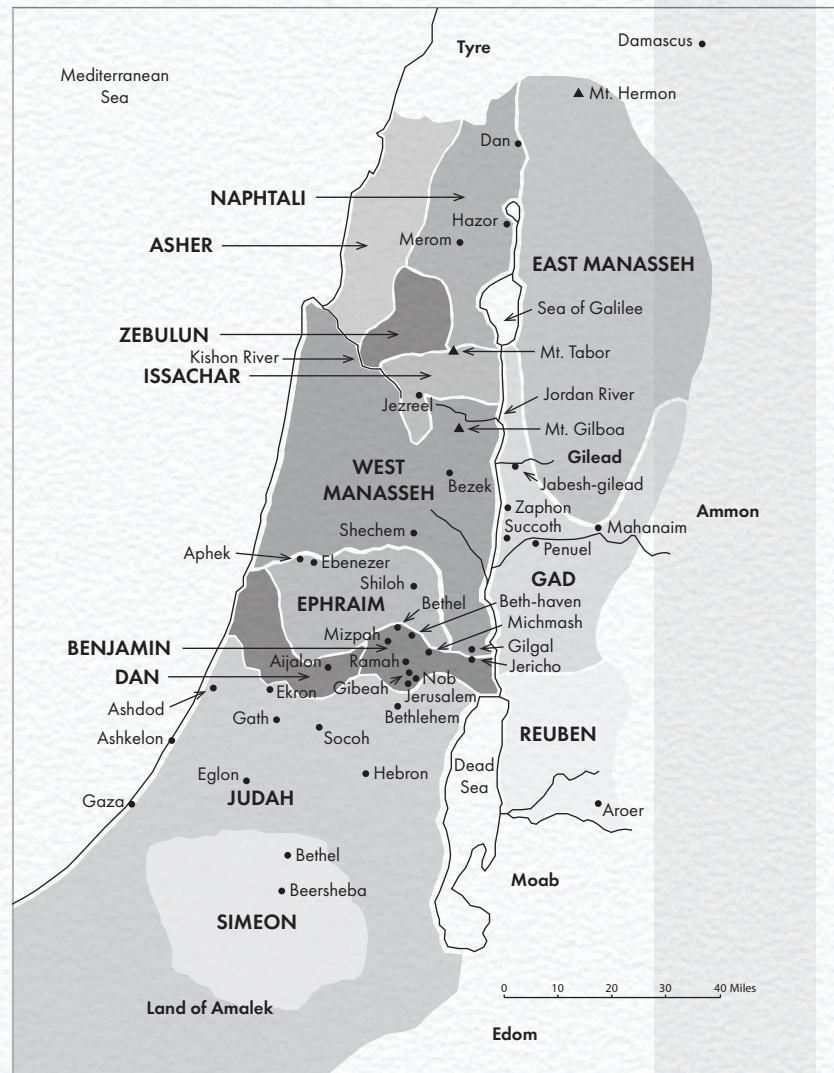
1 Samuel 21

WHEN

- Israel's first king, Saul, was appointed in approximately 1050 B.C.
- The events documented in 1 Samuel 21 took place between approximately 1015-1010 B.C.

WHERE

- In 1 Samuel 21, David spent time in Nob and in Gath.
- Most archeologists place Nob just to the northeast of Jerusalem. The two towns may have been within eyesight of one another.



CHARACTERS

- **David** – He was selected by God to eventually become the second king of Israel.
- **Ahimelech** – A priest who served God at the Tabernacle in Nob.
- **Saul** – God selected Saul to be the first king of Israel. He was from the tribe of Benjamin.
- **Achish** – The king of Gath, a Philistine city.
- **Doeg** – An Edomite. He was Saul's chief herdsman.

OUTLINE

- **DAVID, THE HOLY BREAD, AND THE SWORD OF GOLIATH (21:1-9):**
 - + After fleeing from Saul, David went to Nob, where the priests of God worked in the Tabernacle.
 - + He spoke to Ahimelech the priest and asked him if he had any bread.
 - + Ahimelech told him he didn't have any common bread, only holy bread.
 - + Holy bread, called the bread of the Presence, was put in the Tabernacle each Sabbath day. It was later removed and eaten by the priests (see Leviticus 24:5-9).
 - + Ahimelech gave David the holy bread.
 - + Ahimelech also gave David the sword of Goliath which had been stored at Nob.
 - + Unfortunately, Ahimelech's actions were observed by an Edomite, Doeg, who was the chief herdsman of Saul.
- **DAVID IN GATH (21:10-15):**
 - + David continued running until he came to Gath, a Philistine city.
 - + The people of Gath recognized him and remembered how the people of Israel had praised him for his military victories, including many against the Philistines.
 - + David knew he was in a tricky situation, so he changed his behavior and "pretended to be insane."
 - + He made "marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard."
 - + Achish, the king of Gath, didn't view David as a threat but as a madman.

APPLICATION

- Don't skip over small stories like these in the Old Testament, because sometimes they're important when trying to understand passages in the New Testament.
- Jesus references the meeting of David and Ahimelech in Matthew 12:1-8.
- If you don't understand what happened in Nob in 1 Samuel 21, you'll have difficulty understanding the point Jesus is making.

