

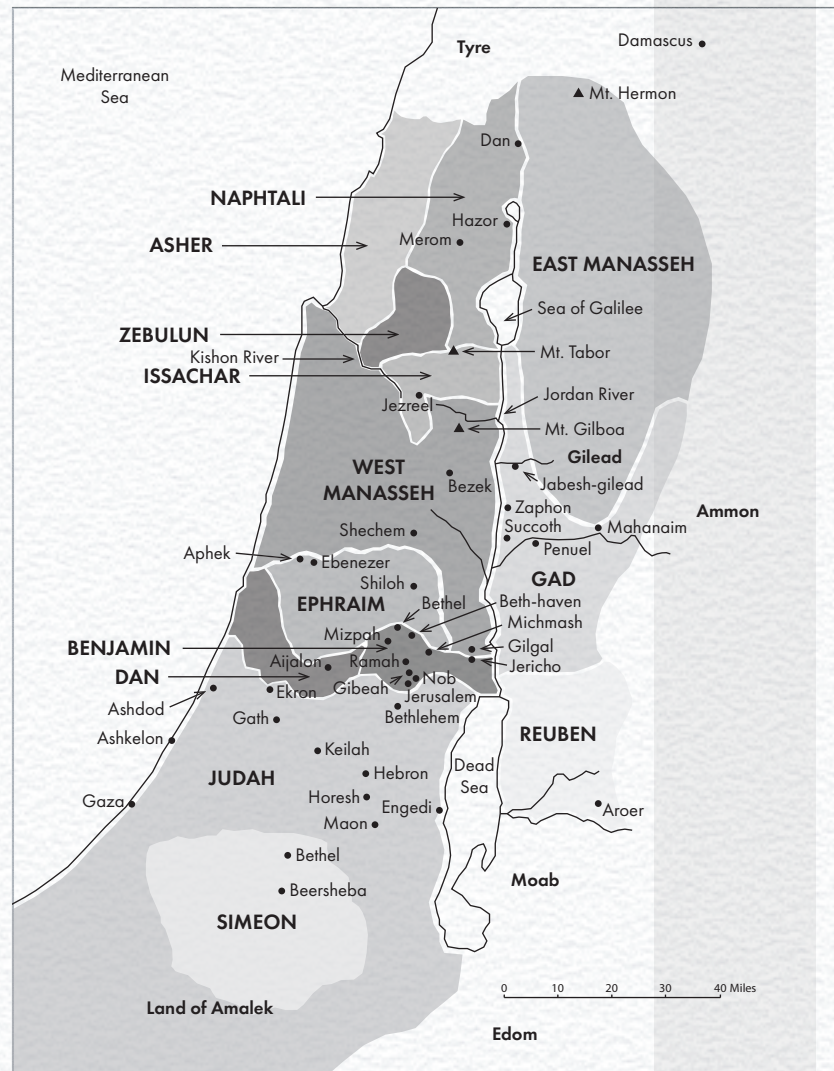
1 Samuel 23

WHEN

- Israel's first king, Saul, was appointed in approximately 1050 B.C.
- The events documented in 1 Samuel 23 took place between approximately 1015-1010 B.C.

WHERE

- In 1 Samuel 23, David and his men stopped in the city of Keilah, the wilderness of Ziph, the wilderness of Maon, and Engedi.



CHARACTERS

- **David** – He was selected by God to eventually become the second king of Israel.
- **Saul** – The first king of Israel. He hated David and was always trying to kill him.
- **Abiathar** – The son of Ahimelech the priest. He was the only son of Ahimelech to survive Saul's murder of the priests of Nob (1 Sam 22).
- **Jonathan** – The son of Saul and the best friend of David.

OUTLINE

- **DAVID SAVES THE CITY OF KEILAH (23:1-5):**
 - + David received word that the Philistines were attacking a city called Keilah.
 - + He asked God if he should take his men and defend the city, and the Lord told him to go up and fight.
 - + God gave David the victory and he saved the people of Keilah.
- **SAUL ATTEMPTS TO TRAP DAVID IN KEILAH (23:6-13):**
 - + After escaping the slaughter of the priests (1 Sam 22), Abiathar ran to David at Keilah carrying an ephod (priestly garment).
 - + When Saul found out David was in Keilah, he took his army to try to trap David inside the city.
 - + David took Abiathar's ephod and asked the Lord for direction.
 - + God revealed to him that the people of Keilah would turn him over to Saul if he remained in the city, so David took his 600 men and fled.
- **SAUL PURSUES DAVID IN HORESH AND MAON (23:14-29):**
 - + David went from Keilah to the strongholds in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh.
 - + Jonathan visited him there and encouraged him.
 - + Jonathan said to David, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this" (23:17).
 - + Sometime after Jonathan returned home, the Ziphites, who lived near Horesh, sent messengers to Saul to inform him David was hiding in their land.
 - + Saul took men and chased David in the wilderness of Maon.
 - + David's army hurried to escape. At one point they were on one side of a mountain and Saul's army was on the other side.
 - + But as Saul was closing in, a messenger came to him and reported that the Philistines had started raiding Israelite cities.
 - + Saul had no choice but to withdraw his men and fight the Philistines.
 - + David called the place "the Rock of Escape."
 - + David left Maon and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.

APPLICATION

- Don't abandon faith, sometimes God saves at the last moment.
- As Saul was closing in on his army to capture them, David could have assumed God's opportunity to help him had passed.
- David probably saw no way out of his predicament, but God had already set his salvation in motion.
- When you start to lose hope, when the window of salvation from your problems is getting narrower and narrower, the last thing you want to do is give up faith.
- God may have reasons for delivering you at the last moment, rather than delivering you at the first sign of trouble.