

1 Samuel 22:6-23 **Saul murdered the Priests at Nob – Ahimelech and all his family**

Saul accused his servants of treason for not informing him about David

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 — **7** 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? **8** 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."

Doeg the Edomite reported seeing David helped by Ahimelech the Priest at Nob

9 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. **10** And he inquired of the Lord for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

Saul called for Ahimelech and sons – Questioned them

11 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. **12** And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub!"

He answered, "Here I am, my lord."

13 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?"

14 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? **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."

Saul commanded his servants to kill Ahimelech and his father's house – Only Doeg obeyed the command to kill all in the city of the priests, men, women, children, and livestock

16 And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house!" **17** 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." But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the Lord. **18** And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod. **19** 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.

Abiathar escaped and fled to David reporting the slaughter of the Priests

20 Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. 21 And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the Lord's priests.

David offered him protection and claimed responsibility for the deaths

22 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. 23 Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe."

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Facts Revealed:

Saul accused his servants of treason for not informing him about David

- ✧ Saul was in Gibeah of Ramah near the location of Samuel. [1 Samuel 7:15-17, 22:6]
- ✧ While David and his men were in the forest of Hereth in Judah, Saul heard of their location and accused his servants and Jonathan of hiding it from him. [1 Samuel 22:6-8]
 - ◇ It is interesting to see how Saul continually had a spear in his hand when among his servants and family. He had cast it at David thrice, and at his son Jonathan, and now when he is accusing his servants of treason he still has the spear in his hand. [1 Samuel 18:10-11, 19:9-10, 20:32-33, 22:6-8]

Doeg the Edomite reported seeing David helped by Ahimelech the Priest at Nob

- ◇ An Edomite is a descendant of Esau, the brother of Jacob, who settled in the hill country of Seir and refused to allow Israel to pass through their territory on the way from Egypt to the Promised Land and became an adversary to Israel. [Genesis 25:30, Numbers 20:14-21, 1 Samuel 14:47]
- ✧ Doeg the Edomite, reported seeing David receive food and the sword of Goliath from Ahimelech, the son of Ahitub, the Priest at Nob who inquired of Yahweh for him. [1 Samuel 22:9-10]

Saul called for Ahimelech and sons – Questioned them

- ✧ 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. [1 Samuel 22:11]
 - ◇ Saul was not willing to punish one man or even to kill him alone, but Saul focused on the entire family line of Ahimelech, seeking to kill them all.
- ✧ Saul accused them of having conspired with David against Saul to lie in wait for him. [1 Samuel 22:12-13]
- ✧ Ahimelech denied having any knowledge of treachery between Saul and David, and knew only that David had been a faithful and honorable servant of Saul. [1 Samuel 22:14-15]

Saul commanded his servants to kill Ahimelech and his father's house

- ✧ Saul commanded his servants to kill all the priests because of their sympathy toward David, but the servants would not lift their hands against the priests of Yahweh. [1 Samuel 22:16-17]
- ✧ Saul then told Doeg to turn and kill the priests.
 - Doeg not only killed all eighty-five of the priests, but he went to Nob the city of the priests and killed every man, woman, child, infant, and all their livestock with the sword. Only Abiathar escaped to tell David about the slaughter of the priests. [1 Samuel 22:18-21]

David offered Abiathar protection and claimed responsibility for the deaths

- ✧ 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. Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe." [1 Samuel 22:22-23]
 - ◇ David is fleeing for his own life, but has faith that Yahweh will protect them.