

1 Samuel 24:1-22 **David Spared Saul's Life**

David cut off the corner of Saul's robe in the cave at En Gedi

¹ Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Take note! David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi." ² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats. ³ So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)

⁴ Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁵ Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe. ⁶ And he said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord." ⁷ So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

David called out to Saul and informed him that David had spared Saul's life

⁸ David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed down. ⁹ And David said to Saul: "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Indeed David seeks your harm'? ¹⁰ Look, this day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' ¹¹ Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it. ¹² Let the Lord judge between you and me, and let the Lord avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you. ¹³ As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.' But my hand shall not be against you. ¹⁴ After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea? ¹⁵ Therefore let the Lord be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand."

Saul acknowledged David's righteousness – Covenant between Saul and David

¹⁶ So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. ¹⁷ Then he said to David: "You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil. ¹⁸ And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when the Lord delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me. ¹⁹ For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? Therefore may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. ²⁰ And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. ²¹ Therefore swear now to me by the Lord that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house."

²² So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.
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Facts Revealed:

David cut off the corner of Saul's robe in the cave at En Gedi [1 Samuel 24:1-7]

- ✧ The Philistines invaded the land of Israel while Saul was hunting for David, so Saul broke off his hunt to fight against the Philistines. [1 Samuel 23:27-28]
- ✧ David and his men escaped to the caves of En Gedi. [1 Samuel 23:29]
- ✧ After Saul finished his battle with the Philistines, he returned home and learned that David had gone to the Wilderness of En Gedi. [1 Samuel 24:1]
- ✧ Saul assembled three thousand chosen men and resumed his search for David in the Wilderness of En Gedi (Rocks of the WildGoats). [1 Samuel 24:2]
- ✧ Saul found a cave and went in to relieve himself, it was the cave in which David and his men were hiding in. [1 Samuel 24:3]
- ✧ David's men wanted to kill Saul because the Lord had delivered Saul into their hands, but David secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe which troubled his conscience because he viewed Saul as one anointed by the Lord to rule over Israel. [1 Samuel 24:4-7]

David called out to Saul and informed him that David had spared Saul's life

- ✧ David used the occasion to demonstrate his loyalty to Saul with the hope that Saul would think more kindly about David. [1 Samuel 24:8-15]
 - ◇ David called out to Saul and showed him the corner of his robe he had cut off, and assured Saul that though Yahweh had delivered Saul into his hand, yet David would not raise his hand against Saul.
- ✧ David then called on the Lord to be judge between Saul and himself, to plead David's case and deliver him from the hand of Saul. [1 Samuel 24:15]

Saul acknowledged David's righteousness – Covenant between Saul and David [1 Samuel 24:16-21]

- ✧ Saul had a stroke of conscience and acknowledged that David was more righteous than Saul because David had shown him kindness in sparing his life when he was fully exposed and vulnerable.
- ✧ Saul then blessed David by calling on Yahweh to reward David with good for this act of mercy and grace.
- ✧ Saul acknowledged he knew that David would certainly be king after Saul.
- ✧ Saul then asked in the name of Yahweh that David will not cut off Saul's descendants, nor destroy his name from his father's house when he becomes king.
- ✧ So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold. [1 Samuel 24:22]
 - ◇ Saul could not kill David after such a public display of faithfulness, so he returned home.
 - ◇ David and his men knew better than to trust Saul, so they continued in hiding.