

“The Downward Progression of Sin”

1 Samuel 22

I. David on the Run (1-5)

A. To the cave of Adullam (1-2)

1. With his father's family
2. With others in distress

B. To Mizpah in Moab (3-4)

C. To the forest of Hereth in Judah (5)

II. Saul on the Hunt (6-19)

A. Saul chastises his officials (6-8).

1. "You have conspired against me!"
2. "You don't care about me!"

B. Doeg becomes an informant (9-10).

1. "I know where David was."
2. "I know who helped him--Ahimelech."

C. Saul does the unthinkable (11-19).

1. He sends for Ahimelech, his family, and the priests (11).
2. He accuses Ahimelech of betrayal (12-13).
3. He ignores Ahimelech's commendation of David (14-15).

4. He gives the order to kill the priests of the Lord (16-17).
5. He orders Doeg to massacre 85 priests, their families, and possessions (18-19).

III. David still on the Run (20-23)

A. What Abiathar did (20-21)

1. He escaped to David (20).
2. He informed David of the atrocity (21).

B. What David did (22-23)

1. He took responsibility for the bloodshed.
2. He invited Abiathar to stay with him.

Lessons:

1. *Sin is a downward progression. The first step(s) may be a small one, yet the destination is always the same—destruction.*
2. *We must determine to stay close to the Lord, to obey Him in every detail.*
3. *God doesn't reward those who start well, only those who finish well.*
4. *People who run from God hurt not only themselves, but those around them.*

