

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF 1 SAMUEL

[PART 47]

MR. ENCOURAGEMENT

Reading: 1 Samuel 23:14 - 18

Introduction

- These chapters record David on the run from his jealously insane father-in-law, king Saul.
- He's had to exchange the palace for the wilderness and swop comfort for caves and forests.
- This part of David's life would last for some 10 years.
- But in the wilderness of Ziph, God was putting iron in his soul.
- David had to constantly be on the move as Saul's relentless search for him continued unabated.

1 'But God'

- David was not in a nice place but the words 'but God' changes the whole thing.
- Our circumstances do not get to be the last word. **'But God!'**
- Notice the other places this wonderful truth turns up:
[Acts 7:9], [Genesis 50:20], [Genesis 8:1], [Psalm 49:14/15], [Acts 13:29/30], [1 Corinthians 10:13], [Ephesians 2:1 - 4].
- **"But God did not deliver him...."** Jehovah, not Saul, was the master of the situation.

2 An Unexpected Visitor

- God knows when we need encouragement.
- Jonathan walks unto the biblical stage again.
- Jonathan had better '*intel*' than his wicked father.
- He stole away to surprise David.
- Jonathan "*strengthened his hands in God.*"
- The margin renders it, '*Jonathan encouraged him in God.*'
- Encouragement: the act of giving someone confidence/support.
- There's a David near you right now. Can you be a Jonathan to them?
- Consider [Hebrews 3:13], [Hebrews 10:25], [1 Thess 5:11].

NB. Exhort/edify mean '*encourage.*'

3 Closing Scene [Vs 18]

- Their departing must have been hard.
- Jonathan should have stayed with David.
- They would never meet again.
- Go and strengthen someone's hand in God.....while you can.

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