

I. Introduction.

II. The LORD provides guidance in Keliath. v. 1-14

A. David delivers Keliath from the Philistines. v. 1-5

1. When Keliath is attacked, who should have come to their aid? v. 1 9:16
2. David inquires of the LORD whether he should help Keliath. v. 2 30:8 II Sam. 2:5
3. David overcomes the objections of his men. v. 3-4 15:24 Pr. 29
4. The LORD gives David a great victory by which Keliath is delivered. v. 5
5. This reminds us of Jesus.
 - a. He had compassion upon His people and delivered them at great cost.
 - b. He submitted to the Father's will. John 15:10 8:29 4:34
 - c. He had to overcome the doubts and objections of His disciples. Mt. 16:21-22
Mark 8:31ff Luke 18:31-34 Jo. 11:16
6. We are called by God to go into a hostile world to offer deliverance. Mt. 28:19-20

B. The LORD delivers David from Keliath. v. 6-14

1. One would think that David could expect gratitude and loyalty.
2. Saul thinks that the LORD has allowed David to be cornered. v. 7-8 II Sa. 20:15ff
3. David inquires of the LORD through Abiathar the priest and the ephod. v. 6,9
Ex. 28:6ff 29:2ff Lev. 18:8 II Ki. 6:8ff
4. David learns that if he stays, Saul will come and the leaders of Keliath will hand him over. v. 9-12
5. David and his men make their escape. v. 13
6. David, by departing, delivers Keliath again. v. 10

C. The experience of David reflects the experience of Jesus the Son of David and our experience. Ps. 35:12ff 38:19-20 109:4-5,8 41:9

1. Jesus, like David, was betrayed by those to whom He showed great love.
Mark 5:15-17 John 10:31-32 8:40 6:70f Lu. 21:3-6 22:48 Mt. 26:14ff Ps. 41:9
2. We who follow in Jesus' (and David's) steps will be used and betrayed by those whom we try to love (even professing believers!). II Ti. 4:16 Phil. 1:15ff Jo. 16:2
3. We must put our ultimate trust in the LORD. Pr. 29:25 Jer. 17:5-8 II Ti. 4:17

D. God knows all things, even what might have been. Mt. 11:20-24 26:24 II Ki. 13:19

1. His plan, therefore, is the best possible plan. Eph. 1:11 Ro. 8:28 11:33-36 Pr. 4:11
2. God knows how to deliver His people from troubles and temptations. I Co. 10:13

E. How does God provide guidance for us? II Tim. 3:16-17 II Pe. 1:3 Heb. 4:14ff

F. God calls us to go out into a hostile world to do spiritual battle. Mt. 5:13ff 28:19f

III. The LORD provides encouragement through Jonathan. v. 14-18

A. Saul relentlessly pursues David, but the LORD does not let him succeed. v. 14-15

B. The LORD sends Jonathan to build up David's faith. v. 16-18

1. Jonathan strengthens David's hand in God. v. 16b-17 30:6
2. Jonathan's encouragement is rooted in God's promises. 16:12-13
3. David and Jonathan renew their covenant in what appears to be their last meeting. v. 18

- C. **Jesus, Who is the fulfillment of God's promises, encourages us.** Acts 13:23 Rom. 1:2 II Co. 1:20 Gal. 3:16,29,14 Eph. 3:6 Mt. 11:28-31 28:20 John 16:33
- D. **We ought to strengthen and encourage one another in the LORD.** Heb. 3:13 Col. 4:8 I Th. 5:11,14 3:2 Acts 11:23
1. **We all need to be reminded of God's promises.** Acts 2:23 I Co. 10:13 He. 13:5b-6 Js. 1:12 I Jo. 2:25 II Pe. 1:4 3:9-13 II Co. 1:20
 2. **Sometimes God sends a Jonathan when we most need help.** Pr. 18:24b
 3. **Are you a Jonathan-like encourager?** Acts 4:36 9:27 Phil. 4:19 Ps. 30:5 Pr. 25:11
 4. **Sometimes those who have encouraged others need to be encouraged.** v. 17 22:23
 5. **We are encouraged by those who remain faithful to God in the midst of suffering.** Js. 5:10 Heb. 11:1ff

IV. The LORD provides a providential deliverance in Zith. v. 19-29

- A. **The Ziphites offer to surrender David to Saul.** v. 19-23
1. **This, too, is an act of betrayal.** v. 19-20
 2. **Saul again demonstrates his self-centered religious hypocrisy.** v. 21,7 15:13
 3. **Evil religious hypocrites still invoke the name and favor of God.** Dt. 5:11
 4. **Saul is still trusting in men, not God – his own devices and his minions.** v. 22-23
- B. **Saul and his army chase David and his men.** v. 24-26
- C. **At the last possible moment Saul is called away – precise providence.** v. 27-29
1. **This is not coincidental.** v. 27
 2. **God sovereignly uses the evil Philistines to serve His purpose.** Ge. 50:20 Acts 2:23
 3. **God's deliverance is memorialized in the name of the rock.** v. 28
 4. **David goes to Engedi.**
 5. **Why doesn't David punish these cities which betrayed him?** Ro. 12:19
- D. **David writes a Psalm about the betrayal of the Ziphites.** Ps. 54
1. **He cries out for deliverance.** v. 1-3
 2. **He trusts God to protect him and to punish the evildoers.** v. 4-5
 3. **He offers praise to God, his Deliverer.**

V. Concluding applications.

- A. **God still helps and delivers His people in many ways.**
- B. **There was only one way God could deliver us from sin and death: through the cross of Christ.** Mt. 26:39-46 Heb. 2:17 I Pe. 3:18

Discussion questions

1. **How have you been betrayed?**
What is a godly response to betrayal?
2. **How does the LORD's guidance in our lives compare to that of David?**
Which would you prefer?
3. **When has God sent a Jonathan to encourage you?**
4. **How can you be a Jonathan-like encourager to others?**
5. **When has the LORD in His providence provided for you at just the right moment?**
6. **How is the experience of Jesus like that of David in this text?**
Why should the Jews have known that the Messiah must suffer before His glory?

- 7. How does God's omniscience encourage us about the circumstances in our lives?**
- 8. How can you use the promises of God to strengthen yourself and others?**