

## **Reality of Fear 1 Samuel 21-23**

### **I. David Faces Fear – 21:1-15**

1. He realizes the threat is real  
He is God's man but he is a real man
2. He seeks help from the priest – 1-3  
He is less than honest about his mission  
Fear can make a man desperate  
Lying is justified when one is desperate
3. Priest gave him food for his men - 4-6  
Only bread available is hallowed bread  
Bread is to be eaten by priests after offered
4. God lets him experience consequences - 7  
David is seen by Doeg, a servant of Saul - 7  
David's actions later puts priests in jeopardy
5. David is given Goliath's sword – 8-9  
Seeks a weapon to defend himself
6. David seeks refuge with enemy - 10-15  
His fear takes him to Gath – 10  
Gath is the city of Goliath – 17:4  
Discovered he pretends insanity – 11-15  
Fear can cause us to act irrationally  
Discovery only increases his fear – 11-12  
He pretends insanity in order to escape - 13-15  
Note; "He changed his behavior" – 18:14, 30  
Achish dismisses him

### **II. God Relieves David's Fear - 22**

1. Surrounds him with band of men – 1-2  
Family members join in support of David  
Others join him making a group of 400
2. Provides a refuge for his parents – 3-4  
King of Moab agrees to protect them
3. Follows God's directive from prophet - 5
4. Saul warns his men of helping David – 6-8
5. Doeg reports to Saul of the priests – 9-10  
They gave him food, a sword & God's directive
6. Saul holds High Priest accountable – 11-13  
Charges him with helping David
7. High Priest denies the charges – 14-15  
David is faithful servant on mission for King  
He did not enquire God for David  
He knew nothing of any rebellion in David
8. Saul orders execution of 85 priests – 16-19  
With them also everything in their city – 19
9. One priest escaped & fled to David – 20-22  
He reports the slaughter of the priests  
David feels responsible for what has happened
10. David asks Abiathar to join him - 23

### **III. David seeks God's Direction - 23**

1. Seeks God's direction in warfare - 23:1-5  
God's directive deals with problem of fear  
David & his men defeat the Philistines
2. Seeks direction as he flees Saul - 6-14

- God continues to answer David & delivers him
3. David encouraged by Jonathan - 15-18  
He rehearses their covenant  
He looks forward to serving King David
  4. God intervenes to spare David - 19-29  
Saul gets information of David's location – 19-24  
But when they got there David had moved  
Saul learned of David's new location – 25-26  
His forces have David's men surrounded  
God intervened with Philistine invasion – 27-29  
David moves on to a new refuge in En-gedi