

1 Samuel 22:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.

Analysis

David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.

The cave of Adullam marks the beginning of David's wilderness community. The Hebrew 'me'arah' (cave) suggests a substantial cavern capable of housing many people—archaeological surveys identify several large caves in the region. David's family joining him indicates Saul's persecution extended to his relatives, a common practice in ancient royal conflicts. The phrase 'went down' (yarad) reflects the topographical descent from Bethlehem to the Shephelah lowlands. This gathering of family foreshadows the larger assembly that would follow, as David became a refuge for Israel's outcasts. Christ similarly drew society's marginalized to Himself, forming a new family of faith.

Historical Context

Adullam was located in the Shephelah, the lowland foothills between the Judean highlands and the coastal plain. The region contained numerous limestone caves offering natural fortification. This area had strategic importance, controlling access routes between the coast and the hill country.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How has God used seasons of exile or difficulty to gather unexpected communities around you?
2. What does David's family joining him in danger teach about family loyalty and shared risk?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּלֶךְ H1980	דָּוִד David H1732	מִשָּׁם H8033	וַיִּמָּלֵט thence and escaped H4422	אֶל H413	מַעְבֵּר תְּ to the cave H4631	אֲדֻלָּם Adullam H5725
וַיִּשְׁמָע H8085	וּכְשֶׁנִּשְׁמָע heard H8085	אָחָיו and when his brethren H251	בְּיָתוֹ H3605	וְכָל house H1004	אָבִיו and all his father's H1	
וַיֵּרָדוּ it they went down H3381	אֶל יוֹ H413	שְׁמָה: H8033				

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 11:15 (References David): Now three of the thirty captains went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the host of the Philistines encamped in the valley of Rephaim.

Hebrews 11:38 (Parallel theme): (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

Psalms 34:1 (Parallel theme): I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Joshua 12:15 (Parallel theme): The king of Libnah, one; the king of Adullam, one;

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org