

# 1 Samuel 22:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?

## Analysis

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**Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?**

Ahimelech's defense appeals to David's public reputation and official standing. The Hebrew 'ne'eman' (faithful/trustworthy) challenges Saul's conspiracy narrative with David's documented loyalty. Three credentials are cited: son-in-law (royal family member), obedient servant (military subordinate), and honored courtier. The priest essentially argues: how could helping the king's most trusted servant constitute treason? His rhetorical question assumes shared knowledge of David's status. Ahimelech's defense is legally sound but politically naive—Saul had already rejected these facts. Truth spoken to power sometimes seals rather than saves the speaker.

## Historical Context

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Ahimelech's defense reflects standard legal argumentation: David's official position should have legitimized any assistance. As the king's son-in-law and military commander, David would reasonably receive priestly support. The defense assumes rational proceedings.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. When has speaking truth to power failed to produce just outcomes?
2. What does Ahimelech's reasoned defense teach about the limits of logic against irrational hatred?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּכֹל	וַיֹּאמֶר	הֶמֶל לְךָ	אֶת	אַחִימֶלֶךְ	לְךָ	וַיַּעַן
	and said	the king		Then Ahimelech		answered
H3605	H559	H4428		H288		H6030
הֶמֶל לְךָ	וְחַתָּן	נֶאֱמָר	כִּדּוֹ דָּ	עַבְדְּךָ יְיָ		
the king	son in law	And who is so faithful	as David	among all thy servants		
H4428	H2860	H539	H1732	H5650		
בְּבֵיתְךָ:	וְנֹכַח דָּ	מִשְׁמַעְתְּךָ	אֶל	וְסָר		
in thine house	and is honourable	at thy bidding		and goeth		
H1004	H3513	H4928		H5493		

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 20:32** (Parallel theme): And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?