

# 1 Samuel 22:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.

## Analysis

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**And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod.**

Doeg's willingness to slaughter where Israelites refused completes his villainous portrait. The Hebrew emphasizes his ethnic identity again—'Doeg the Edomite'—this foreigner did what God's covenant people would not. The 'linen ephod' identifies the victims as legitimate priests, ministers of the sanctuary. Eighty-five priests died—a catastrophic loss for Israel's religious establishment. Doeg's obedience to murderous command contrasts with the soldiers' righteous refusal. Psalm 52 pronounces God's judgment on Doeg: 'God shall likewise destroy thee for ever.' This massacre demonstrates how outsiders without covenantal loyalty become instruments of evil that insiders refuse to execute.

## Historical Context

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The linen ephod was the distinctive priestly garment (Exodus 28:4). Eighty-five priests represented a substantial portion of the Elide line. This massacre effectively destroyed Nob as a religious center and decimated the priesthood that had served since Eli's time.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. What made Doeg willing to do what Israelite soldiers refused?
2. How does this passage warn about using outsiders to do what conscience-bound insiders will not?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	הַמֶּלֶךְ	דֹּוֹג	וַיִּסָּב	אֶת־הַ	וַפִּגַּע	בְּכֹהֲנֵי יָם
said	And the king	And Doeg	Turn	H859	and he fell	upon the priests
H559	H4428	H1673	H5437		H6293	H3548

וַיִּסָּב	דֹּוֹג	הָאֶדְוִי	וַפִּגַּע	הוּא	בְּכֹהֲנֵי יָם	וַיִּמָּוֶת
Turn	And Doeg	the Edomite	and he fell	H1931	upon the priests	and slew
H5437	H1673	H130	H6293		H3548	H4191

בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	שְׁמֹנֶת יָם	וַחֲמִשָּׁה	אֲנָשִׁים	נָשָׂא	אֶפֶד
on that day	H1931	fourscore	and five	persons	that did wear	ephod
H3117		H8084	H2568	H376	H5375	H646

כִּדָּה:  
a linen  
H906