1 Samuel 23: key words

Now they told **David**, "The Philistines are fighting against **Keilah**, and are robbing the threshing floors." **David** inquired of YHWH, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" YHWH said to **David**, "Go and attack the Philistines and save **Keilah**." But **David**'s men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we go to **Keilah** against the armies of the Philistines?" Then **David** inquired of YHWH again. YHWH answered him, "Yes, **go down** to **Keilah**; for I will give the Philistines into your **hand**." So **David** and his men went to **Keilah**, fought with the Philistines, brought away their livestock, and dealt them a heavy defeat. Thus **David** rescued the inhabitants of **Keilah**. When Abiathar son of Ahimelech fled to **David** at **Keilah**, he **came down** with an ephod in his **hand**. Now it was told **Saul** that **David** had come to **Keilah**. And **Saul** said, "God has given him into my **hand**; for **he has shut himself** in by entering a town that has gates and bars." **Saul** caused all the people **to hear** the call to war, **to go down** to **Keilah**, to besiege **David** and his men. When **David** learned that **Saul** was plotting evil against him, he said to the priest Abiathar, "Bring the ephod here." **David** said, "O, YHWH, the God of Israel, your servant has **heard, yes, heard** that **Saul** seeks to come to **Keilah**, to destroy the city on my account. And now, will **Saul** **come down** as your servant **has heard**? O, YHWH, the God of Israel, I beseech you, tell your servant." YHWH said, **"He will come down**." Then **David** said, "Will the men of **Keilah** **surrender me** and my men into the **hand** of **Saul**?" YHWH said, **"They will surrender you**." Then **David** and his men, who were about six hundred, set out and left **Keilah**; they wandered wherever they could go. When **Saul** was told that **David** had escaped from **Keilah**, he gave up the expedition.

David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the Wilderness of Ziph. **Saul** sought him every day, but YHWH did not give him into his **hand**. **David** was in the Wilderness of Ziph at Horesh when he learned that **Saul** had come out to seek his life. **Saul**'s son Jonathan set out and came to **David** at Horesh; there he strengthened his **hand** through YHWH. He said to him, "Do not be afraid; for the **hand** of my father **Saul** shall not find you; you shall be king over Israel, and I shall be second to you; my father **Saul** also knows that this is so." Then the two of them made a covenant before YHWH; **David** remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.

Then some Ziphites went up to **Saul** at Gibeah and said, "**David** is hiding among us in the strongholds of Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon. Now, O king, whenever you wish **to come down**, **come down**; and our part will be **to surrender him** into the king's **hand**." **Saul** said, "May you be blessed by YHWH for showing me compassion! Go and make sure once more; find out exactly where he is, and who has seen him there; for I am told that he is very cunning. Look around and learn all the hiding places where he lurks, and come back to me with sure information. Then I will go with you; and if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah." So they set out and went to Ziph ahead of **Saul**. **David** and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon. **Saul** and his men went to search for him. When **David** **heard**, **he went down** to the rock and stayed in the wilderness of Maon. When **Saul** heard that, he pursued **David** into the wilderness of Maon. **Saul** went on one side of the mountain, and **David** and his men on the other side of the mountain. **David** was hurrying to get away from **Saul**, while **Saul** and his men were closing in on **David** and his men to capture them. Then a messenger came to **Saul**, saying, "Hurry and come; for the Philistines have made a raid on the land." So **Saul** stopped pursuing **David**, and went against the Philistines; therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape. **David** then went up from there, and lived in the strongholds of En-gedi.