

## The Purpose of God in the Seed of the Serpent

### 1 Samuel 22:6-23

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*Read through 1 Samuel 22:6-23 and pray that God's Spirit who searches the deep things of God would open your eyes to understand the meaning and significance of these words.*

1. What are some of the worse things ever done against the church? Why do you think they were done? It might help to think through 1 John 2:8.
2. Why does the author repeatedly point out that Doeg was an Edomite (vv.9, 18, 22)? Why exactly was there tension between the Israelites and the Edomites? Take a look at Numbers 20:14-21 and Obadiah 1:1-21.
3. What is the significance of Saul walking around with a spear as his hand (v.6)? What is the difference between Saul's use of power with this spear in 18:11, 19:10, 20:33 and the legitimate use of "the sword" by governing authorities in Romans 13:4?
4. Why do you think none of the other men said anything to Saul apart from Doeg (vv. 7-9)?
5. Have you ever met people like Saul and Doeg? How do you think Christians should respond to them? It might help to refresh your memory with Romans 12:17-21 and 1 Corinthians 5:11-13.
6. What is Ahimelech's defence supposed to show us about him (vv.14-15)? The same point could be made of the defence Jesus made before Pilate in John 18:28-38. Read it and see if you find the connection.
7. What motivation of the heart moves Saul at this point to order the killing of the priests (vv.16-18)? Hint: it is about more than just wanting to kill David.
8. In v.19 we see the full extent of the violence that Doeg and Saul commit at Nob. Why is this such a striking contrast to Saul's actions towards the Amalekites in 1 Samuel 15:1-9? What does this teach us about how we ought to respond to God versus how we ought to respond to our own impulses?
9. In v.22 David takes responsibility for the death of the priests. In what way was he responsible? You might have to refer back to 1 Samuel 21:1-2. What should we do if our actions cause harm to others, even if so indirectly, as in the case of David?
10. The darkness in Israel was now similar to when Ahab and Jezebel ruled in 1 Kings 16:29-22:40. What is the hope that Elijah discovered even in these darkest times in 1 Kings 19:14-18? Is the same hope still available for us today? Consider Matthew 16:18 and John 10:29. Why will the children of God ultimately triumph? Think about Revelation 13:8.

*Pray that God would enable you to take these words and put them into practice in faith, love and hope, by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit and the strength of Christ.*