

1 Samuel 22

Martyrs: The Priests of Nob

Dreadful developments ...

I. Atrocity

- A. Horrors in Israel
- B. Anointed Prey
- C. Blood of Priests

II. Reverberates

- A. To His Own
- B. Lawless Hands
- C. Blood of the Martyrs

... in the history of redemption.

Children, Listen ...

1. Why was King Saul trying to kill David?
2. Why was King Saul so mad at the priests?
3. What did Doeg do at Saul's command?
4. Had David or the priests done anything wrong?
5. Jesus' followers often suffer. Does that mean they have done something wrong?

Bloodshed Within the House

The magnitude of the crisis that developed in Israel under King Saul near the end of his reign is almost impossible to describe. Simply consider the tragic scenario: The first king of Israel is intent on murdering David, God's anointed King, for a variety of reasons – top among them insane jealousy. In his frustration he commands an unsavory Edomite to slaughter the anointed priests of Nob who are under suspicion of collaboration with his nemesis. Because David is the rightful representative head of God's people and because the priests were appointed for God's worship, Saul's actions were actually treason against heaven. Saul was not successful in destroying David, but he did have his priestly allies slaughtered. This is only a shadow of a greater act of treason directly leveled, not against the King of Israel, but the King of heaven. Spearheaded by the corrupted leadership of God's people, in collusion with the pretender King of Israel (an Edomite – listen for it), and gentile rulers, Jesus was successfully murdered by the “hands of lawless men.” It was God's plan, but they were culpable. But the antagonism didn't stop there. The fury would eventually be unleashed on Jesus' “collaborators” the apostles (except for Judas – a Doeg figure? Listen for it) for their association with Him. Though Jesus' followers had done nothing wrong (in fact quite the contrary), they would suffer for His name's sake. The treatment of the apostles and many of the first disciples set the pace for persecution of God's people down to this day. But this is the most alarming part – it is often leveled by authorities within the “church.” Let us remember our brothers and sisters around the world who suffer for Christ, including those who are persecuted in the tragic and disconcerting circumstances in which “church” authorities oppress true Christians for their faithful alliance with King Jesus.