

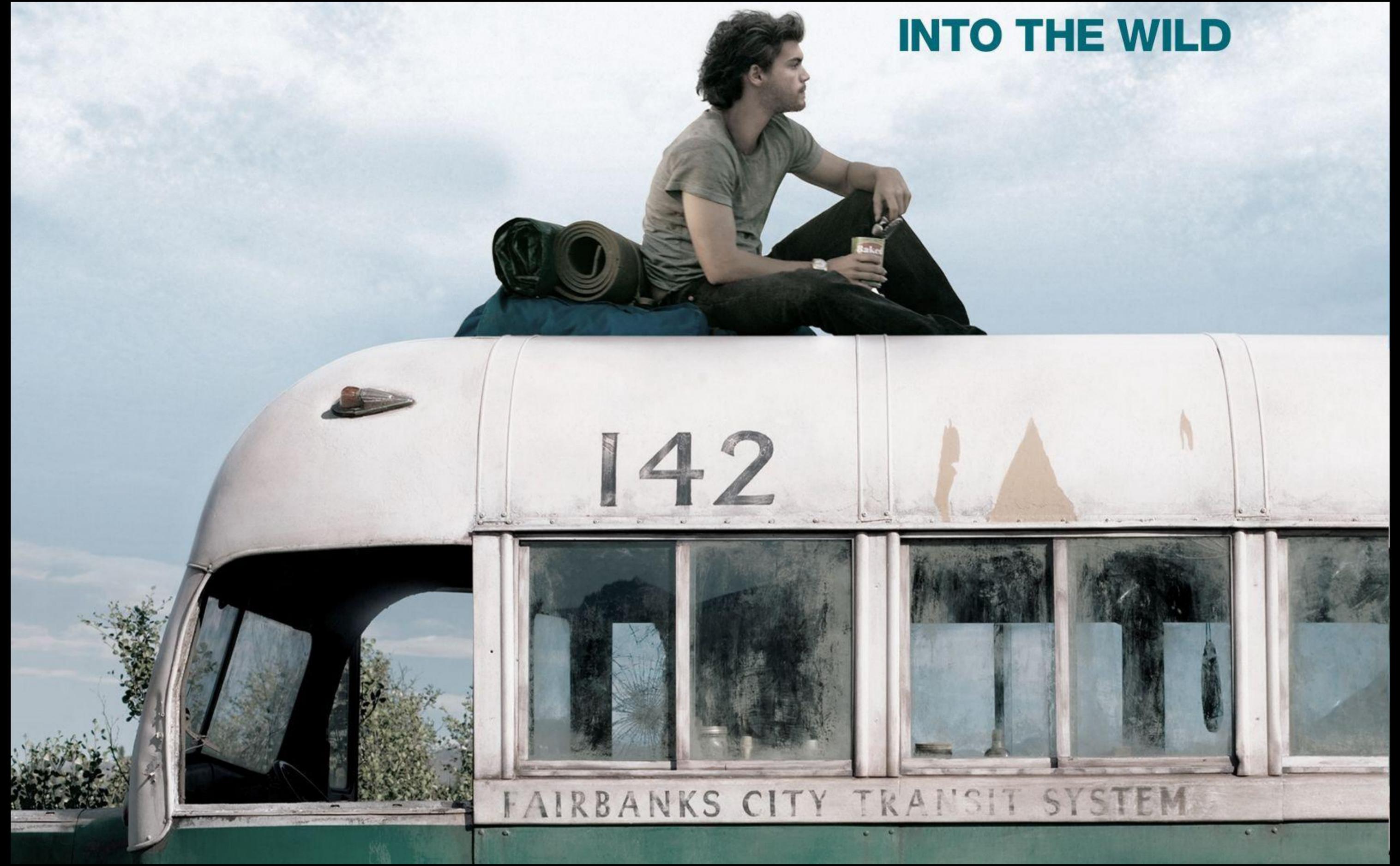
THE LIFE OF DAVID

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AFTER  
GOD'S  
HEART

“Into the Wild”  
1 Samuel 21-24

# INTO THE WILD



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FAIRBANKS CITY TRANSIT SYSTEM







July 24, 1992

“Happiness is only real when shared. I was wrong. I think it is time for me to return home, to right the wrongs. Did my family deserve to be torn from my life so harshly? What did Carine do to have an emptiness in her life where I should have been? Though he has his shortcomings, did my father? All of this thinking saddens me.”



August 18, 1992

This may be my last entry. I cannot move. I have not eaten in three days and am trapped in my sleeping bag due to weakness. Hopefully, my family is doing well and my death does not pain them too much.





Abraham

Moses

Elijah

Jesus

David

Joseph

Job

Paul





# Eugene Peterson

When we're in the wilderness, we aren't in control, we have no assignment, no appointments to keep. Stay alert, stay alive—that's it. When we're in the wilderness, we commonly feel our lives simplifying and deepening. ... But there is also something frightening about wilderness. The wild, while it may be breathtakingly beautiful,



# Eugene Peterson

is also dangerously unpredictable. ... The wilderness has a hundred different ways to kill us. This is the wilderness that David enters: both beautiful and dangerous. He will see, hear, and experience things in the wilderness that can be seen, heard, and experienced nowhere else.



**Mediterranean  
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**Jordan  
River**

**Rama**



**Nob**



**Bethlehem**



**Dead  
Sea**



# 1 Samuel 21:1-2

Then David came to Nob to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?"

And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place.



# 1 Samuel 21:7

Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen.

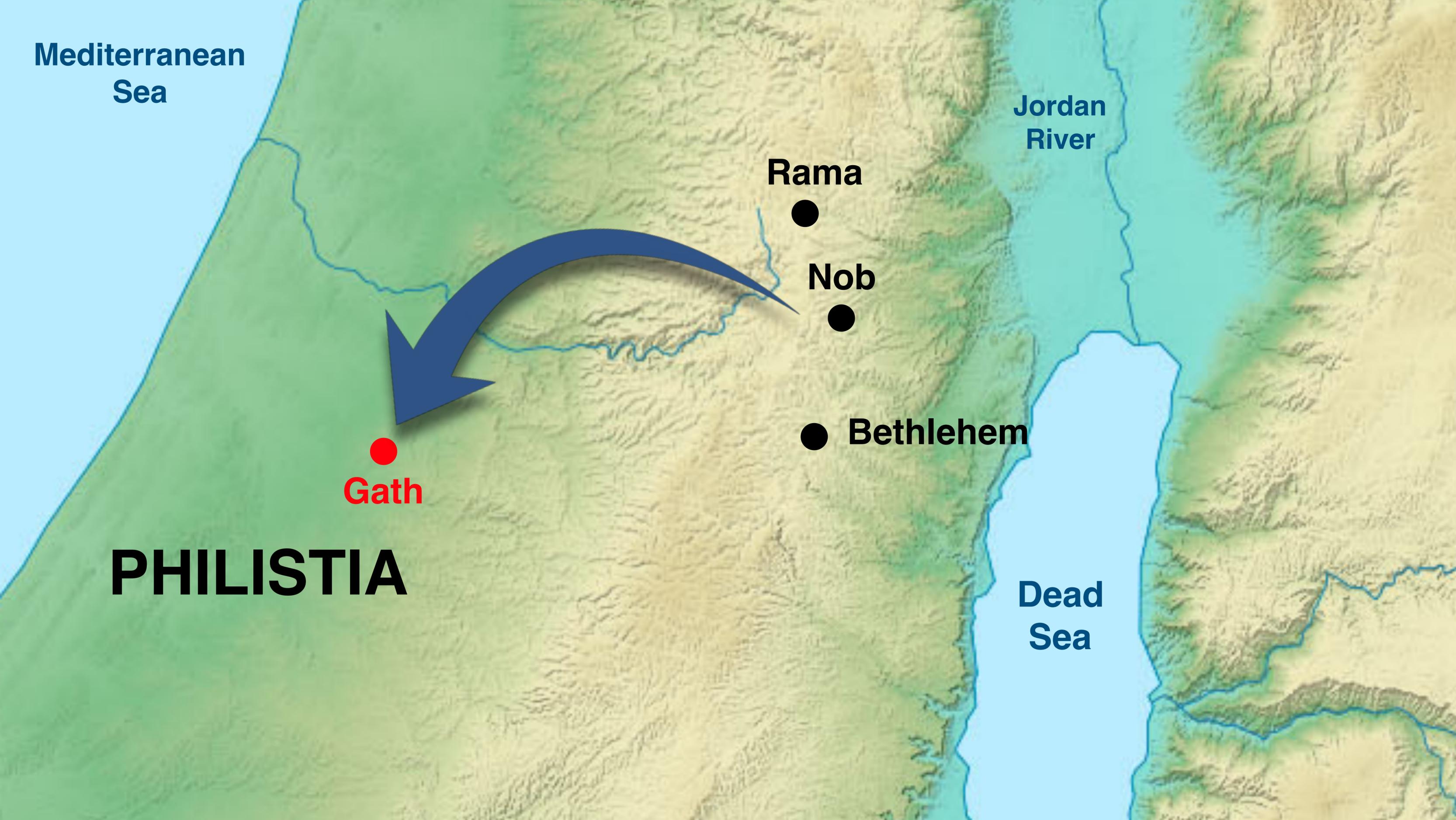


# 1 Samuel 21:8-9

Then David said to Ahimelech, "Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste."

And the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here."

And David said, "There is none like that; give it to me."



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**PHILISTIA**



# 1 Samuel 21:11-12

And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath.



# 1 Samuel 21:13-15

So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"



# Robert Alter

Thus David has succeeded in making himself so revolting that he arouses in Achish a primitive revulsion from the spectacle of the insane, so that the king simply wants to get David out of sight rather than have him killed. This is an extraordinary moment in the story of the founding king of Israel: David, the glamorous young hero of the preceding episodes, is prepared to do whatever is necessary in order to survive, even if it means making himself appear to be the most repulsive of humankind.



# Psalm 34:1-8, 18, 19, 22

(OF DAVID, WHEN HE CHANGED HIS BEHAVIOR BEFORE ABIMELECH, SO THAT HE DROVE HIM OUT, AND HE WENT AWAY.)

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!



# Psalm 34:1-8, 18, 19, 22

I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.



# Psalm 34:1-8, 18, 19, 22

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.



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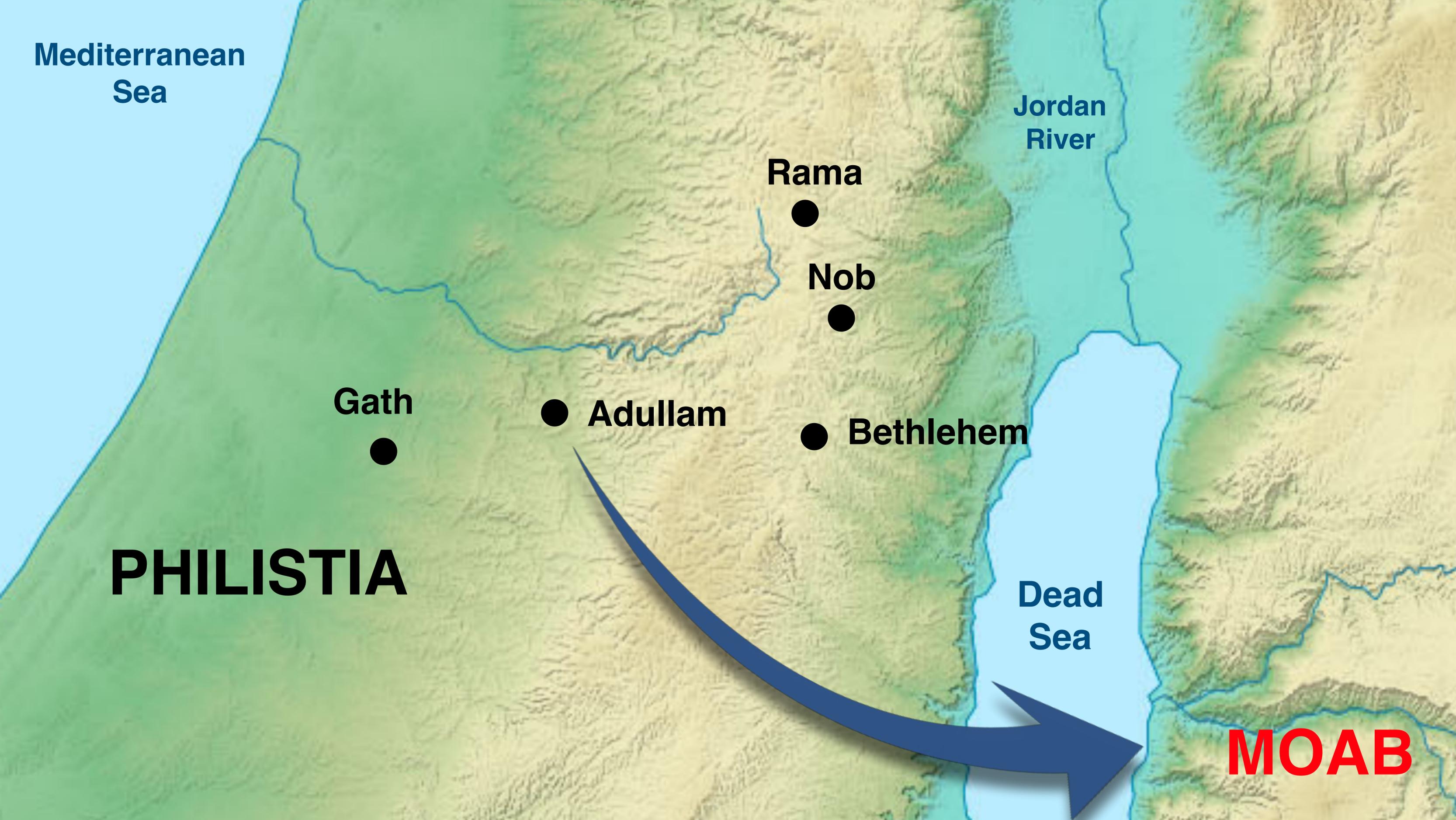
**PHILISTIA**

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# 1 Samuel 22:1-2

David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.



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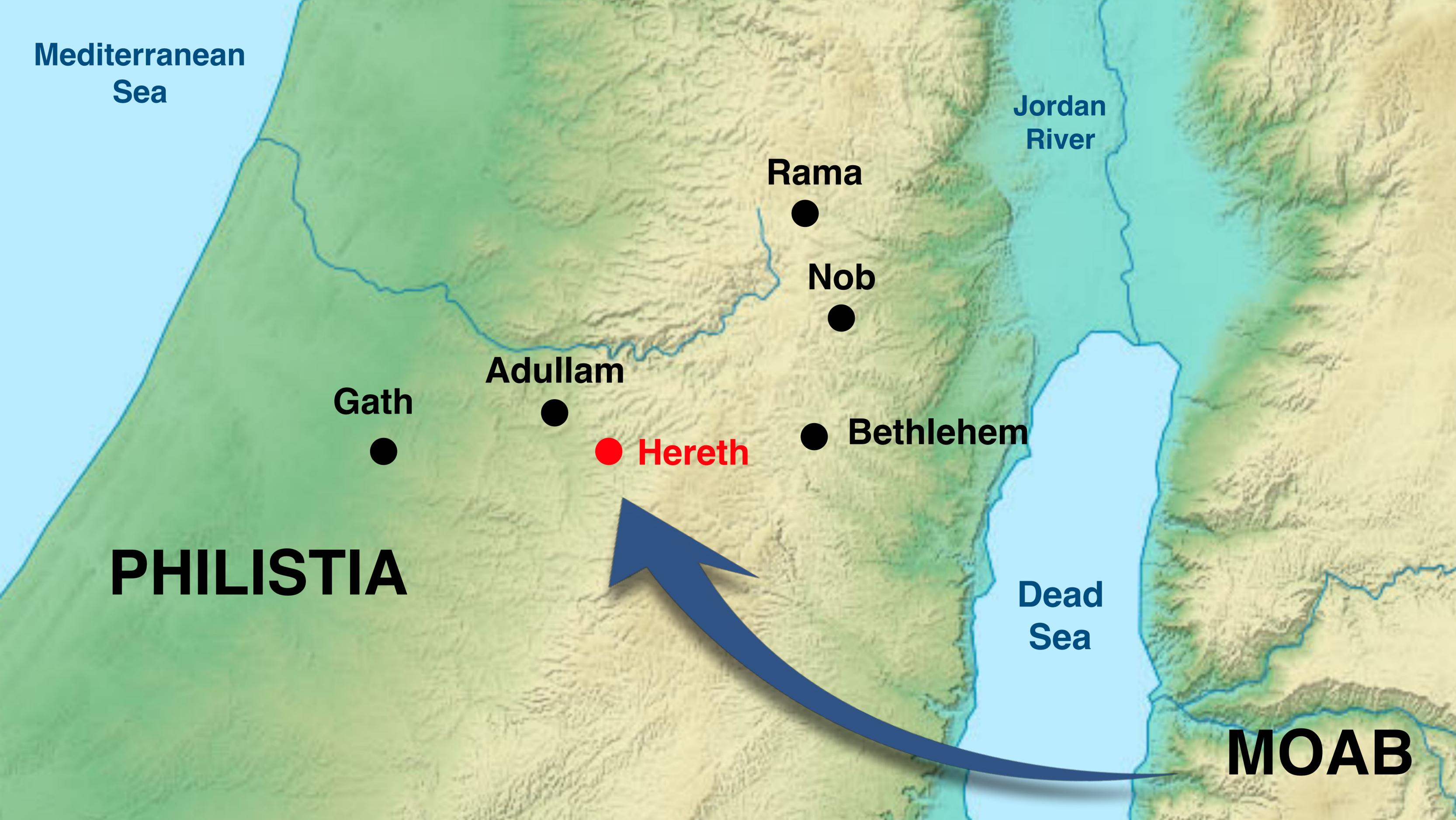
**PHILISTIA**

**MOAB**



# 1 Samuel 22:3-5

And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me." And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.



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Adullam

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Hereth

Bethlehem

Dead  
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**PHILISTIA**

**MOAB**





1 Samuel  
22:7-8

And Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, people of Benjamin; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, that all of you have conspired against me?"



1 Samuel  
22:7-8

No one discloses to me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day."



1 Samuel  
22:16-17

And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house." And the king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the LORD.



1 Samuel  
22:18-19

Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests."

And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword.



# 1 Samuel 22:22

And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house.

We need wilderness experiences to grow, but simply going through a wilderness experience doesn't guarantee growth.





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**Nob**



**Adullam**



**Hereth**



**Bethlehem**



**Gath**



**Keilah**



**PHILISTIA**

**Dead  
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**Gath**



**Hereth**



**Bethlehem**



**Keilah**



**Horesh**

**Dead  
Sea**

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**MOAB**



# 1 Samuel 23:26-29

Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. And David was hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them, a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid against the land."



# 1 Samuel 23:26-29

So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went against the Philistines. Therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape.

And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.



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**Gath**

**Hereth**

**Bethlehem**

**Keilah**

**Horesh**

**Dead  
Sea**

**PHILISTIA**

**En-Gedi**

**MOAB**







# 1 Samuel 24:4

And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'"



# 1 Samuel 24:6-7

He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed."

So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.



# 1 Samuel 24:8-15

Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!"

And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage.

And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I



# 1 Samuel 24:8-15

will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.' See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. As the proverb



# 1 Samuel 24:8-15

of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."

The wilderness had retrained David's eyes to see a world in which God is everywhere and in total control.





# 1 Samuel 24:16-22

As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe?"



# 1 Samuel 24:16-22

So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house."

And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.



# Psalm 57

A MIKTAM OF DAVID, WHEN HE FLED FROM SAUL, IN THE CAVE.

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.

I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah* God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!



# Psalm 57

My soul is in the midst of lions; I lie down amid fiery beasts— the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

They set a net for my steps; my soul was bowed down. They dug a pit in my way, but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*



# Psalm 57

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!

Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

# Psalm 57

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!





August 18, 1992

"To my family—Do not grieve over my demise. Celebrate my existence. I have experienced more in the past two years than I ever did previously. I love each of you. I have had a happy life and thank the Lord.

Goodbye and may God bless all."





## Luke 4:1

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

