

1Sa chapter 22, 400 men, Doeg the Edomite, Standalone Aleph Tav

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Introduction

I wrote this article because in verse 2, it mentions (about) 400 men, which is the same number of men that Esau has with him when Jacob meets up with him.^a The conflict between Jacob and his brother Esau (aka Edom, the patriarch of the Edomites) and the parallels of this chapter is interesting.

The standalone Aleph Tav found in verse 21 is fascinating as well, because just like Doeg, a servant of Shaul, who killed the priests of YHVH, the future Edomites, the Romans, also kill the Messiah. Note that both these Edomites did not act alone, but carried out their executions a result of a judgment coming from Israelites.

1st Samuel Chapter 22 (verses 1-23) – Saul Slays the Priests of Nob

Companies resort unto David at Adullam

¹ David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard *it*, they went down thither to him.

² And every one *that was* in distress, and every one that *was* in debt, and every one *that was* discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him **about four hundred men**.

At Mizpeh he commends his parents unto the king of Moab

³ And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, *and be* with you, till I know what God will do for me.

⁴ And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

Admonished by Gad, he comes to Hareth,

⁵ And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth.

Saul going to pursue him, complains of his servants' unfaithfulness

⁶ When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that *were* with him, now (Saul abode in Gibeah under a tree in Ramah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants *were* standing about him;)

^a See the section "Gematria 401 is Aleph + Tav" and "...four hundred men with him" found in Word-Study-H1481-garity-Gen-32-4-gematria-613-Rabbinical-Source-for-613-Mitzvoth, article #619.

⁷ Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, *and* make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds;

⁸ That all of you have conspired against me, and *there is* none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and *there is* none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

Doeg accuses Ahimelech

⁹ Then answered Doeg ^b the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

¹⁰ And he enquired of the YHVH for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

Saul commands to kill the priests

¹¹ Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that *were* in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.

¹² And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I *am*, my *adoni*.

¹³ And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

¹⁴ Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who *is so* faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?

¹⁵ Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute *any* thing unto his servant, *nor* to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

¹⁶ And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house.

The footmen refusing, Doeg executes it

¹⁷ And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the YHVH; because their hand also *is* with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the YHVH.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

Abiathar escaping, brings David the news

^b **Doeg** ^{H1673} means "fearing". An Edomite, chief of Saul's herdsmen, who slew all the priests KJC 1Sa 21:7, 1Sa 22:9, 1Sa 22:18, 1Sa 22:22, Psa 52:1 Source: Strong's

dō'eg (דֹּעַג, דֹּעַג, dō'-ēgh "anxious," "cared for"): "The Edomite," a servant of Saul, who watched David's intercourse with the priest Ahimelech, then denounced the priest to the king, and later executed his command to slay the priests at Nob. The position he held is described as that of "the mightiest" of Samuel's herdsmen (1Sa 21:7 margin). Septuagint reads: "tending the mules." Rabbinical legends speak of him as the greatest scholar of his time. The traditional title of Psa 52:1-9 associates the composition of that Psalms with the events that led to the slaying of the priests. Source ISBE

²⁰ And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David.

²¹ And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the YHVH'S priests.

1Sa 22:21 HSB5 Standalone Aleph Tav "...slain Shaul Aleph Tav priests..."

ki for כִּי le·da·Vid; David לְדָוִד ev·ya·Tar And Abiathar' אֲבִיָּאֲתָר vai·yag·Ged shewed וַיַּגִּד
Yah·weh. the LORD'S : הַיְהוָה? ko·ha·Nei priests כֹּהֲנֵי אֵת sha·'Ul, that Saul שְׂאוּל ha·Rag had slain הָרַג

²² And David said unto Abiathar, I knew *it* that day, when Doeg the Edomite *was* there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned *the death* of all the persons of thy father's house.

²³ Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou *shalt be* in safeguard.

Psa 52:1-9 - To the chief Musician, Maschil,

¹ *A Psalm* of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, and said unto him, David is come to the house of Ahimelech. Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God *endureth* continually. ² Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. ³ Thou lovest evil more than good; *and* lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. ⁴ Thou lovest all devouring words, O *thou* deceitful tongue. ⁵ God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of *thy* dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah. ⁶ The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: ⁷ Lo, *this is* the man *that* made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, *and* strengthened himself in his wickedness. ⁸ But I *am* like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. ⁹ I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done *it*: and I will wait on thy name; for *it is* good before thy saints.