

----- Prophet Gad -----

2944c AM, 3654 JP, 1060 BC

398. David feared that he might at last fall into Saul's hands, so he fled to King Achish in Gath, taking six hundred men with him. {#1Sa 21:10} Achish gave him the town of Ziklag to dwell in, and he lived there for one year and four months in the land of the Philistines.

1 Samuel 22

1. David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there.

2. All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

3. From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?"

4. So he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was in the stronghold.

5. But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

2987d AM, 3697 JP, 1017 BC

452. Either Satan or David's pride motivated David to have a census taken, thereby kindling God's wrath against the Israelites. {#1Ch 21:6 27:24} For this census, all the men over twenty years of age in every tribe (except the tribes of Levi and Benjamin), were counted. {#1Ch 27:23}. This census took nine months and twenty days to complete. {#2Sa 24:8} God sent the prophet Gad to David and gave him the choice of one of three punishments. He was to choose famine, sword or pestilence. {#2Sa 24:11-14} This famine was to last three years, {#1Ch 21:12} but for seven years according to the passage in Samuel. {#2Sa 24:13}. The famine would have included the three years of the previous famine {#2Sa 21:1} together with this present sabbatical year, in which no sowing would take place to compensate for the losses of the previous years, bringing a fourth year of dearth. Three years of famine for the slaughter of the Gibeonites were already past, and after this there would have been a poor harvest for lack of seed. This harvest would not have been able to supply

the needs of the next two years, which the intervening sabbatical year would require. So the famine would still have continued in the land, especially among the poor. Now in addition to these past four years of famine, God proposed to David a choice of three more years of famine. To reconcile these two different passages, {#2Sa 24:13 1Ch 21:12} I placed the account of David's numbering the people in this sabbatical year.

453. Now of the three choices, David chose the plague. In one day, seventy thousand men died. When the angel was about to destroy Jerusalem, God in his mercy bade him withhold his hand. He commanded David to offer whole burnt offerings and peace offerings on the threshing floor of Araunah or Ornan, the Jebusite. {#2Sa 24:1-25 1Ch 21:1-30}

[L56]