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David Escapes to the Cave at Adullam

First Samuel 22: 1-2

DIG: Where was Adullam? Why was it a good hiding place? Why did David's family and four hundred other men join his band of rejects? Are they likely to be reliable?

REFLECT: Are you a follower or a leader? What qualities make a good leader? What leadership qualities did David possess? Where do you go when you are in distress, in debt or embittered? When you go there do you believe that God is there with you?

1014 BC



When David was about 26 when he **left Gath**, escaping with **his** life by pretending to be insane, **and took refuge in a cave** near the town of **Adulam** (which means *refuge*), about half way between **Gath** and **Bethlehem** (**David's** home town). This was near **the Philistine** border, so it was a very good place to hide, like a no-man's-land right between two armies. It was an area known for its caves, which provided a natural shelter for the homeless **David**, though **his** movements were traced. **David** was at least in friendly territory, and the fighting men of Judah and Benjamin came to join **his** band (**First Chronicles 12:16-18**).

When his seven **brothers** and **the rest of his father's family** heard of it, they went **down to see him there** for they were then in danger from **Sha'ul** as well. **Then all the people in distress, in debt or embittered began gathering around him, and he**

became their leader; there were about four hundred with him. David trained a loyal army. They were attracted to the charismatic leader. Later in **First Samuel 23:13** this number will grow to **six hundred men. He** appears to have accepted all comers. This is the beginning of **David's mighty men** (to see link click [Ej - David's Mighty Warriors](#)), and resulted in **David** writing another psalm (see [Bb - David Prayed When He Was in the Cave of Adullam](#)).

True leaders attract the best people who see in the leader those qualities of character that they most admire. The people around **David** would never have been noticed in history were it not for their association with **him**, just as our **Lord's** disciples would have died unknown had they not walked with **Jesus. God** usually doesn't call the great and the powerful to be **His** servants, but those who have the heart for **Him** and an eagerness to obey **His** will (**First Corinthians 1:26-31**). **David's** little band of rejects represented the future of the nation, and **YHVH's** blessing was with them. History reveals that it is the devoted remnant, small as it might be, that holds the key to the future of **ADONAI's** work on this earth.⁹²