

## Ahimelech (Letter from Stephen)

Joseph, we had a rich and wonderful Breaking of Bread last night! Kirsten ushered in the Holy Spirit by telling the story of David and Ahimelech and it became the theme for the whole evening. Yoneq wanted some of us to pass on to you the things that were said. I believe that Abigail, Kirsten and Daniel Manoah are also sending letters about this.

Kirsten told about David from 1 Samuel 20-22. But the thing that spoke to us the most was about the Priest, Ahimelech. When David was fleeing from Saul, he and his men stopped off at the city of Nob. This was a city inhabited only by Priests — descendants of Aaron. Because David and his companions were hungry, David asked the Priest, Ahimelech for the bread. The only bread Ahimelech had was the consecrated bread that was baked and put hot before the presence of YHWH. Ahimelech only wanted to know if David's young men had kept themselves pure from women, and then he gave the bread. It was unlawful for Ahimelech to do this, but he did it anyway. He was able to hear from the Spirit. He recognized David and revered him. Somehow, Ahimelech was able to do what was appropriate rather than be bound by the law. He also inquired before YHWH for David's sake and gave him the sword of Goliath that had been there in Nob for years.

Later on, when Saul was ranting about David's treason, Doeg, the Edomite betrayed Ahimelech and David. Doeg had been in Nob at the same time as David and had seen everything. He was a servant of Saul, but he was also a worthless man. He gladly exposed how Ahimelech had helped David. When Saul brought Ahimelech before him, along with all of Ahimelech's relatives — 85 priests from the city of Nob, Saul accused Ahimelech of conspiring with David against him. It's really an indication of Ahimelech's character that he didn't try at all to defend himself or deny the facts. He told the whole story of how he helped David — and said, "indeed who is more loyal or trusted in all of your house than David?" He spoke of how this wasn't the first time he had interceded for David before YHWH — but actually he had prayed for David ~~many~~ *many* times. Ahimelech wasn't ashamed. He stood up to Saul. Saul flew into irrational rage at this and ordered his royal guards to kill Ahimelech and all the Priests. The guards, however, because of reverence and also because they didn't respect Saul, refused to murder them. So Saul turned to the worthless Doeg and said "Kill them." All by himself, Doeg killed Ahimelech and the 85 members of his house. We all worshipped our Father last night because we knew that Ahimelech and the others all died without even flinching — they died like sheep before the slaughter, not even raising a hand to resist that one murderer. Yoneq said he was so *glad* that Ahimelech died at that moment — the moment that he was standing for the truth because he couldn't live on to disobey and fall one day. He died in faith. Yoneq said that this man had a New Covenant heart, he loved David's anointing and that it was even this discernment of Ahimelech's that enraged Saul. After this horrible act, Doeg put the whole city of Nob to death. Yoneq said that Nob was like a foretaste of the Church, that only the Priesthood really lived together in community in those days. Because the men of Nob were living before YHWH everyday laying down their lives, that they were able to face death without flinching. And you know that those 85 men in Saul's presence couldn't have resisted at all if it was possible for one worthless man to kill them all. Many of us, likewise will be called to face death like this one day. In his death and because he continually interceded for David, Ahimelech serves us as a type of Messiah. As it says of Messiah, that He *lives* even now — He lives to make intercession for us. When our Master Yahshua descended to Sheol and walked down the main street of hell, he came to Ahimelech — and Ahimelech recognized Him and loved Him — because he had loved David's spirit! He was able to be led out of Sheol, along with the whole host of captives, to be with YHWH. He is in the cloud of witnesses waiting for us to finish our course. Hebrews 11 surely speaks of Ahimelech when it says: "They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to Death with the sword, they went about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy) Yoneq said that we began to know Ahimelech last night. On the day when we see him in the Kingdom, he won't be a stranger to us because we've come to know his spirit. Like Uriah and others the prophetic spirit in the Church has knit our hearts together to them. We were so thankful for those

who have gone before us in the Old Covenant — even for the ones who failed, like Solomon. Even those who fell still live to show us what we must master and avoid — to enter the Kingdom. And we must never disdain them because most of us would have fallen too, had we lived without the Holy Spirit and without the Church. It is a miracle that the Scriptures have been passed down — intact — through all the dirty unworthy hands — until they came down to us at the end of this age. And these stories of David, Samson, Jephthah, etc. etc. — they have never been understood *in the Spirit*. They have been thought of as “Bible Stories”, Bible History, but their eternal value has never been understood — until they came to an obedient people of the New Covenant. They have been like a vast savings deposit hidden away for a future purpose — hidden treasure waiting to be revealed at the very tail end of history. These Saints of the Old Covenant didn’t die in vain. They live on to encourage us. We also heard about Jonathan, Saul’s son. About how he was a wonderful and self-less man, like Ahimelech. He deeply loved David. He knew that David was YHWH’s chosen one (a type of Messiah). Although Jonathan was the heir of Saul’s throne — he promoted and protected his beloved David. He wasn’t threatened in the least that David was destined to be King over Israel. He loved YHWH and his anointed rather than his own glory. Like Ahimelech, we are very content to just live here all day every day in his temple. We are like his sheep and all we desire is to graze on the grass that’s here. We’re not like goats, or dogs, or anything else that desires (has a nature) to roam outside the sheepfold. We have received a new nature — we are created to love grass. We want to be where we can graze and we don’t hanker after anything else. We’ve been given a nature to be this way. We are the Priesthood of the New Covenant. We don’t have to travel up and down the road in our car, or go places to be content. We are perfectly sustained within these walls — in His temple. Here we have everything we need for health and happiness. We can speak kind words to one another here. YHWH often showed the unshakable nature of His covenants through outward signs — the rainbow, circumcision, etc., but Yoneq said the outward sign of the New Covenant is ... LOVE. The sign of the greatest covenant is the love we have for one another. It’s the most profound and powerful of all the outward signs. It’s how the world will know that the Father sent the son — the mark of Messiah’s Body.