

***Carolyn Roth
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Dastardly Doeg

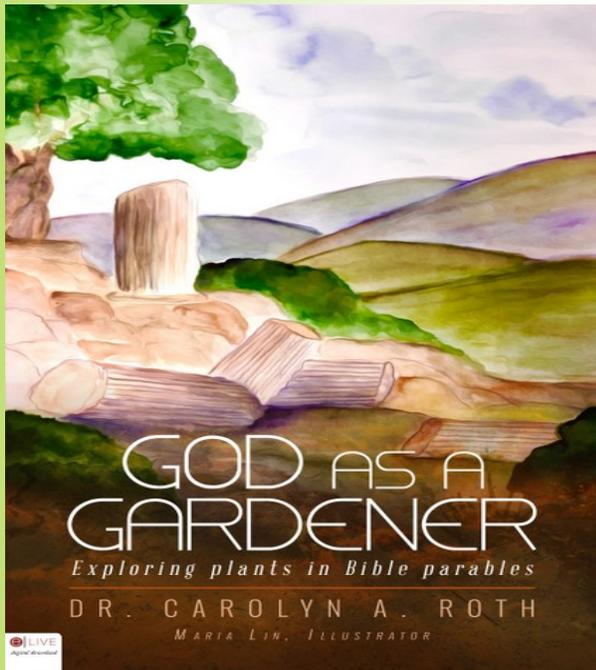
Reference: 1 Samuel 22:9-19

Heart of the Story: This Edomite killed 85 priests of Yahweh as well as every individual (women, children, babies) in the town of Nob.

Back Story: Doeg was an Edomite. Edom was southeast of Judah in land now in Southern Jordan. The Edomites were offspring of Esau, Jacob's (Israel) twin brother. Doeg was the head herdsman for King Saul. After Saul began to pursue David attempting to kill David, David went to Nob and met with Abimelech. Abimelech was the head priest at Nob, but, had no knowledge that King Saul was pursuing David. Abimelech knew that David was Saul son-in-law and believed that David was the head of Saul's body guard.

When David met with the priest, Abimelech, the priest inquired of the LORD for David,. He gave Davin and his men food. Also, Abimelech gave David the sword of Goliath the Philistine which was in the synagogue over which Abimelech presided. Doeg was at Nob and saw how Abimelech assisted David. Doeg took the information to King Saul.

Story Line: King Saul was furious when he learned from Doeg that Abimelech assisted David. King Saul ordered all the priests of Nob to appear before them. Saul asked Abimelech and the 85 other priests why they assisted David.



God as a Gardener was my best selling book. It was published by Tate Publishing. The focus is plants in the parables. I had no idea until I began to seriously work on this book that there were multiple parables in the Old Testament. For some reason, I thought that Jesus originated parables. The book is set up as a Bible study with 12 Old and 12 New Testament parables.

Maria Lin illustrated the book with original illustrations to include the cover.

I have only two copies of *God as a Gardener* remaining. When they are sold, I have no plans to order additional copies. Purchase on my website for \$15.00.

(Dastardly Doeg, continued from page 1)

Abimelech responded honestly, admitting what he did for David. His reason was that David was honorable and Saul's son-in-law. King Saul was incensed and ordered his footmen (personal guard present) to kill the priests. The guard refused to kill the priests of God. Then, King Saul ordered Doeg to kill the priests. Doeg killed all 85 priests. Further, Doeg went to Nob, the town of the priests, and killed all men, women, children. He also killed all animals in the town.

Pondering Relationships: Doeg painted the priests of Nob as assisting David who King Saul labeled an insurgent, rather than an innocent fugitive. Doeg misrepresented to Saul Abimelech's motives for assisting David. In this account Abimelech seemed innocent of willful conspiracy with David against King Saul.

Why did Doeg misrepresent the truth to King Saul and why was he willing to go on a killing spree against the priests of Nob and their entire town including innocent children and animals? Where did all Doeg's rage come from? I can think of two places.

Perhaps the rage went back 800 plus years when Jacob, patriarch of the Israelites, stole Esau's birthright from him. Ancestral memory and stories seem to have a life of their own. Let me give you an example: I was reared in Pennsylvania on stories of the Revolutionary War. Despite the intervening almost 300 years and the fact that Great Britain is now a close ally of the United States, I still have resentment in my heart for England. Often emotions are fueled by folk stories and not based in logic.

The gods of Edom were different from Yahweh, the God of Israel. Perhaps, Doeg believed that he was supporting his god when he killed priests of Yahweh.

Reflection: Doeg is not exactly a Bible hero is he? Can you think of other reasons that Doeg acted as he did?



This beautiful flower in nature is named Christ's thorn. It is the plant that scholars believed was used to make the crown of thorns that was placed on Jesus's head by Roman soldiers.



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