

~KEILAH (91)
(Kei'lah)

- **A fortified Judean city in the Shephelah.**
- **This was the inheritance of the tribe of the sons of Judah by their families. (Joshua 15:20)**
- **In the Shephelah there were Eshtaol and Zorah and Ashnah. (Joshua 15:33)**
- **And Keilah and Achzib and Mareshah, nine cities and their settlements. (Joshua 15:44)**
- **In time the report was made to Saul; David has come to Keilah. And Saul began to say; God has sold him into my hand, for he has shut himself up by coming into a city with doors and bar. (1 Samuel 23:7)**
- **Keilah was perhaps founded or, at one time, governed by some Calebite(s).**
- **And the sons of Caleb the son of Jephunneh were Iru, Elah and Naam, and the sons of Elah, Kenaz. (1 Chronicles 4:15)**
- **And the sons of Hodiah's wife, the sister of Naham, were the father of Keilah the Garmite and Eshtemoa the Maacathite. (1 Chronicles 4:19)**
- **It is commonly identified with Khirbet Qila, Qeila, situated on a hill about 14 kilometers (8.5 miles) Northwest of Hebron. As in the region of ancient Keilah, today grain is cultivated in the vicinity of Khirbet Qila.**
- **In time they came reporting to David, saying; Here the Philistines are warring against Keilah, and they are pillaging the threshing floors. (1 Samuel 23:1)**
- **David, while outlawed by King Saul, saved Keilah from falling to the Philistines. Yet afterward he and his men had to escape from the city to avoid being surrendered to Saul's army by the landowners of Keilah.**

- Accordingly David went with his men to **Keilah** and fought against the Philistines and drove off with their livestock, but struck them down with a great slaughter, and David came to be the savior of the inhabitants of Keilah. (**1 Samuel 23:5**)
- So Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to **Keilah**, to besiege David and his men. (**1 Samuel 23:8**)
- And David got to know that Saul was fabricating mischief against him. Hence he said to Abiathar the priest; Do bring the ephod near. (**1 Samuel 23:9**)
- And David went on to say; O Yehowah the God of Israel, your servant has definitely heard that Saul is seeking to come to **Keilah** to lay the city in ruin on my account. (**1 Samuel 23:10**)
- Will the landowners of **Keilah** surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as your servant has heard? O Yehowah the God of Israel, tell your servant, please. To this Yehowah said; He will come down. (**1 Samuel 23:11**)
- And David went on to say; Will the landowners of **Keilah** surrender me and my men into Saul's hand? In turn Yehowah said; They will do the surrendering. (**1 Samuel 23:12**)
- At once David rose up with his men, about six hundred men, and they went out of **Keilah** and continued walking about wherever they could walk about. And to Saul it was reported that David had escaped from **Keilah**, and so he gave up going out. (**1 Samuel 23:13**)
- The city was reoccupied after the Babylonian exile. At the time that Jerusalem's walls were being repaired under Nehemiah's direction, there were two half districts of **Keilah**, each with its own prince.
- After him the Levites did repair work, Rehum the son of Bani, at his side Hashabiah, a prince of half the district of **Keilah**, did repair work for his district. (**Nehemiah 3:17**)
- After him their brothers did repair work, Bavvai the son of Henadad, a prince of half the district of **Keilah**. (**Nehemiah 3:18**)

