



 **LifeGroups**  
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# David Inquires of the Lord

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# David Sought the Lord

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- David sought the Lord's will, trusted in it, and followed it.
- 1 Samuel 23:1–14, Psalm 63
- Saul was out of control: he slaughtered an entire city of priests of the Lord and their families.
- Though Ahimelech had done nothing wrong, Saul accused him of being a traitor by helping David, so he ordered the entire city of Nob, including women, children, infants and animals, to be utterly destroyed (22:12–17).

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- Chapter 23 opens with David's asking the Lord whether he should defend Keilah against the Philistines.
- Keilah was a town about three miles from the cave of Adullam where he had hidden, and David had gotten word that they were being attacked (23:1).
- Because of its location (isolated from other Israelites cities) and the time of year (harvest), it was particularly vulnerable to plundering by the Philistines.
- King Saul should have been the one asking the Lord if he should defend one of his cities, but he was too busy chasing David.

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- In the religious ritual system of the Old Testament, a king could inquire of the Lord and the Lord might answer by a dream, by a prophet or through the high priest by the Urim and Thummim (28:6).
- The Urim and Thummim was a specific method the high priest used to “inquire of the Lord” for a king or the nation as a whole, using the ephod of the high priest.
- Abiathar functioned as David’s high priest because all the other priests had been slaughtered (22:23).

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- Urim means “lights” and Thummim means “perfections.”
- St. Jerome and other ancient theologians translated that figuratively to mean “revelation and truth.”
- They were used in 1 Samuel 14:41, when Saul asked God to tell them who was responsible for the judgment that had come to the nation – Thummim meant the people, Urim meant Saul or Jonathan.
- When it was Urim, they cast again, this time between Saul and Jonathan (14:37–42).

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# David Sought the Lord

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- In verses 1–5, David asked if he should attack the Philistines and God answered yes, but the people were afraid (23:3).
- This is a familiar theme in Scripture. The people were afraid of the Canaanites in the promised land, but Caleb and Joshua trusted in God (Numbers 13–14).
- The people were afraid to fight Goliath, but David trusted in God (1 Samuel 17).
- David asked again. God promised he would be successful, so David went.

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# David Sought the Lord

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- Then Saul set out to attack David at Keilah, the Israelite city David had just rescued from the Philistines (23:6–8). David had saved one of Saul's cities without even being asked, and this is how he would be repaid.
- David asked if Saul would really come attack him and if the men of Keilah would give him up to Saul. It may seem ungrateful on the part of the men of Keilah, but remember, Saul had just slaughtered the whole city of Nob because he thought they were conspiring with David against him.
- The contrast here, again, is stark between David, who saved a city, and Saul, who had just destroyed one.

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- David fled Keilah and “remained in the strongholds in the wilderness” (23:14).
- He left a walled city (23:7) for strongholds in the wilderness.
- These were not military fortresses, but small outposts used as contact points for herdsmen and villagers in the area.
- But remember, David’s true stronghold was the Lord (Psalm 18:2).
- He has no reason to be afraid of any man, even the king (Psalm 27:1).

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# David Sought the Lord

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- David wrote Psalm 63 while he was in the desert of Judah, hiding in these outposts in the wilderness.
- He began the psalm by describing his earnest seeking of the Lord.
- Using the imagery of the desert, he wrote that his whole being longed for God, thirsted for Him like our bodies thirst for water in a dry and parched land (63:1).
- He claimed that those seeking to kill him would be destroyed (63:9); he did not fear them.

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# Jonathan Chose God

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- Jonathan chose God's will over what seemed best for himself.
- 1 Samuel 23:15–18
- Jonathan and David still loved each other with that deep friendship covenant love. When Jonathan heard Saul had gone to seek David's life, Jonathan went to meet him and encourage him in the Lord (23:15–16).
- Saul was unable to find David, but Jonathan was not. They kept in contact, and David trusted Jonathan to keep his whereabouts secret from his father, unlike the men of Keilah.

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# Jonathan Chose God

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- Jonathan went to reassure David that Saul would not find him, and he made a prediction – that David would be the next king, and Jonathan would be “next to [him]” (23:17), not as an equal, as if they would share the kingship, but as his right-hand man, advisor, maybe general.
- This is an act of incredible humility for Jonathan. Under Saul, he would have become the next king. Instead, he chose to step down and support David because he believed David was God’s chosen one. Jonathan said that Saul also knew David would be the next king, though he was doing everything in his power to stop it from happening.

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# Jonathan Chose God

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- Saul did not inquire of the Lord; he did what he wanted.
- 1 Samuel 23:19–29, Psalm 54
- Without even being asked, the Ziphites went to Saul to give up David's location (23:20).
- Even though Saul hadn't followed the Lord for quite some time, he blessed them "by the Lord" for having compassion on him.
- Saul again made it all about himself.

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# Jonathan Chose God

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- Saul might still claim to speak for the Lord, but he hadn't interacted with God's Spirit since chapter 19.
- That is when the Spirit fell upon him without his asking, while he was chasing after David to kill him (19:18–24).
- He hadn't inquired of God since chapter 14. He hadn't been following God for a long time.
- He had been acting out of fear and a desperate desire to keep his power and the throne.

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# Jonathan Chose God

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- The Ziphites gave Saul extremely detailed information on David's location (23:19), but he asked for them to go spy David out and come back with even more "sure information" (23:23).
- The rest of this chapter reads like a game of cat and mouse. David went to the Arabah, Saul looked for him. David went to the wilderness of Moan, Saul pursued him. Saul was on one side of the mountain; David was on the other.
- But just as Saul was closing in on David, a messenger arrived with an immediate need for Saul to attack the Philistines (verse 27).

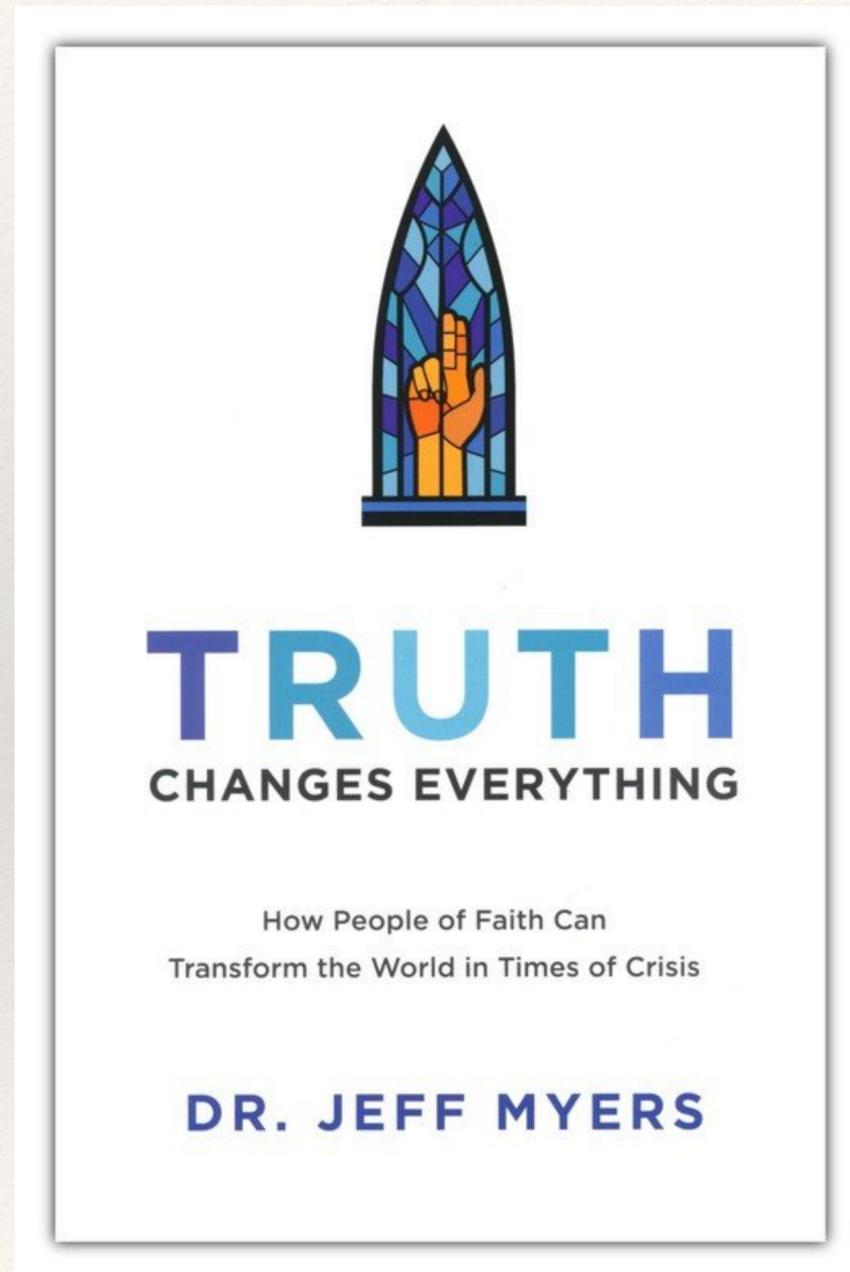
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# Jonathan Chose God

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- David described the scene in Psalm 54: “Ruthless men seek my life; they do not set before God themselves” (54:3). This describes the Ziphites as well as Saul.
- Saul had no regard for God, his people, or even his own family; he was only out for himself.
- David continued to run, flee, and hide, and he waited on the Lord and His plan, His timing.
- David trusted in the Lord, sought His will, and followed it.

# Truth Changes Everything



- Dr. Jeff Myers is the president of Summit Ministries (Colorado) - worldview ministry
- He was previously a professor at Bryant College (Tennessee)
- Published by Baker Books, 14 chapters on truth and its application.

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# Truth Changes Everything

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- The first four chapters focus on the subject of truth.
- The Point of No Return - explores the difference between the Truth viewpoint and the truths viewpoint.
- The End of Time: the Dawn of Hope - ancient stories about truth.
- Does the Truth Matter? - Different views of truth all fail.
- Can Truth Be Known, and How Would We Know it? - reasons why truth can be known, and Jesus is the Truth.

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# How Jesus Followers Have Changed . . .

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- The next eight chapters show how the biblical view truth changed the world.
- How We value Human Life - what makes human life valuable?
- How We Care for One Another - advanced charity, advanced the study of medicine, advanced society and mental well-being.
- How We Learn and Grow - biblical foundation for education
- Have Changed the World of Science - nearly every founder was a Christian, biblical worldview advances science.

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# How Jesus Followers Have Changed . . .

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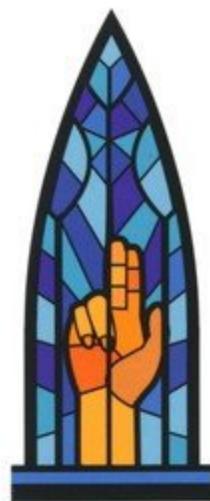
- The next eight chapters show how the biblical view truth changed the world.
- The World of the Arts - the case for objective beauty, also transformed the visual arts.
- Politics - law, liberty, and freedom
- The Pursuit of Justice - justice from a biblical worldview.
- How We Work - work from a biblical worldview.

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# Truth Changes Everything

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- The last two chapters provide insight in how to present biblical truth.
- How to Tell the Truth and Be Nice at the Same Time - fourteen ways to practice speaking up, personally, in a way that builds truth: “tell me more about that,” ask questions, keep the message clear, deflect hostility, “what happens if you are wrong?”
- Truth Really Does Change Everything - three takeaways about truth: truth is a person, truth is life, and truth is eternal.



# TRUTH

CHANGES EVERYTHING

How People of Faith Can  
Transform the World in Times of Crisis

**DR. JEFF MYERS**