

# **Bible Study April 10, 2024**

## **1 SAMUEL 27 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)**

### **David Flees to the Philistines**

***1 Then David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will despair of seeking me any longer within the borders of Israel, and I shall escape out of his hand."***

**Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)**

***9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?***

***2 So David arose and went over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. 3 And David lived with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail of Carmel, Nabal's widow.***

For the second time, David sought refuge from Saul in Philistine territory (21:10-15). Once the great conqueror of Philistines, he now had permission to live under the protection of King Achish of Gath. Previously, David had pretended to be insane in front of Achish. Evidently, the Philistine king had forgotten that incident or chosen to overlook it in light of David's current situation. Achish certainly would have known about the split between Saul and David and would have been glad to shelter this Israelite traitor. In return, Achish would expect military support from David and his 600 warriors. David further strengthened his position with Achish by conducting fake raids on Israel and by pretending to be loyal to the Philistine ruler.

***4 And when it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath, he no longer sought him.***

Saul finally stopped pursuing David. His army was not strong enough to invade Philistine territory just to seek one man. Besides, the immediate threat to Saul's throne was gone while David was out of the country.

***5 Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be given me in one of the country towns, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?"***

**Psalm 121:1-8 (ESV)**

***1 I lift up my eyes to the hills.***

***From where does my help come?***

***2 My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.***

**<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.**

**<sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**<sup>5</sup> The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.**

**<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

**<sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.**

**<sup>8</sup> The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.**

**Philippians 4:6-8 (ESV)**

**<sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

**<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.**

**1 Kings 19:4-8 (ESV)**

**<sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." <sup>5</sup> And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." <sup>6</sup> And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." <sup>8</sup> And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.**

**Isaiah 40:29-31 (ESV)**

**<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might he increases strength.**

**<sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;**

**<sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.**

**<sup>6</sup> So that day Achish gave him Ziklag. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day. <sup>7</sup> And the number of the days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months.**

Gath was one of five principal cities in Philistia, and Achish was one of five Philistine rulers. David may have wanted to move out of this important city to avoid potential skirmishes with the Philistines there or attacks upon his family and his men. He may also have wanted to escape the close scrutiny of the Philistine officials. Achish let David move to Ziklag, where he lived until Saul's death (2 Samuel 2:1).

**<sup>8</sup> Now David and his men went up and made raids against the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites, for these were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as far as Shur, to the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> And David would strike the land and would leave neither man nor woman alive, but would take away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the garments, and come back to Achish.**

David probably conducted these guerrilla-style raids because these three tribes were known for their surprise attacks and cruel treatment of innocent people. These desert tribes were a danger, not just to the Philistines, but especially to the Israelites, the people David would one day lead.

**<sup>10</sup> When Achish asked, "Where have you made a raid today?" David would say, "Against the Negeb of Judah," or, "Against the Negeb of the Jerahmeelites," or, "Against the Negeb of the Kenites." <sup>11</sup> And David would leave neither man nor woman alive to bring news to Gath, thinking, "lest they should tell about us and say, 'So David has done.'" Such was his custom all the while he lived in the country of the Philistines. <sup>12</sup> And Achish trusted David, thinking, "He has made himself an utter stench to his people Israel; therefore he shall always be my servant."**

Was David wrong in falsely reporting his activities to Achish? David knew that eventually he would be Israel's king. The Philistines were still his enemies, but this was an excellent place to hide from Saul. When Achish asked David to go into battle against Israel, David agreed, once again pretending to be loyal to the Philistines (28:1-25).