

1 Samuel Lesson 49 David Flees To The Philistines

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

"mercenary" one who is hired by another and is motivated by the reward of money. The use of mercenary troops was common in the ancient world. Very often the mercenary soldiers were men who had been exiled. These exiles would exhibit loyalty to the new ruler based on their hatred for the one who had exiled them.

"Gath": one of the 5 capital Philistine cities and the home of Goliath.

"Ziklag": a town thought to be 30 miles southeast of Gath. It was a good location from which David could stage raids. In Ziklag he and his men would be far enough away to avoid the close scrutiny of Achish, the Philistine King of Gath.

"Geshurites, Girzites, and Amalekites": these were 3 desert tribes who were enemies of the Israelites.

Read 1 Samuel 27:1-12

In chapter 26 David had the upper hand over Saul. David, however knew, that Saul was changeable and would probably resume his pursuit of him with the intent to kill him. David went from victory in both Chapter 25 and 26 to despair in Chapter 27.

1. According to 27:1 what was David thinking and what decision did he make as a result of that thinking? What did David forget in terms of promises made to him by God and who did David leave out of his decision making process? How can discouragement and despair affect our thoughts, decisions, and our walk with the Lord??

2. In 27:2 where does David find himself as a result of his decision. Who else beside David was affected by that decision? In verse 4 what was the immediate result?

Application: Oftentimes the first step in straying from the Lord is not seeking Him. This is especially true when making a major decision and we are tired, fearful, depressed or discouraged. How can the following verses be helpful when we find ourselves depressed or discouraged? Proverbs 3:5-8, Psalm 27:14, and Isaiah 40:27-31

3. According to 27:5-7 what favor did David ask of Achish? Achish granted David his request. What does this reveal about the character of Achish?

4. David was now thoroughly entrenched in enemy territory in Ziklag. He was a vassal of Achish. How long was he there? According to 27:8-12 what sins did David engage in while he was there?

5. What events transpired that caused David to trust in himself, to sin and open himself up to potential entrapment by Satan?

Application: If we find ourselves backsliding and sinning, entrapped by the influence of the world, or Satan how can we escape? See Isaiah 30:15, 1 Cor 15:33-34, Rev 3:19