

1 Samuel Lesson 52 The Philistine Army Rejects David

- 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:

"Philistine Lords": Philistia was divided into 5 city states: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, and Gath. Each of the city states were ruled by a lord who was king like over that state. Apparently during the time of David and Saul, Achish was not only the king over Gath, but also ruled over the other four Philistine lords.

Key Word:

"adversary" Strong's H7854 "satan" someone who hinders or opposes.

Read 1 Samuel 29:1-11

In Chapter 29 we return to David who is still living with the Philistines.

1. The Philistines and the Israelites are gathering in preparation for battle. According to verse 29:1 the Israelites are camped in the Valley of Jezreel and the Philistines are assembling nearby in Aphek. Describe the Philistine army as presented in 29:2. On whose side did David and his men find themselves.?

Application: David was "a man after God's own heart" but he was still a man capable of sinning. What do we learn from David about the danger of seeking refuge in enemy territory? See James 4:4

2. David is now in a very difficult position. Looking back to chapter 27, what sins did David commit that brought him to this place? As part of the Philistine army who was David fighting? What had David said about Saul in 1 Samuel 24:10; 26:9; 26:16 and 26:23? What had David pledged to Jonathan in the past? 1 Samuel 20:12-17

3. David was in trouble and needed the Lord's intervention? Apart from the Lord's intervention what do you think were the choices that David had as part of the Philistine army? Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 According to 29:3-7 how did the Lord provide "a way of escape " for David? Who was used and what were their arguments?

Application: Read Psalm 103:8-14. Apply that portion of the psalm to David's rescue from the Philistine army. How can that be a comfort to you when you are in a difficult place due to your own sin or disobedience? Does this give us a license to willfully sin?

4. In 29:10-11 David was ordered by Achish to leave for the second time and this time David left. God had made a way where there was no way. Read Psalm 37:23-24. In this whole incident how did David establish his own steps and how did God keep him from being "hurled headlong" when he had fallen?

5. David was trapped by his own sin and helpless to save himself. God intervened to save David. How can you relate this incident to our own salvation? What attributes of God are revealed in the rescue of David?