

# David Runs to the Philistines For Refuge

I Samuel 27

Introduction:

- There is no commentary, or mention of God in this chapter
- But there is a message for us in here- departure from God's will
- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all went through this dark valley. This is a well- worn route that we find ourselves in too at times

I. 1Sa 27:1 David's discouraged decision.

a. That was a word of discouragement coming from a heart tired of trusting God for His continued deliverance.

b. David decided to leave Israel and live among the idol worshipping Philistines. David was so discouraged that he thought there was nothing better for him in Israel and among God's people, so he sought protection among the Philistines

c. It is sad when the people of God think the grass is greener out in the world

d. Discouragement and despair are more powerful enemies than Saul.

Discouragement and despair will drive David to do something that Saul could never make him do.

e. The cause of this despair:

i. The first cause here is he regarded a man instead of God "I shall one day perish by the hand of Saul." We wrestle not against flesh and blood. Is Saul more powerful than the promises of God?

ii. In communing with his heart instead of with God.

iii. Another cause of his despondency was his forgetfulness of the Divine promises. Had not Samuel, the prophet of the Lord, visited his father's house and anointed him king? Had not this choice again and again been ratified? Had not Saul, his enemy, been forced to acknowledge him as his successor? Yet Saul is supposed to kill him?

- f. Oh how often we run to the land of the Philistines for refuge and safety, only to find disappointment
- II. 1Sa 27:2-4- David goes over to Achish, leader of Gath.
- a. So David dwelt with Achish at Gath: Previously (recorded in 1 Samuel 21:10-15), David briefly went over to Achish of the Philistines, believing there might be a place of refuge for him. God allowed that experience to quickly turn sour, and David pretended to be a madman so he could escape. In his discouragement and despair David will go down a road of sin he has been down before
  - b. Achish received David this time when he would not in 1 Samuel 21:10-15 for two reasons. First, it is clear now that David and Achish share the same enemy, Saul. Second, David now brings with him 600 fighting men, whom Achish can use as mercenaries.
  - c. It was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more: David accomplished his immediate goal, because Saul stopped pursuing him. But now David is in a place of compromise. He is actually submitting to a Philistine master.
- III. David becomes a bandit- v. 5-12
- a. V. 5- David said to Achish, "If I have now found favor in your eyes." Before, David never cared about finding favor in the eyes of a Philistine ruler. This is a great change in David.
  - b. David asks for his own city because he wanted freedom to operate his own independent policy without being observed too closely.
  - c. David's real motive was to be more out of the way of observation and control, so as to act the part of an enemy of Saul, without really lifting up his hand against him and his own countrymen of Israel.
  - d. Achish gives David Ziklag
  - e. David has a new occupation- a roving bandit (v. 8-9)
  - f. David and his men went up and invaded: The Hebrew word comes from the verb to raid, with the idea of stripping the dead for loot. David attacked these villages

or encampments, killed some of the men, stripped them for treasure or armor, and robbed the people of the village or encampment. This was no way of life for a man after God's own heart.

- g. The Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites: David hasn't totally turned against God and His people. For now, he only attacks the enemies of Israel. This probably gave David some comfort- but it was still out of the will of God at this time
- h. David lies to Achish- v. 10-12- He lied to gain favor with Achish. He also eliminated any evidence to cover up what he had done
- i. 28:1-2- David even sides with the enemy against Israel! He gives a vague answer still trying to play both sides perhaps.
- j. Should we follow the old proverb- The enemy of my enemy is my friend?
  - i. David tried to play both sides, but he could not keep this up
  - ii. Illustr- Historically -Russia became an ally against Hitler, but then the Cold War began
  - iii. Illustr- Spiritually- Ecumenical movement's collaborative involvement in issues such as abortion, family values, morality, etc. We need wisdom in our participation in some of these things!

#### Conclusion:

- No commentary is given, but we can note the problems here
- Only God can be our refuge
- Manipulation, and conspiring vs. trusting and obeying
- Despair and discouragement leading to poor decisions
- This is a reminder that none of God's servants are perfect. God used great men, who still had clay feet. This is to demonstrate to us that the power is of God and not of these men! Who's to say what we would have done in this position?
- The key is to remember to trust in God's promises to us, no matter how dark the circumstances are