

1 Samuel 29

Review

CHAPTER	KEY EVENTS
26	<p>David & Saul's last conversation. David was confident in his future ...so may my life be precious in the sight of the LORD, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation." ²⁵ Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.</p>
27	<p>David Flees to the Philistines; meltdown in depression, fear and deception 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." 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. ⁴ And when it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath, he no longer sought him.</p> <p>David serves with Philistines for 16 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King Achish gives David city of Ziklag to dwell (former Israelite town) • Secretly fights pagan nations and returns spoil to Achish (pretending it's from Israel) • Achish trusts David's fake loyalty <p>¹² And Achish trusted David, thinking, "He has made himself an utter stench to his people Israel; therefore, he shall always be my servant."</p>
28	<p>Massive battle planned: Philistines vs Israel. David caught in dilemma In those days the Philistines gathered their forces for war, to fight against Israel. And Achish said to David, "Understand that you and your men are to go out with me in the army." ² David said to Achish, "Very well, you shall know what your servant can do." And Achish said to David, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."</p> <p>Saul afraid of Philistine army amassing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuel dead • Sought guidance from the Lord—but no answer • Sought guidance from Witch of Endor • Vision of Samuel foretells the defeat of Israel and Saul's death...by tomorrow <p>¹⁹ Moreover, the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The LORD will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines."</p>
29	<p>Day before the Battle Now the Philistines had gathered all their forces at Aphek. And the Israelites were encamped by the spring that is in Jezreel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David is caught in a dilemma of his own doing • God rescues David from his mess • God's purposes stay intact

2 MISTAKES IN VIEWING DAVID

MORALIZING

Criticizing David for his:

- Spiritual backsliding
- He should have known better
- Betrayed his high calling
- Failed to trust God
- Never stood up to King for his brutality & idolatry



Success is based on:

- ✓ Performance
- ✓ Doing & knowing the right way
- ✓ My burden to grow spiritually
- ✓ Minimizing God; depending on self

SECULARIZING

Admiring David for his:

- Success & ingenuity
- Shrewdness in enabling himself to power
- Joining Achish to escape Saul's reach
- Upping his family's standard of living & safety
- Manipulating the king without getting caught
- Not so ethical, but what a hero!

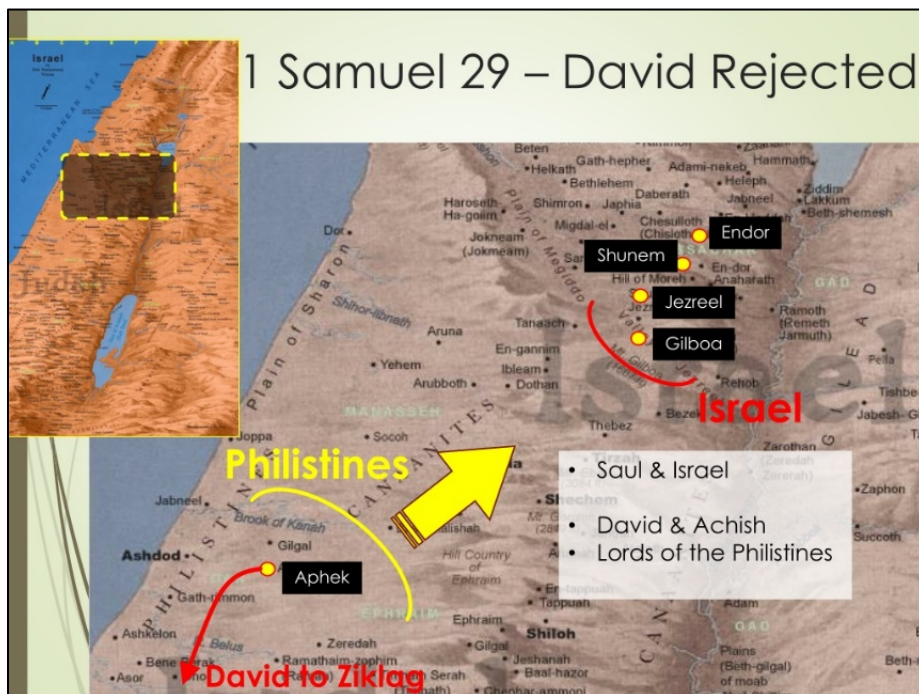


Success is based on:

- ✓ Spiritual growth is a "nice to have"
- ✓ Being wise to the world
- ✓ "Serving the Lord" with money, possessions & power
- ✓ Minimizing God; depending on self

The Philistines Reject David

29 Now the Philistines had gathered all their forces at Aphek. And the Israelites were encamped by the spring that is Jezreel.





Spring of Jezreel



² As the lords of the Philistines were passing on by hundreds and by thousands, and David and his men were passing on in the rear with Achish, ³ the commanders of the Philistines said, "What are these Hebrews doing here?" And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, "Is this not David, the servant of Saul, king of Israel, who has been with me now for days and years, and since he deserted to me I have found no fault in him to this day." ⁴ But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him. And the commanders of the Philistines said to him, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place to which you have assigned him. He shall not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become an adversary to us. For how could this fellow reconcile himself to his lord? Would it not be with the heads of the men here? ⁵ Is not this David, of whom they sing to one another in dances,

*'Saul has struck down his thousands,
and David his ten thousands?'*"

⁶ Then Achish called David and said to him, "As the LORD lives, you have been honest, and to me it seems right that you should march out and in with me in the campaign. For I have found nothing wrong in you from the day of your coming to me to this day. Nevertheless, the lords do not approve of you. ⁷ So go back now; and go peaceably, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines." ⁸ And David said to Achish, "But what have I done? What have you found in your servant from the day I entered your service until now, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?" ⁹ And Achish answered David and said, "I know that you are as blameless in my sight as an angel of God. Nevertheless, the commanders of the Philistines have said, 'He shall not go up with us to the battle.' ¹⁰ Now then rise early in the morning with the servants of your lord who came

with you, and start early in the morning, and depart as soon as you have light.”¹¹ So David set out with his men early in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines. But the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

“What the text does teach is that even in our folly and fainting fits, we are still no match for our God, who has thousands of unguessable ways by which He rescues His people—even by the mouths of Philistines. He can make the enemy serve us as a friend. He not only prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies but also has the knack of making the enemies prepare the table!”

Dale Ralph Davis

Looking on the Heart: 1 Samuel

God will have His way with us in spite of our weakness and the power of our ongoing sinful desires. Joy will never come by denying our deep sinfulness; rather, it must come by seeing how huge our sin really is and how completely it has been dealt with by Christ.

There is a connection between weakness and joy.

You are still prone to wander, but you have a Great Shepherd who always pursues you and brings you back, carrying you home in loving arms. You have a heavenly Father who would never let this sin and weakness remain in you if he did not plan to overrule it for your good and for his own glory. Praise God, for you have a perfect High Priest advocating for you, praying for you, and holding on to you with a sure, steady, and loving hand.

Barbara Duguid

Extravagant Grace