

David Hides With the Philistines (c. 1011 – c. 1010 BC)

1 Samuel 27:1–12; 1 Chronicles 12:1–7

David Does Not Trust Saul's Change of Heart

1 Sam 27:1 Then David thought to himself, "Now I will perish one day by the hand of Saul! There is nothing better for me but *that* I must certainly escape to the land of *the* Philistines. Then Saul will desist from searching for me further in all of the territories of Israel, and so I will escape from his hand."

2 So David got up and crossed over, he and the six hundred men who *were* with him, to Achish the son of Maach, the king of Gath.

3 David settled with Achish in Gath, he and his men, each with his household. David *took along* his two wives Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

4 And it was reported to Saul that David had fled *to* Gath, so he no longer searched for him.

5 Then David said to Achish, "Please, if I have found favor in your eyes, then let them give me a place in one of the country towns that I can live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?"

6 So Achish gave him Ziklag on that day. (Therefore, Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah until this day.)

7 The number of days that David lived in the countryside of the Philistines *was* one year and four months.

Saul's Own Kinsmen Join David in Ziklag

1 Chr 12:1 Now these are the ones who came to David at Ziklag while he was still shut up because of Saul, the son of Kish. And they *were* the mighty warriors helping *with* the war.

2 *They were* armed with *the* bow, *able to shoot* right-handed or left-handed, *slinging* stones or *shooting* arrows with the bow; *they were* kinsmen of Saul from Benjamin.

3 The leader *was* Ahiezer, then Jehoash, sons of Shemaah the Gibeonite; Jeiel and Pelet, sons of Azmaveth; Beracah; Jehu the Anathothite;

4 Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty warrior among the thirty *who was* over the thirty; Jeremiah; Jahaziel; Johanan; Jozabad the Gederathite;

5 Eluzai; Jerimoth; Bealiah; Shemariah; Shephatiah the Hariphite;

6 Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam the Korahites;

7 Joelah and Zebadiah, sons of Jeroham from the Gedor.

David Tricks Achish Again

1 Sam 27:8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites and the Girzites and the Amalekites, for they had been living *in* the land for a long time in the direction of Shur and as far as the land of Egypt.

9 So David struck the land and did not leave a man or a woman alive; he took the sheep, the cattle, the donkeys, the camels, and the clothing. Then he returned and came to Achish.

10 And Achish said, "Against whom have you raided today?" David said, "Against the Negev of Judah and against the Negev of the Jerahmeelites and against the Negev of the Kenites."

11 And David did not leave alive a man or a woman to bring *them back* to Gath, thinking, "So that they will not report about us, saying, 'David did thus and so.'" Thus was his practice all the days that he lived in the countryside of *the* Philistines.

12 And Achish trusted David, saying, "He has made himself utterly hated among his people in Israel, and he will be my servant forever."

The Philistines Prepare for War With Israel (c. 1010 BC)

1 Samuel 28:1–2; 29:1–11; 1 Chronicles 12:19–22

Achish Makes David His Personal Bodyguard

1 Sam 28:1 Now in those days *the* Philistines gathered their forces for war to fight against Israel. So Achish said to David, "Certainly you realize that you must go out with me in the army, you and your men."

2 David said to Achish, "Very well, you will know what your servant can do." Achish said to David, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."

The Commanders of the Philistines Do Not Trust David

1 Sam 29:1 Now *the* Philistines assembled all their forces at Aphek, and Israel *was* encamped at the spring that *is* in Jezreel.

2 The rulers of *the* Philistines *were* passing on according to hundreds and thousands, David and his men passing on at the rear with Achish.

3 Then 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, the king of Israel, who has been with me for days and years? I have not found anything *threatening* in him from the day of his desertion until this day!"

4 But the commanders of *the* Philistines *were* angry with him and they said to him, "Send the man back so that he might return to his place where you have assigned him! But he will not go down with us into the battle, so that he does not become an adversary to

us in the battle. By what could this fellow make himself favorable to his lord? Is it not with the heads of these men?
5 *Is* this not David about whom they sing in the dances, saying,

‘Saul has killed his thousands,
but David his ten thousands’?”

6 So Achish called David and said to him, “As Yahweh lives, certainly you were honest, and I am pleased to have you marching with me in the campaign. For I have not found any wrong in you from the day you came to me until this day, but in the eyes of the rulers, you *are* not good.

7 So then, return and go in peace, so that you do not do something that displeases the rulers of *the* Philistines.”

8 Then David said to Achish, “But what have I done? And what have you found in your servant from the day that I entered your service until this day, that I should not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?”

9 And Achish answered and said to David, “I know that you *are* good in my eyes, like an angel of God! However, the commanders of *the* Philistines have said, ‘He must not go up with us into the battle.’

10 So then, rise early in the morning, *you* and the servants of your lord who came with you. When you rise early in the morning and it is light *enough* for you, leave.

11 So David set out early, he and his men, to leave in the morning to return to the land of *the* Philistines, but *the* Philistines went up to Jezreel.

Men from Manasseh Desert Saul to Join David

1 Chr 12:19 And some Manassites deserted to David when he came with the Philistines to the battle against Saul, but he did not help them, for the rulers of the Philistines sent him away upon counsel, saying, “He will desert to his master Saul at *the cost of* our heads.”

20 When he went to Ziklag some Manassites deserted to him: Adnah, Jehozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, heads of the thousands that *were* for Manasseh.

21 And they themselves helped David against the troops, for all of them *were* mighty men of strength and were commanders in the army.

22 Day in and day out they came to David to help him until *there was* a great army, like the army of God.

Saul and the Medium of En-dor (c. 1010 BC)

1 Samuel 28:3–25

Saul Fears the Philistine Army

4 Then *the* Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem, so Saul assembled all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa.

5 When Saul saw the army of *the* Philistines, he was afraid and his heart trembled greatly.

6 And Saul inquired of Yahweh, but Yahweh did not answer him, not by dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets.

Saul Goes to the Medium at En-dor

3 (Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him, and they had buried him in Ramah, his *own* city. And Saul had expelled the mediums and the soothsayers from the land.)

7 So Saul said to his servants, “Search for me a woman who is a medium so that I may go to her and inquire of her.” His servants said to him, “Look *there is* a woman who *is* a medium in Endor.”

8 So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went with two of his men. And they came to the woman *by* night and he said, “Please consult a spirit for me through the ritual pit, and bring up for me *the one* whom I tell you.”

9 But the woman said to him, “Look, you know what Saul did, how he exterminated the mediums and the soothsayers from the land! *Why are* you setting a trap for my life to kill me?”

10 Then Saul swore to her by Yahweh, “As Yahweh lives, you will not be punished for this thing.”

11 So the woman asked, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” He said, “Bring up Samuel for me.”

Samuel Appears

12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice, and the woman said to Saul, “Why did you deceive me? You *are* Saul!”

13 The king said to her, “Do not be afraid! What do you see?” And the woman said to Saul, “I see a god coming up from the ground!”

14 Then he said to her, “What *is* his appearance?” She said, “An old man *is* coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe.” Then Saul realized that it was Samuel, and he knelt *with* his face to the ground and bowed down.

15 Then Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” And Saul said, “I am in distress! For *the* Philistines *are about* to make war against me, but God has turned away from me, and he does not answer me any more, not by the prophets or by the dreams. So I called to you to let me know what I should do.”

Samuel's Final Prophecy

16 Then Samuel said, "Why do you ask me, since Yahweh has turned away from you and has become your enemy?"

17 Yahweh has done to you just as he spoke by my hand! Yahweh has torn the kingdom from your hand and has given it to your neighbor, to David.

18 Because you did not obey Yahweh and did not carry out the fierce anger of his wrath against Amalek, therefore Yahweh has done this thing to you today.

19 And Yahweh will also give Israel with you into the hands of *the* Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons *will be* with me, and Yahweh will also give the army of Israel into *the* hand of *the* Philistines."

Saul Still Refuses to Repent

20 Then Saul immediately fell prostrate to the ground, and he was very afraid because of the words of Samuel; there was no more strength in him, for he had not eaten food all day and all night.

21 Then the woman came to Saul and realized that he was absolutely terrified, so she said to him, "Look, your female servant has obeyed you, and I have risked my life. I have listened to your words that you have spoken to me.

22 So then, you also please listen to the voice of your female servant, and let me set before you a morsel of bread, and *you* eat so that you will have strength in you when you go on your way."

23 But he refused and said, "I will not eat!" However, his servants urged him, and the woman also. So he listened to what they said, and he got up from the ground and sat on the bed.

24 Now the woman had a fattened bull calf in the house, so she quickly slaughtered it and took flour, kneaded *dough*, and baked him *some* unleavened bread.

25 She brought it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they got up and went away that *very* night.

Scripture quotations are from the [Lexham English Bible](#) (LEB). Copyright 2012 [Logos Bible Software](#). Lexham is a registered trademark of [Logos Bible Software](#).

Chronological Notes

1) The order of events surrounding Saul's death follows the arrangement suggested by Bergen.¹

¹ Robert D. Bergen, "1, 2 Samuel," *New American Commentary*, 285.