

1 Samuel 27:1-12 **David Allied with the Philistines**

David felt that the threat from the Philistines was less than the threat from Saul

1 And David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand."

2 Then David arose and went over with the six hundred men who were with him to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. 3 So David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's widow. 4 And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more.

5 Then David said to Achish, "If I have now found favor in your eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?" 6 So Achish gave him Ziklag that day. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day

David's raids from the land of the Philistines – One Year Four Months

7 Now the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was one full year and four months. 8 And David and his men went up and raided the **Geshurites**, the **Girzites**, and the **Amalekites**. For those nations were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt. 9 Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish.

10 Then Achish would say, "Where have you made a raid today?" And David would say, "Against the southern area of Judah, or against the southern area of the Jerahmeelites, or against the southern area of the Kenites."

11 David would save neither man nor woman alive, to bring news to Gath, saying, "Lest they should inform on us, saying, 'Thus David did.'" And thus was his behavior all the time he dwelt in the country of the Philistines.

12 So Achish believed David, saying, "He has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; therefore he will be my servant forever."

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Facts Revealed:

David felt that the threat from the Philistines was less than the threat from Saul [1 Samuel 27:1-6]

- ✧ David could not trust the word of Saul because of the evil spirit driving him so relentlessly.
- ✧ David felt safer with the Philistines because God had helped David so many times in the past against them.
- ✧ David, his men, and their families were all counted as fugitives from Saul.
- ✧ David reasoned that if they were in the land of the Philistines, Saul would despair of finding them to destroy them.
- ✧ The reasoning proved true, because after they took up residence in the land of the Philistines, Saul sought them no more.

- ✧ David took his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail the Carmelitess Nabal's widow, along with the six hundred men with him and their families and went to Achish king of Gath, the home town of Goliath whom David had killed.
- ✧ David asked Achish king of Gath for a place of refuge from Saul.
- ✧ Achish gave him Ziklag.
- ✧ This is the same Achish to whom David had fled seeking asylum when he first fled from Saul after he received food and the sword of Goliath from Ahimelech the priest. [1 Samuel 21:10-15]

David's raids from the land of the Philistines – One Year Four Months [1 Samuel 27:7-12]

- ✧ David and those with him were in the land of the Philistines one year and four months.
 - ✧ It was quite common for bands of armed men to support themselves by making raids on the inhabitants of the lands, so Achish asked David to keep him posted on their ventures.
 - ✧ David's raids were against the long time inhabitants of the land as far south as Egypt. The **Philistines** were the Giants Israel feared and their fear caused them to wander in the wilderness 40 years. [Numbers 13:31-33]
 - ✧ **Amalekites** were descendants of Esau living in the South of the land of Canaan near the border of Edom who became enemies of Israel because they had attacked Israel when Israel came out of Egypt to the mountain of God to Horeb in Rephidim. [Exodus 17:8-16]
 - ✧ The Geshurites and Girzites were ancient nomadic people of the south land between Philistia and Egypt west of the area of the Amalekites.
 - ✧ Whenever David and his men attacked the people of the land, they left neither man or woman alive to get word to Achish, and they took the sheep, oxen, donkeys, camels, and apparel and returned to Achish.
 - ✧ Achish would inquire where David and his men had made their raid, and David would say, "Against the southern area of Judah," or "against the southern area of the Jerahmeelites," or "against the southern area of the Kenites."
 - ✧ This was true because the territory was included in the inheritance of Judah, but the people were not of Israel.
 - ✧ Since no one was left alive, no one was there to inform Achish of whom David and his men actually attacked.
- ✧ Achish believed David, saying, "David has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; therefore he will be my servant forever."