

1 Samuel 29

King James Version (KJV)

29 Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek: and the Israelites pitched by a fountain which is in Jezreel. (Aphek = strength) (The fountain at Jezreel – AKA: Goliath's fountain; this is where Goliath died at the hands of David)

² And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands: but David and his men passed on in the rereward with Achish. (David marched behind the enemy as rear guard but he had no intention of fighting on their side)

³ Then said the princes of the Philistines, What do these Hebrews here? And Achish said unto the princes of the Philistines, Is not this David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, which hath been with me these days, or these years, and I have found no fault in him since he fell unto me unto this day? (David has Achish completely on his side. He believes that David has switched sides against Saul)

⁴ And the princes of the Philistines were wroth with him; and the princes of the Philistines said unto him, Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us: for wherewith should he reconcile himself unto his master? should it not be with the heads of these men? (They're not buying Achish's story. There were 5 kings for 5 major regions in the Philistine Empire. The other four kings don't want David around)

(This is common sense on the part of the Philistines. Never trust a traitor to be loyal to anyone. Of course, David was no traitor to Israel, but the Philistines don't know that)

⁵ Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands? (All true; David's reputation as a mighty warrior was well known)

⁶ Then Achish called David, and said unto him, Surely, as the LORD liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host is good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not. (the LORD = Yahoveh; Achish knows about Yahoveh)

(Achish has no idea that David has been raiding Philistine towns and taking their spoil all this time. Luckily for Achish, the other 4 kings want David gone)

⁷Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines. (God got David out of a bad situation)

(David might have been killed if he tried to defend Israel against the Philistines. God judged Israel to lose this battle because they had followed Saul all these years)

⁸And David said unto Achish, But what have I done? and what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been with thee unto this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king? (David is being ambiguous – he said “the king”, but he didn’t say which king. He was probably planning on turning against the Philistines during the battle. The other four Philistine kings were right about him)

⁹And Achish answered and said to David, I know that thou art good in my sight, as an angel of God: notwithstanding the princes of the Philistines have said, He shall not go up with us to the battle. (It was decided. David was out of the battle)

¹⁰Wherefore now rise up early in the morning with thy master's servants that are come with thee: and as soon as ye be up early in the morning, and have light, depart. (God used the Philistines to get David away from the coming battle. HE wanted David alive in order to rule Israel. God had already judged Israel. They would lose this battle)

(with thy master’s servants) see 1Chronicles-12:19-20

(A group of Mannasites joined David and his army of 600 to fight in this battle)

(These Mannasite men were traitors to Saul, but were they really? The people knew that God rejected Saul, yet they continued to follow him. These men weren’t traitors. They were willing to do what’s right and to join David)

¹¹So David and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.