

1 Samuel 27

King James Version (KJV)

27 And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand. (If David leaves Israel, Saul may just forget all about trying to kill him. David knows that he just can't keep on escaping one attempt after another)

²And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that were with him unto Achish, the son of Maoch, king of Gath. (Achish <a Philistine king> was an enemy of Saul)

³And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife. (The Philistines now believe that David is Saul's enemy, so they let him stay)

⁴And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him. (Finally, Saul stopped trying to murder David)

⁵And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?

⁶Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day. (It would be easier for David to operate independently; away from the king of Gath. Achish gave David the whole town)

(Ziklag had been a part of Simeon's inheritance when Israel entered the Promised Land. It had been lost to the Philistines over time. It is believed that the Philistines were invaders from Cyprus. They continually tried to expand their empire into what was Israel)

⁷And the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months.

⁸And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt. (The Amalakites were descendants of Esau. The other two were

allies to the Philistines. They all had been attacking Israel over the years)

⁹And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish. (He was retaking the land that Israel had lost over the years. He left no witnesses who could go to the Philistines for help)

¹⁰And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites. (Achish sees all the spoils that are now in David's possession. Pretending to be attacking Judah, David is making it up to feign an alliance with the Philistines. He had been actually attacking the allies of Achish)

¹¹And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines. (Survivors would have told Achish what David was doing)

¹²And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever. (Achish believed that David had become an enemy of Israel)