

David As Refugee Among Philistines

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What We Will Learn

- David took refuge in Philistine territory
- His host, Achish, king of Gath, trusted him
- Philistine commanders did not trust David
- Rejected him from Philistine battle frontline
- He pursued Amalekites that raided his base
- Community rights and responsibilities
- 1 Samuel 27, 29, and 30

David Settled in Ziklag As Refugee Among Philistines

- David sought lasting protection from Saul
- He took refuge with Achish, king of Gath
- Philistine territory
- Achish gave the town of Ziklag to David
- Settled with his 600 men and their families
- 1 Samuel 27:1–7

1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

1 But David thought to himself, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand."

2 So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maach king of Gath.

3 David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal.

4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.

1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

5 Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?"

6 So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since.

7 David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months.

David's Life in Ziklag

- David would raid other Israelite enemies
- Like Geshurites and Amalekites
- Concealed the raid from Achish
- Achish trusted David
- He expected David, an Israelite fugitive, would serve him for ever
- 1 Samuel 27:8–12

1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.)

9 Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish.

10 When Achish asked, "Where did you go raiding today?" David would say, "Against the Negev of Judah" or "Against the Negev of Jerahmeel" or "Against the Negev of the Kenites."

1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

11 He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, "They might inform on us and say, 'This is what David did.' " And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory.

12 Achish trusted David and said to himself, "He has become so odious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant forever."

David Rejected from Philistine Frontline

- David and his men joined Achish
- At Philistine frontline to battle Israel
- Philistine commanders rejected David
- Told Achish to release David and his men
- Achish regretted David had to leave
- Told David to return to Ziklag with his men
- 1 Samuel 29:1–11

1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

- 1 The Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, and Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel.
- 2 As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish.
- 3 The commanders of the Philistines asked, "What about these Hebrews?" Achish replied, "Is this not David, who was an officer of Saul king of Israel? He has already been with me for over a year, and from the day he left Saul until now, I have found no fault in him."
- 4 But the Philistine commanders were angry with him and said, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master's favor than by taking the heads of our own men?"

1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

5 Isn't this the David they sang about in their dances: " 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands'?"

6 So Achish called David and said to him, "As surely as the LORD lives, you have been reliable, and I would be pleased to have you serve with me in the army. From the day you came to me until now, I have found no fault in you, but the rulers don't approve of you.

7 Turn back and go in peace; do nothing to displease the Philistine rulers."

8 "But what have I done?" asked David. "What have you found against your servant from the day I came to you until now? Why can't I go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"

1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

9 Achish answered, "I know that you have been as pleasing in my eyes as an angel of God; nevertheless, the Philistine commanders have said, 'He must not go up with us into battle.'

10 Now get up early, along with your master's servants who have come with you, and leave in the morning as soon as it is light."

11 So David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

Amalekites Raided David's Base

- David and his men returned to Ziklag
- Amalekites had raided their base
- Took captive women, children, others
- While David was away with Philistines
- His base was burnt and plundered
- 1 Samuel 30:1–6

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

1 David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it,

2 and had taken captive the women and all who were in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.

3 When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.

4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.

5 David's two wives had been captured--Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

David Pursues the Amalekites

- David consulted with God
- To pursue the Amalekite raiders
- David and 400 men pursued them
- 200 men stayed back to guard the base
- David and his men got help from an abandoned servant of the Amalekites
- 1 Samuel 30:7–15

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him,

8 and David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?" "Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue."

9 David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Ravine, where some stayed behind,

10 for two hundred men were too exhausted to cross the ravine. But David and four hundred men continued the pursuit.

11 They found an Egyptian in a field and brought him to David. They gave him water to drink and food to eat—

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

12 part of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. He ate and was revived, for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights.

13 David asked him, "To whom do you belong, and where do you come from?" He said, "I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I became ill three days ago.

14 We raided the Negev of the Kerethites and the territory belonging to Judah and the Negev of Caleb. And we burned Ziklag."

15 David asked him, "Can you lead me down to this raiding party?" He answered, "Swear to me before God that you will not kill me or hand me over to my master, and I will take you down to them."

David Caught the Amalekites and Destroyed Them

- David caught the Amalekites celebrating
- He fought them for ~24 hours
- He destroyed them
- Recovered everything including people
- Took flocks and herds as plunder
- 1 Samuel 30:16–20

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

16 He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and reveling because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah.

17 David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled.

18 David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives.

19 Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back.

20 He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, "This is David's plunder."

Sharing Proceeds of Battle Among David and His People

- David needed to settle dispute on sharing battle proceeds
- 400 men went to battle
- 200 men stayed behind to guard base
- David ruled everybody deserved equal share of the proceed
- 1 Samuel 30:21–25

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. As David and his men approached, he greeted them.

22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go."

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

23 David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us.

24 Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike."

25 David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this.

Apostle Paul on Community Rights and Responsibility

- One body, many parts
- Every part has rights and responsibilities
- If one part suffers, every part suffers
- If one part is honored, every part rejoices
- Every part has a role and benefits from roles of other parts
- 1 Corinthians 12:14–31

Person As Part of Community

- God created every individual person as part of community
- Family is first community for every person
- A person's community expands
- Church, school, sports team
- Job-related organizations
- World community

Responsibilities and Equal Rights

- Everybody owes community responsibilities
- Understand your responsibilities
- Make your contributions in every situation
- Equal rights to everybody
- Rights are independent of responsibilities
- David's ruling on sharing battle proceeds
- Paul's message on "one body, many parts"