

Opportunity for Coercive Redirection
in Waiting for God
The King and the People Series

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1

What We Will Learn

- Circumstances beyond a person's control
- Compel him/her
- To abandon planned wrongdoing or other course of actions inimical to self interest
- God places insurmountable obstacle to compel person to change path
- David rejected from Philistine battlefield
- 1 Samuel 27, 28, and 29

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2

David Set to Fight Israel on Behalf of Philistines

- David accepted refuge in Philistine territory
- Hosted by king of Gath Achish
- Assigned country town Ziklag as his own
- David accepted invitation from Achish
- To join in setup for battle against Israel
- 1 Samuel 27:1–7
- 1 Samuel 28:1–2

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3

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 Maok king of Gath.

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4

1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

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.

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5

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.

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6

1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

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

- David lived in exile
- Beyond any reach of Saul
- Raided territory of Israel's enemies
- Concealed purpose of the raids from Achish
- Achish believed David would be his servant for life

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7

1 Samuel 28 (NIV)

1 In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, "You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army."

2 David said, "Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do."

Achish replied, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."

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8

Philistines Commanders Reject David as Partner

- Philistine commanders refused David and his men as partners against Israel
- Ordered Achish to send David back to Ziklag
- David redirected by coercion
- From intention to fight against Israel
- 1 Samuel 29:1-11

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9

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.

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10

1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

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."

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11

1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

4 But the Philistine commanders were angry with Achish 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?"

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12

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'?"

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13

1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

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 today, I have found no fault in you, but the rulers don't approve of you.

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

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14

1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

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?"

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.'

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15

1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

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.

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16

Redirected From Planned Actions Inimical to Self Interest

- Joining Philistines in battle against Israel
- Problem for David irrespective of outcome
 - Fight faithfully with Philistines to victory?
 - Fight faithfully with Philistines to defeat?
 - Turn against Philistines to defeat for Israel?
 - Turn against Philistines to victory for Israel?
- David saved by coercive redirection

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17

What We Learned

- God will provide opportunities for redirection
- When we stray from his path
- Intending to do something not "right and just"
- Redirection could be voluntary or coercive
- Rejection of David from Philistine lineup
- Illustrates coercive redirection
- God places insurmountable obstacle to compel person to change path

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18