

In our last lesson we were left on the edge of our seat at the end of 1 Samuel 28: How would David get out of his present predicament?

**28:1-2** [review]: David had been forced to become the bodyguard of Achish (King of the Philistines). We will not know how this will be resolved until chapter 29.

**28:4** gives us the information on where they were located; the Philistine army was camped in Shunem, while Saul's army was camped in Gilboa. (See map on the Battle of Mt. Gilboa in handout).

**29:1-2** The Philistine armies gathered in Aphek.

- "The lords of the Philistines" refers to the leaders of the "pentapolis" (5 Philistine cities) of Ashdod, Ekron, Ashkelon, Gaza, and Gath.
- David and his men now are in a dilemma: he has made a close alliance with the enemies of Israel.

**LESSON 1: Close ties with unbelievers always lead to trouble.**

**Shakespeare:** "He who would dine with the devil must use a long spoon"

Whenever believers become improperly associated with the ungodly, and try to blend in with them, trouble is the result.

Scriptural principle: **2 Cor 6:14-17**—"Do not be bound together with unbelievers."

**29:3-5** The objections of the Philistine commanders: they objected to the presence of David (a well-known warrior) and his men (Israelites). They did not trust David.

**29:6-10** The dialog between Achish & David: Achish is apologetic about the attitude of the other Philistine commanders. Note: Achish used the name Israel used for their God: "As the LORD lives...." Achish is gracious in his appeal to David and seems to want to do the right thing. David's response seems to show embarrassment for his behavior.

**LESSON 2: God sometimes uses unbelievers to shame us about our behavior.**

It is always embarrassing when a non-Christian behaves more righteously than a Christian. "Non-Christians who are nice people are the devil's best advertisement." Achish showed more kindness to David than he had shown to Achish.

**LESSON 3: God, in His mercy, bailed David out of trouble, instead of letting him suffer the consequences of his actions.**

**29:11** David arose early and returned to Ziklag, the place where he had been staying in the land of the Philistines.

### **Chapter 30—Out of the Frying Pan; Into the Fire**

David is possibly a bit cocky, having felt no consequences from his alliance with the Philistines.

**30:1-2** “the third day” indicates a three-day journey to return to Ziklag. David had been away a long time and had left the area and the families of his men unprotected. The families in Ziklag are referred to in **1 Sam 27:3**. The men who joined David’s group were there “with their households,” including children. These families had been taken captive and their homes burned.

**30:3-6a** The reaction to this horror: they cried out and wept, were distressed, and the men wanted to stone David, holding him responsible for what had happened.

**30:6b** “But David strengthened himself in the Lord **his** God.”

#### **HOW did he strengthen himself in the Lord?**

- **Ps 23:1**—“**The Lord is MY shepherd..**” David had a personal relationship with the Lord. Many people say they believe in God, but can they say, as Paul does, “the Son of God who loved **ME** and gave Himself for **ME**?” (Gal 2:20).
- **1 Sam 23:16**—Jonathan went to David and “**strengthened his hand in God.**” Jonathan told David, “Do not be afraid” and reminded him of the promises of God that David would be king.
- **Andrew Bonar** on Oct 15, 1864, wrote in his diary of the grief of losing his wife Isabella to complications of childbirth. Earlier that day he had been meditating on **Nahum 1:7**—“The Lord is good; a stronghold in the day of trouble and He knows those who take refuge in Him.” Later he wrote, “Little did I think how I would need it half an hour after.”
- **Psalm 86—A prayer of David and an appeal to God for the encouragement he needed:**
  - verse 1: “I am needy.”
  - verse 4: “Make me glad.” = God, cheer me up!
  - verse 5: “You, Lord, are ready to forgive.” = David needed forgiveness.
  - verse 11: “Teach me.” = He looked to the Lord for direction. “Unite my heart.” = He recognizes that he has a divided heart.
  - verse 16: “Grant strength to thy servant.”
- **Psalm 94:9**—“He who formed the eye, will He not see?”
- **30:7-8**—**David also sought the will of God by means of the ephod.**

**LESSON 4: Learn to strengthen yourself in the Lord.**

**30:9-19** David and 600 men pursue, catch up with, and defeat the Amalekites; and only 400 escape on camels. Who were these 600 men with David now?

**1 Chron 12** lists all the men who defected to David at Ziklag and Hebron. These men later became the chief warriors in his army when David became king.

**30:20-25** We learn the principle of share and share alike. 200 of David's men had not accompanied the others on this raid, but they still were rewarded. We also see David's great wisdom in handling people and his mercy toward those too weak to go on in battle. The support people are as important as those who go out to battle.

**30:26-31** David generously distributes gifts brought back from battle. We also see leadership and wisdom.

**31:1-6** Tells us about the death of Saul and his sons in fulfillment of the prophecy in 1 Samuel 28:19. After the Philistines found Saul's body, they displayed it in triumph and then fastened his head in the temple of Dagon (1 Chron 10:10). We are told why Saul died in **1 Chron 10:13-14**—"So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the Lord, because of the word of the Lord which he did not keep; and also because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry, and did not inquire of the Lord. Therefore, He [God] killed him and turned the kingdom to David, the son of Jesse."

#### **LESSON 5: The lessons from the life of Saul:**

1. Partial obedience is unacceptable to God.
2. Jealousy can lead to terrible things.
3. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways (James 1:8).
4. God's anger toward those who dabble in the occult.

**Deut 18:10-11** "There shall not be found among you anyone who . . . uses divination, who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord."