Lesson 30 1 Sam Chap 27:1-12

**1 Samuel 27:1-12 (NASB)**
1  Then David said to himself, "Now I will perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape into the land of the Philistines. Saul then will despair of searching for me anymore in all the territory of Israel, and I will escape from his hand."
2  So David arose and crossed over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maoch, king of Gath.
3  And David lived with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each with his household, *even* David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's widow.
4  Now it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath, so he no longer searched for him.
5  Then David said to Achish, "If now I have found favor in your sight, let them give me a place in one of the cities in the country, that I may live there; for why should your servant live in the royal city with you?"
6  So Achish gave him Ziklag that day; therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day.
7  The number of days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months.
8  Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites and the Girzites and the Amalekites; for they were the inhabitants of the land from ancient times, as you come to Shur even as far as the land of Egypt.
9  David attacked the land and did not leave a man or a woman alive, and he took away the sheep, the cattle, the donkeys, the camels, and the clothing. Then he returned and came to Achish.
10  Now Achish said, "Where have you made a raid today?" And David said, "Against the Negev of Judah and against the Negev of the Jerahmeelites and against the Negev of the Kenites."
11  David did not leave a man or a woman alive to bring to Gath, saying, "Otherwise they will tell about us, saying, 'So has David done and so *has been* his practice all the time he has lived in the country of the Philistines.'"
12  So Achish believed David, saying, "He has surely made himself odious among his people Israel; therefore he will become my servant forever."

**D. Saul's death (**[**chaps. 27-31**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27-31)**)**

**1. David at Ziklag (**[**Chap. 27**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27)**)**

[Chapter 27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27). Though **Saul** at long last had decided that further pursuit of **David** was fruitless because the Lord had ordained him for the throne, **David** did not know this. **So** he reluctantly **left** Judah to find refuge among **the Philistines** ([v. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A1)). This move accomplished two important objectives: (a) it delivered him from any possible danger from Saul, and (b) it ingratiated him with the Philistines so he had no further need to fear them. No less important, this 16-month ([v. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A7)) respite (from the time of his Philistine sojourn until the death of **Saul**) gave him opportunity to develop even further his combat and leadership skills. He needed this time to stabilize himself in view of what he knew must be the soon end of Saul's dynasty and the beginning of his own.

So after many years of running from Saul, **David** finally led his immediate **family** (**his two wives,** [v. 3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A3), **Ahinoam of Jezreel** [cf. [25:43](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+25%3A43)] **and Abigail of Carmel** [cf. [25:42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+25%3A42)]) and **600** followers ([27:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A2); cf. [23:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A13); [30:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+30%3A9); [2 Sam. 15:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+15%3A18)) to **Gath** and threw himself on the mercy of **Achish,** a Philistine ruler. **David** had tried this before ([1 Sam. 21:10-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+21%3A10-15)), but that was early in the period of his estrangement from Saul. At that time **David** was feared by **Achish** and barely escaped with his life. But now it was clear to all that **David** was Saul's mortal enemy and that David could even be useful to the Philistines in their ongoing struggle with Israel. A relationship of lord and vassal was undertaken then between **Achish** and **David** ([27:5-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A5-6)). According to the terms of the covenant they made, David pledged loyalty to Achish in return for a fiefdom. This **Achish** granted in the town of **Ziklag,** a small settlement on the southern frontier of Philistia between Gaza and Beersheba.

This remained David's headquarters for over **a year,** until the death of Saul and David's subsequent move to Hebron ([v. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A7); [2 Sam. 1:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+1%3A1-2)). From there he carried out pillaging raids against various desert peoples, including **the Geshurites** (a tribe bordering the Philistines on the south, [Josh. 13:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+13%3A2)), **the Girzites** (an otherwise unknown people living between the Philistines and Egypt), **and the Amalekites** ([1 Sam. 27:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A8)), killing the people and looting all their livestock and other goods ([v. 9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A9)). These raids were in the region of the modern Gaza strip, toward the Desert of **Shur,** east of the present Suez Canal ([v. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A8)). But **David** reported to **Achish** that his attacks were against his own tribe **Judah,** or **Jerahmeel,** or **the Kenites,** fabrications which endeared him all the more to the Philistines and persuaded them that he was a true and loyal subject ([v. 12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A12)).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**Open it**

1. How strong is the bond that comes from having a common enemy?
 **Very, enemy of my enemy is my friend**

2. What sorts of attitudes or behavior in another person inspire you to trust him or her?
 **Common sense, doing what they say, never do wrong to anyone**

**Explore it**

3. Why did David feel it necessary to protect himself from Saul? ([27:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A1))
 **He was sure Saul would kill him**

4. Where did David and his men settle when they left Israel? ([27:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A2-3))
 **At Cath with King Achish**

5. What was Saul’s response when he heard that David had left the country? ([27:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A4))
 **He stopped hunting him**

6. What request did David make of Achish, king of Gath? ([27:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A5))
 **He asked for a city to live in**

7. What city was given to David as a gift by Achish? ([27:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A6))
 **the town of Ziklag**

8. How long did David live in Philistine territory? ([27:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A7))
 **16 months**

9. How did David conduct his raids from Philistine territory? ([27:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A8-9))
 **the Geshurites and the Girzites and the Amalekites; for they were the inhabitants of the land from ancient times**

10. With what impression was Achish left concerning David’s raids? ([27:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A10))
 **That he was raiding Israel not the others**

11. What was David’s reason for killing all the people wherever he raided? ([27:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A11))
 **No one to tell the tale**

12. What was Achish’s primary reason for trusting David? ([27:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A12))
 **He thought that David was becoming a bad person in Israel’s eyes from what he was told about the raids**

**Get it**

13. Why did David want to create the impression in Gath that he was raiding Israelite territory?
 **To build trust and get support**

14. What is the place of strategy and cunning in the life of the believer?
 **Knowing how the enemy works so you can fight them back**

15. To what extent should we avoid appearing to be a traitor?
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**Apply it**

16. How might you use your God-given intelligence to solve a dilemma facing you this week?
 **Think and pray then work it out**

17. What could you keep in a prominent place to remind yourself that your loyalty to God transcends all others?
 **Jesus**