**Lesson 32**

**1 Samuel 29:1-11 (NASB)**
1  Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek, while the Israelites were camping by the spring which is in Jezreel.
2  And the lords of the Philistines were proceeding on by hundreds and by thousands, and David and his men were proceeding on in the rear with Achish.
3  Then the commanders of the Philistines said, "What *are* these Hebrews *doing here?*" And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, "Is this not David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or *rather* these years, and I have found no fault in him from the day he deserted *to me* to this day?"
4  But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him, and the commanders of the Philistines said to him, "Make the man go back, that he may return to his place where you have assigned him, and do not let him go down to battle with us, or in the battle he may become an adversary to us. For with what could this *man* make himself acceptable to his lord? *Would it* not *be* with the heads of these men?
5  "Is this not David, of whom they sing in the dances, saying, 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands'?"
6  Then Achish called David and said to him, "*As* the LORD lives, you *have been* upright, and your going out and your coming in with me in the army are pleasing in my sight; for I have not found evil in you from the day of your coming to me to this day. Nevertheless, you are not pleasing in the sight of the lords.
7  "Now therefore return and go in peace, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines."
8  David said to Achish, "But what have I done? And what have you found in your servant from the day when I came before you to this day, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"
9  But Achish replied to David, "I know that you are pleasing in my sight, like an angel of God; nevertheless the commanders of the Philistines have said, 'He must not go up with us to the battle.'
10  "Now then arise early in the morning with the servants of your lord who have come with you, and as soon as you have arisen early in the morning and have light, depart."
11  So David arose early, he and his men, to depart in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

**3. David's Return to Ziklag (**[**Chaps. 29-30**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29-30)**)**

**a. David's dilemma (**[**chap. 29**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29)**)**

[Chapter 29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29). On the eve of the battle **the Philistines** had rendezvoused **at Aphek,** precisely where they had defeated Israel and captured the ark about 90 years earlier ([4:10-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+4%3A10-11)). **Israel** took up positions **by the spring in Jezreel,** on the flank of Mount Gilboa, some 40 miles northeast of Aphek. Among the troops of **Achish,** lord of Gath, were **David and his men.** Though **Achish** had implicit confidence in **David** ([29:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A3)) and argued with the other leaders that he should be allowed to fight against **Saul,** he was outvoted ([vv. 6-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A6-7), [9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A9)). Understandably the other **commanders** feared that in the heat of **battle** David would defect to Israel ([v. 4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A4)). **David,** offering a feeble protest ([v. 8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A8)) but obviously greatly relieved, was discharged and returned to Ziklag.

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

**Open it**

1. How strong does ethnic and family loyalty tend to be when one group feels attacked by another? Why?
 **Very, Blood is thicker than water and family is to be protected**

2. If you were a military commander, what qualities would you look for in an ally?
 **Strong, true, able to do as told, able to think**

**Explore it**

3. What forces were gathering for battle? ([29:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A1))
 **The Philistine armies**

4. Where did David and his men find themselves as the Philistines lined up against Israel? ([29:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A2))
 **Back of the line**

5. What was the primary basis for the suspicions against David? ([29:2-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A2-3))
 **He was still an Israelite and may turn on us**

6. On what basis did Achish defend David’s presence in the fighting force? ([29:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A3))
 **David had done no wrong in the Kings Eyes**

7. How did the Philistine commanders feel toward Achish? ([29:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A4))
 **They were angry with him fearing David would turn on the Philistines**

8. What was the fear of the other commanders about David’s presence at the front? ([29:4-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A4-5))
 **That David would kill them to appease Saul, Saul had killed hundreds and David killed thousands**

9. How did Achish frame his first request that David return home? ([29:6-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A6-7))
 **That David had done no wrong to the King yet the others were afraid of what David would/could do. Go home in peace.**

10. How did David respond to Achish’s request that he leave the front? ([29:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A8))
 **But what have I done? And what have you found in your servant from the day when I came before you to this day, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?**

11. What was Achish’s final decision about David’s involvement in the battle? ([29:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A9-10))
 **I know that you are pleasing in my sight, like an angel of God; nevertheless the commanders of the Philistines have said, 'He must not go up with us to the battle**

12. Where did David and his men go? When? ([29:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+29%3A11))
 **They went home as told in the morning**

**Get it**

13. Why didn’t David’s presence among their troops make sense to the Philistine generals?
 **Here is one of our enemies among us, he may turn and kill us instead to regain his standing with Saul**

14. Why didn’t David’s presence among their troops make sense to the Philistine generals?
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15. How is it possible to see God’s providence at work when we are rejected by others?
 **He may be protecting us in ways we cannot see**

**Apply it**

16. How do you see God’s hand at work in the decisions of the people above you in the chain of command?
 **As God says so we should do**

17. How can you improve your judgment of the character of other people?
 **Watch and see how and what they do**