

1 Samuel 27 - 31
David Among the Philistines
Lesson 9

Through his own cunning and the Lord's help, David had a second opportunity to kill King Saul. David took Saul's spear and water jug. Then, when he was a safe distance away, he called out asking why Saul kept hunting David like an animal. He showed the king his spear and jug proving that David would never harm God's anointed. Realizing how close to death he had come, Saul confessed his sin and asked David to come back.

David Goes to Gath - 27:1-12

1. Did David trust Saul's confession and plea to come back? (vs. 1a)
2. What was David's next plan? (vs. 1b)
3. Why did he think that would be a safe location? (vs. 1c)
4. David, his army and their families went to King Achish at the Philistine city of Gath and asked for asylum. Did this plan work with Saul? (vs. 4)
5. What else did David ask from Achish? (vs. 5)
6. What was Achish's answer? (vs. 6)
7. How long did David remain in Philistine territory? (vs. 7)
8. What did David do during that time? (vs. 8-11)
9. What did Achish think of David? (vs. 12-13)

King Achish and David - 18:1-2

10. While David was in Philistine territory, the Philistines planned to attack Israel.
Using vs. 1,2:
 - What did Achish expect from David?

- What was David's answer?
- If all went as Achish hoped for, what was his plan for David?

Saul and the Witch of Endor - 28:4 - 25

A background reminder that Samuel, Israel's true prophet of the Lord, was dead and that, prior to his death, Saul had expelled all mediums and spiritists from Israel.

11. With the Philistines camped at Shumen and the Israelites at Gilboa, what was Saul's reaction when he saw the vast Philistine army? (vs. 5)
12. How did Saul seek divine help? (vs. 6- 7)
13. Saul disguised himself, then went to a medium (witch), asking her to "consult a spirit" for him. What was the woman's answer? (vs. 9)
14. How did Saul assure her she would be safe? (vs. 10)
 - What do you think about Saul's oath, especially in light of verse six?
15. Whose spirit did Saul want called up? (vs. 11)
16. The woman did as Saul requested, but as soon as he appeared, her eyes were opened and she recognized the king. Of what did she accuse Saul? (vs. 12)
17. After being assured of her safety a second time, she described the spirit as an old man wearing a robe. What did the king do? (vs. 14)
18. What was Saul's confession when Samuel asked why he had been disturbed? (vs. 15)
 - How many times did Saul use the word "I" or "me" in this conversation?

19. Using 1 Samuel 28:16 and 17, what was Samuel's answer to Saul about the Lord?
The Lord has _____ from you and become _____.
The Lord has done what He _____.
The Lord has _____ the kingdom _____.
The Lord has given it to one of your neighbors, to _____.
20. Samuel continued by giving God's reason. It is because you _____ the Lord or carry out His fierce wrath against the _____. (vs. 18)
21. What did Samuel tell Saul would happen to: (vs. 19)
- Saul and the Israelite army
 - Saul and his sons
22. How did Saul react to this news? (vs. 20)
23. Who tried to comfort Saul? (vs. 21-25)

Achish Defends David - 29:1-11

24. As the Philistines marched to battle, David and his men were at the rear of the Philistine army. Who complained? (vs. 3a)
25. Achish defended David by saying that he had been with him for over a year and, "I have found _____." (vs. 3)
26. What was the response of the other leaders to Achish? (vs. 4-5)
- Their attitude was one of _____ at Achish.
They told Achish to _____ the man _____.
Their reason was that David will _____.
27. When he spoke to David, whose name did Achish evoke? (vs. 6a)

28. Achish told David that even though he found no fault in him, the other Philistine leaders didn't approve. What did he ask David to do? (vs. 7)
29. What was David's surprising answer? (vs. 8)
30. Achish said David had been "as pleasing in my eyes as an _____." (vs. 9)
Then he sent David back to the land of the Philistines while he continued on to fight against Israel.

David and the Amalekites - 30:1-30

31. It took David's army three days to get from the battlefield back to Ziklag. When they arrived home, what did they discover about: (vs. 1-3)
- The city:
 - Their families:
32. What was their first reaction? (vs. 4)
33. Why was David "greatly distressed?" (vs. 6a)
- Where did David find strength? (vs. 6b)
34. David called for Abiathar the priest and asked him to inquire of the Lord. What did the Lord indicate David should do? (vs. 8)
35. David and his army headed out. But after going a short way, why did 200 men choose to remain behind? (vs. 9, 10)
36. How was David able to locate the enemy? (vs. 11-15)
37. What was the condition of the enemy when David's army arrived? (vs. 16)

38. David's men fought all day, killing all but "400 Amalekites who escaped on camels." Why do you think that detail was included? (See also vs. 28:18)
39. What "miracle" did the Lord give to David in this battle? (vs. 18-19)
40. In addition, the plunder the Amalekites had taken in the Negev now belonged to David. Rather than joy, what trouble did the plunder bring? (vs. 21-22)
41. David reminded his men the victory was the Lord's, not theirs. What "decree" did he make that day? (vs. 23-25)
42. After sharing with his men, what did David do with the remainder of the plunder? (vs. 26 and 31)

The King's Death - 31:1-13

43. How did the battle go between Israel and the Philistines? (vs. 1)
44. What happened to Saul's sons? (vs. 2)
45. A Philistine archer shot Saul, but he was not killed. What did Saul request of his armor-bearer? (vs. 4a)
- Why didn't the armor-bearer obey? (vs. 4b)
46. How did it end for: (vs. 4c & 4d)
- Saul:
 - The armor-bearer:

47. When news of Saul's death and Israel's defeat reached the Jordan Valley, the people fled leaving the towns open for Philistine occupation. What happened when the Philistines started searching the dead bodies? (vs. 8-10)
48. Who rescued Saul's body so it would not be dishonored? (vs. 11-13)
- The people fasted (mourned) for Saul _____ days.