

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James

February 5, 2026

David has had the opportunity twice to end the life of King Saul and out of respect for God and the Anointed King, David has deferred to God. David has been on the run for some time with about 400-600 men. The pressure is exhausting to always have to be on the move and always wondering if today is the last day of your life. David reaches a breaking point here and decides to leave Israel and live in exile in Philistine trusting in God's protection and lighting his path.

1 Samuel 27

David and the Philistines

1And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: *there is* nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

Psalms 56:3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

2And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that *were* with him unto Achish, the son of Maach, king of Gath.

<https://ibiblemaps.com/kingdom-saul/>



We are not told as to whether the families of David's men had lived with them in the wilderness, but most likely not. It was a hard life. Likely most of his men did what David did with his parents and family and put them in the care of the King of Moab; 1 Samuel 22.

Going to the King of Ashish was a bit of a reversal from previous encounters; 1 Samuel 21. At that meeting it was apparent that Ashish would side with Saul so David acted as if he was crazy and the King Ashish threw David out of his country.

Now David appears with 600 battle hardened men to see if Achish would behave differently toward him. Most likely God intervened in King Ashish's heart and mind and had him look favorable upon a previous enemy, David. Achish welcomed David into his Capital city at Gath. Not only David but his men and their families. David relies on God and God does not relent.

Psalms 56:8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?

3And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife.

Ahinoam was from Jezreel in northern Israel and David had met and married her while fleeing Saul. Saul also had a wife of the

same name, but most scholars do not believe them to be the same. She is mentioned here first as likely the prominent wife of David. She was married to David after Saul gave David's first wife Michael to another man while pursuing David.

Abigail was of course the woman who brought an appeasement to David when he and his men were on route to kill her husband Nabal and his workers for a political slight done to David. Shortly after Nabal died of a heart attack and David took Abigail as his wife.

4And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him.

David's plan worked that by leaving the land that Israel's King Saul had lost control of would no longer pursue him, giving him and his men rest or one would think they would want rest from war. The challenge was that this part of Israel was now in the control of the Philistines.

5And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee? **6**Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day. **7**And the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months.

Ziklag has been given several meanings; from Abarim Publications it is stated this way.

“The name Ziklag: Summary

Meaning

A Pint Of Liquid Metal

Etymology

From (1) the verb צוק (suq), to smelt copper, and (2) the noun לג (log), a pint.”

From a “Word in Season”

***NOTE:** *Ziklag: Scholars have identified two separate roots of the form*

1: The verb צוק (suq I) denotes pressing someone (mentally) in order to bring out what’s kept inside. Thus enemies press the cities they besiege to surrender (Deuteronomy 28:53-57, Isaiah 51:13, Jeremiah 19:9). The Timnite pressed Samson for the answer to his riddle (Judges 14:17), and Delilah for the secret of his strength (16:16).

2: The verb צוק (suq II) also denotes the bringing forth of something contained internally, which is done either by applying pressure or by smelting. From rock, copper is smelted (Job 28:2), but rocks poured/squeeze out streams of oil (Job 29:6). Likewise, Isaiah observes that in their distress (from צרר, sarar) the people of Israel visited YHWH and poured/squeezed out a whisper (Isaiah 26:16).

As we continue through the remainder of 1 Sameul we will see that the city of Ziklag will be used to pressure David, through

many trials including total destruction of the city and kidnapping of the entire inhabitants.

We are not told why the King suggested Ziklag, but most likely God put it on the heart of King Achish because it was part of the Promised land of Israel. As stated, it would from this time on be back under control of Israel.

Interesting if you look at the map today you will see that Ziklag was adjacent about 15 miles to Gaza which is now known as the Gaza strip where such heart ache has reached Israel and those living under the oppression of the so-called Palestinian Authority.

31°23'24"N, 34°40'48"E

8And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those *nations* were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt.

A little background on these three named cultures. Geshurites lived in Geshur also called Gezrites which is today's Golan Heights. Joshua when first entering the Promised Land was unable to completely remove them from the land so they had a culture of their own. The following is a quote from "Got Questions".

“During the reign of [King David](#), the Geshurites existed as an independent kingdom alongside Israel. David conducted raids into their territory while he was hiding from Saul in Ziklag ([1 Samuel 27:6–8](#)). After becoming king, David married Maakah, a Geshuri princess and [Absalom’s](#) mother ([2 Samuel 3:3](#)). When Absalom killed his half-brother Amnon, he absconded to Geshur where he stayed for three years with his maternal grandfather ([2 Samuel 13:37–38](#)).”

The “**Geshurites, and the Gezrites**” were one in the same.

David when he attacked them destroyed everything they had and killed off the inhabitants in the way God had told other leaders of Israel to do but they had failed. As we are told David eventually marries one of the princesses from this none Hebrew nation.

9And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish.

David was selecting nations that had either been on the Promised Land before Israel arrived or had invaded and taken some of the land. In either case they were sitting on God promised land to Israel and were to be eradicated. Achish was under the impression that David was attacking cities in Israel that were occupied by Israelis. We are told that David killed all living humans so no one could tell Achish what had happened and to whom.

10And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites.

Both the tribes of Jerahmeelites and Kenites had loose connection to Israel but were often at odds with Israel even though they lived within Judah primarily.

11And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring *tidings* to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so *will be* his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines. 12And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.

By attacking within Israel, the King of Gath was under the impression that David was attacking his own people. This was done by David to deceive his host. The King was convinced that David was now loyal to him and causing wrath from Israel directed at David.

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Note on the name Ziklag

An anti-Christian publication posted this in opposition to a group of wealthy Christians that seek to bring America back under God's Word.

<https://www.propublica.org/article/inside-ziklag-secret-christian-charity-2024-election>