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March 1, 2026

Strang things by appearance but no doubt at the hand of God. David and his men are removed from this battle against Israel that will see King Saul and David's closest friend Jonathan the son of King Saul killed in battle.

## 1 Samuel 29

**1** Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek: and the Israelites pitched by a fountain which *is* in Jezreel. **2** And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands: but David and his men passed on in the rereward with Achish.

This description of the "Israelites pitched" and the "Philistines passed on by hundreds and by thousands" is meant to convey two completely different armies and their discipline and readiness. In the case of the Israelites, they show up to the field of battle and set up their tents. Unlike the army of the Philistines, they arrive marching in columns and files, by hundreds, squads, platoons, companies and battalions. Thousands ready for battle. The Israelites are in chaos due to their failed leadership.

This is what I see as the difference between the Philistines and Israel at this battle. One army, battle hardened and aggressive in

their nature the Philistines. The other, Israel, trembling in fear at the size and precision of their enemy. Israel not having God as their banner and protection but a King who has turned on God.

**3**Then said the princes of the Philistines, *What do these Hebrews here? And Achish said unto the princes of the Philistines, Is not this David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, which hath been with me these days, or these years, and I have found no fault in him since he fell unto me unto this day?*

The military leaders within the Philistine Army sees David a sworn enemy to most of these leaders marching with Achish. They at once challenge Achish as to having David with them as they prepare for battle. Achish tries to defend his decision by pointing out his personal experience with David, but to no avail. The past wars are too recent and deadly in the eyes of the other Philistines when it comes to David.

**4**And the princes of the Philistines were wroth with him; and the princes of the Philistines said unto him, *Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us: for wherewith should he reconcile himself unto his master? should it not be with the heads of these men?*

The heads of these military Philistines were leery of David as they had seen and heard of many things he had done, not the least of which was David killed Goliath in battle.

**5 /Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands?**

There were few secrets in this time. There were always spies and those who would betray their own in order to gain favor or monetary gain.

**6 Then Achish called David, and said unto him, Surely, as the LORD liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host *is* good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not.**

David is not what he seemed to King Achish. As we saw in earlier chapters David would raid non-Israeli cities in Israel and kill everyone in them so none could tell what happened. Achish thought David was raiding Israeli cities all the time.

**7 Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines.**

Undoubtedly the hand of God to remove David from the battle that would kill the very King and his son that David had always loved and respected.

**8 And David said unto Achish, But what have I done? and what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been with thee unto this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king? 9 And**

**Achish answered and said to David, I know that thou *art* good in my sight, as an angel of God: notwithstanding the princes of the Philistines have said, He shall not go up with us to the battle.**

A rare choice of words by King Achish. Achish saw David as something special and David did not hide his allegiance to the God of Israel. So, when Achish describes David, he describes him as “an angel of God”. This word God is translated as Elohim.

From Strong's Concordance

**Transliteration:** elohiym

**Pronunciation:** eh-lo-HEEM

**Phonetic Spelling:** (el-o-heem')

**KJV:** angels, X exceeding, God (gods)(-dess, -ly), X (very) great, judges, X mighty

**10Wherefore now rise up early in the morning with thy master's servants that are come with thee: and as soon as ye be up early in the morning, and have light, depart. 11So David and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.**

Whether David sensed what was to happen or he simply responded in obedience to his friend and King Achish, David left the battle field.

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