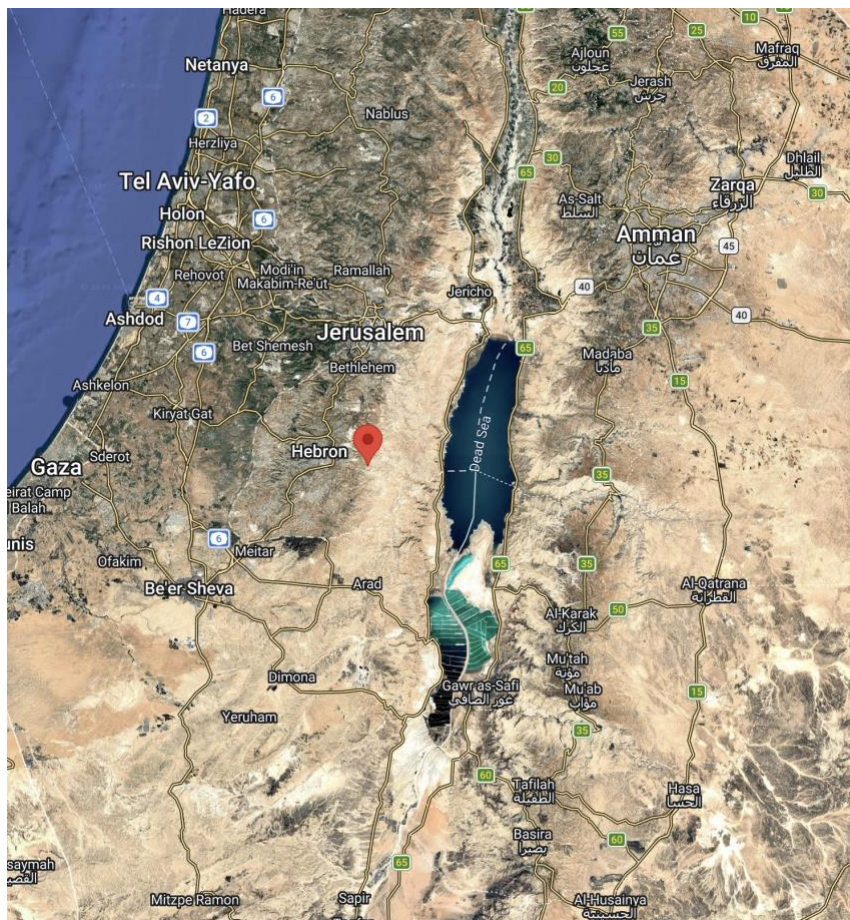


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1 Samuel 26

David Again Spares Saul

There are those human beings and nations that will always kowtow to who they perceive as the ultimate victor in any given conflict. The Ziphites are in that category and seem to continually side with King Saul over David. Once again, they reach out to Saul and tell him that David is in their area.



1And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying,
Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, *which*
is before Jeshimon?

This information is quite specific as to David's location. This mountain sits on the edge of the wilderness going south. Even though a location was fairly specific the canyons and valleys gave David many avenues of escape.

David later wrote Psalms 54 as his seek God's protection from Saul and the Ziphites.

*"Psalm 54 1 Save me, O God, by Your name,
and vindicate me by Your might!*

*2Hear my prayer, O God;
listen to the words of my mouth.*

*3For strangers rise up against me,
and ruthless men seek my life—
men with no regard for God.*

Selah

*4Surely God is my helper;
the Lord is the sustainer of my soul.*

*5He will reward my enemies with evil.
In Your faithfulness, destroy them.*

*6Freely I will sacrifice to You;
I will praise Your name, O LORD, for it is good.*

*7For He has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes."*

2Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.


In today's military jargon 3,000 men would be a Brigade or Regiment, which contains 3 Battalions or around 1,000 soldiers.

This size unit in today's military would be commanded by a One Star Brigadier General or Full Bird Colonel. Even in today's military it is no small matter to move an entire Brigade so you can Imagin the effort to move one in this day of King Saul.

A GUIDE TO
U.S. ARMY UNITS

Field Army <small>Last use: Desert Storm 1991</small>	50K+ SOLDIERS	Commanded By: ★★★★★ GENERAL
Corps	2+ DIVISIONS <small>20 - 45K Soldiers</small>	Commanded By: ★★★ LIEUTENANT GENERAL
Division	3 BRIGADES <small>10 - 15K Soldiers</small>	Commanded By: ★★ MAJOR GENERAL
Brigade OR Regiment	3-5 BATTALIONS <small>2 - 5K Soldiers</small>	Commanded By: ★ OR ★ BRIGADIER GENERAL OR COLONEL
Battalion	3-5 COMPANIES <small>100 - 1K Soldiers</small>	Commanded By: ★ LIEUTENANT COLONEL
Company OR Battery OR Troop	3-4 PLATOONS <small>60 - 200 Soldiers</small>	Commanded By: OR OR ★ CAPTAIN OR FIRST LIEUTENANT OR MAJOR
Platoon	3-4 SQUADS <small>18-50 Soldiers</small>	Commanded By: SECOND LIEUTENANT
Squad	6-10 SOLDIERS	Commanded By: ≡ SERGEANT

THE VIETNAM WAR
A FILM BY KEN BURNS & LYNN NOVICK

THIRTEEN 

3And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah,
which *is* before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode

in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

This hill was a demarcation point of entering the wilderness of Jeshimon. Saul stayed just out of the wilderness proper. 3000 men moving is not easy to conceal and so David's watchmen of course saw this huge advance and saw where they camped and reported it to David.

4David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed.

Common military practice would be to send out spies or intelligence gathers to know where your enemy is, their troop strength and any obvious weak points of vulnerability. Also try to ascertain their specific intention or military battle plans.

5And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched: and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him.

From David's intelligence spies they determined where the command structure was residing. Abner was with Saul in what is referred to as a trench. Abner is the son of Ner who was Saul's Army Captain, or similar to our Secretary of War today.

This trench is likely a depression in the ground that would hide one form obvious oversight. Saul would likely be in the center of his army with guards posted on all sides to repel and or alert the entire army of an enemy advance.

All of these soldiers had just finished a forced march from near Hebron to this area, likely encountering many small valleys and canyons that they had to cross. So, they were all tired, even those who now stood guard posts.

In today's military sleeping at a guard post is a very serious violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and would result in an immediate court martial and likely detention.

6Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.

The mention of "Ahimelech the Hittite" tells us that there were non Jews who were drawn to David as their leader. This idea is also referenced in 1 Chronicles.

1 Chronicles 12: 8And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains;

Others present on this observation foray included Abishai who we will learn more about in 2 Samuel 2:18. Even though there was strife within Israel Abishai was a loyal friend and warrior companion to David.

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

With close friends in the military all the leader has to ask is “who is with me?”, and usually a chorus of voices respond. In this case it was Abishai who at once volunteered.

Psalms 20:11 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Saul trusted in his huge army to protect him, while David relied on the Lord God for his protection.

7So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.

The peaceful sleep of a tyrant ruled by a demon. David and Abishai were able to sneak completely through the army encampment arrayed specifically to protect the King. Saul lay on asleep with his spear trust into the ground near his “bolster” means “near his head”. And there were more soldiers laying all around Saul as more concentric circle of defense of the King.

8 Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not *smite* him the second time.

Abishai wants to end this here and now. He declares to David that God has lain Saul at his feet and the he Abishai will kill Saul with one trust of Saul's own spear. The term today is "one shot one kill".

9 And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

David the anointed King once again can speed up his ascension to the throne by simply killing the existing King Saul who is trying to kill David.

David walks the walk and not just talks the talk. David is convinced that God puts kings in place and removes them, and David has not been told by God to end Saul's life thus elevating David to King. David is satisfied in walking with God in His timing and in His Will as we should strive to do.

Perhaps the most important thing to a Believer is seeking the Will of God in all we do. If it is not in God's Will and we force the issue, expect catastrophe.

10David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.

David states God's alternatives without David's help. Either Saul will die in a manner God chooses by God's own hand, or Saul will die of old age, or Saul will die in battle. All of that is left up to God and Him alone.

11The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that *is* at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

David picks two things that have significance to the King. His spear was a sign of his power, and his water was a sign of survival. David took those instead of stretching out his hand to physically harm the King.

12So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw *it*, nor knew *it*, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.

This verse specifically lays the sleeping soldiers in the hands of the Living God that He caused a deep sleep to fall upon them all. David came to accomplish yet another sign of his benign intent toward King Saul.

David Reproves Abner

13Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space *being* between them:

It is always a good idea to put a bit of distance between yourself and the rattle snake before you kick dirt on it. David gave himself some good distance before waking up the horde. However, David's specific comment was directed at Saul's chief of security.

14And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who *art* thou *that* criest to the king? **15**And David said to Abner, *Art* not thou a *valiant* man? and who *is* like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord. **16**This thing *is* not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye *are* worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear *is*, and the cruse of water that *was* at his bolster.

David used this event to draw attention to the security measures the chief of security had failed in. David chastises Abner for allowing someone to get so close to the King.

We have seen a total failure such as this in our own land when the Secret Service failed to protect Trump when running for office.

Security is often a dull and repetitive job, but one of utmost importance, and Abner failed in that critical arena.

17And Saul knew David's voice, and said, *Is this thy voice, my son David?* And David said, *It is my voice, my lord, O king.*

Abner knew David well and we are not told how he could not detect it being the voice of David, but King Saul did so at once.

18And he said, *Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?* 19Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if *they be* the children of men, cursed *be* they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, *Go, serve other gods.*

David asks once again King Saul, what have I done against you that you want to kill me? He then goes on to say that if it is God that has caused Saul to be angry with David then David will provide a sacrifice to assuage the anger of God. However, if it is men and in that statement, it would include evil demons that have perpetuated men to speak evil of David then David says, let those people and their families be cursed. David lays at their feet these evil men the reason David has had to flee from the comforts of his family and home.

David would rather die than continue in exile unable to come before the Lord at the temple and give praise.

Psalms 4:22 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

David penned this plea to God during this time of exile.

20Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

David alludes to himself as an insignificant thing such as a “flea”. He then goes on to compare trying to get him with an army to hunting for a partridge in the mountains. The mountains were challenging to hunt large pray let alone a small thing like a bird.

Saul Acknowledges his Sin

21Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

Saul in moments of lucidity has spoken words like this before, but David has learned that such words are easy to say but hard to trust.

22And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it.

David now points out that he has the King's Spear and Saul will realize how close David was to him while he slept. It also reveals what a monumental failure his security was this past night.

23The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into *my* hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.

David tells Saul he came that close to never waking up again. It was within David's reach to snatch Saul's life but David deferred to God in this matter and would not touch the Lord's anointed.

24And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

This word "set" means to "value", so, David is telling King Saul that I valued your life this very day and choose to honor you and the Lord God. David then asks King Saul to do likewise towards his servant David and value his life in like manner.

25Then Saul said to David, Blessed *be* thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great *things*, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

David is satisfied at this point to let the exchange of words simmer in King Saul's mind but knowing that a demon still has power over the King. They separate and go their own way.

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