

1 Samuel Chapter 29 Commentary

1Sa 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. 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? 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? 5 Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands?"

In the previous chapter we saw Saul was afraid when he saw the host of the Philistines. We see in this chapter that they were a very numerous hosts, as we are told; "**Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek: And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands:**" Though we are not told the number of the armies of Israel, we can ascertain that they were greatly outnumbered, which is the cause of Saul's fear.

We see that David is now in a very bad situation. He must follow Achish to prove his allegiance to him. However, if he goes into battle; he will be fighting against his very own brethren, who are the people he has been anointed to reign over as king. Wherefore, we see the consequence of leaving our home and joining forces with the enemy, are not favorable.

We were told that David's position under Achish was to be keeper of his head, seen in: **1Sa 28:2 "And David said to Achish, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head forever."** Wherefore, David may have intended to not fight against Israel, and only protect Achish. However, even if that is true, David could not protect Achish without, in some way, fighting against Israel.

When the Philistine lords see David and his men bringing up the rear behind Achish; they immediately ask Achish who David is, and what David is doing there. Achish tells them that it is David, who was servant to Saul, but Saul has driven David out of Israel, and he came to me. He tells them that David has been with Achish for some time now, and he has been faultless in his obedience to Achish.

The other Philistine lords tell Achish, you send David back to where you have given him a home. They ask Achish: what better way for David to get back in the good graces of Saul, than to go into battle and then turn upon the Philistines and become an adversary to us. They remind Achish; this is the David of whom the Israelites sang Saul has slain his thousands, and David has slain his ten thousands.

This is why we should not leave the church and go back into living in the ways of the world, which David has exemplified by living among the Philistines. God warns us of this in: **Lu 9:62 "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."** Does this mean; if we leave the church fellowship that we lose our eternal salvation? No. It means that you have lost the joy of your God given salvation here in the world. It means you have broken fellowship with God's people, and therefore you have set yourself up for the judicial judgment of God in this world. It means if you choose the world over the church, you are not fit, nor worthy, to be in church fellowship.

As Achish has asked David to go to battle with him against Israel: the sinful world will always be asking us to join them in their rebellion against God, and his people. This is why God tells us in: **2Co 6:14-18; 14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons**

and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." Our security and peace of heart and mind will not be found in the world of sin, but rather, in the confines of church fellowship.

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

David is going to be saved from the dilemma he has gotten himself into, by the providential hand of God moving, which will keep David from sinning against his own people, and becoming guilty of insurrection, of which he has heretofore been falsely accused.

"as the LORD liveth," Did you notice that Achish acknowledges God as the LORD in his speaking to David? He did not say "thy" LORD but uses the phrase, as if he is speaking of one who is "**the LORD**" to himself. He seems to be acknowledging God as the Jehovah. This makes me believe that Achish has been enlightened to some degree about who God really is. We would think that David and Achish had had discussions about the Lord in their time together. We know that David talked of God to king of Moab, seen in: **1Sa 22:3 "And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me."** Certainly, Achish did not learn of God in an intimate way from the Philistines, which makes me believe that David has talked to him about God.

Achish says of David: "**I know that thou art good in my sight, as an angel of God:**" This is a reminder that wherever we are in this world of sin, we are charged as children of God to be blameless before the world, as seen in: **Php 2:15; 14 ¶ "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."**"

Achish calls David and tells him to go back to Ziklag. He tells David: you have been a true and faithful servant to me, and I find no fault in you. However, the other Philistine lords will not allow you to go to battle with us.

This is a reminder to us: even when we are disobedient to God, we are still his children and under his protection. God may allow us to suffer many tribulations and trials in our disobedience, but God will preserve our eternal salvation.

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. 10 Wherefore 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. 11 So 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."

Remember, we talked earlier about being out of the will of God and living with the enemy? Now David must politically lie, putting up a false sense of being fully committed to Achish. Remember one lie leads to another. David asked Achish why? Achish tells David; you have been faultless in service to me, and you are as an angel of God to me. However, the other Philistine lords will not allow you to go, and we do not want to have division among our own people over you. So, David, you go back to Ziklag in the morning, and the Philistines went on to Jezreel.

What a sad state of affairs in David's life. Did you notice that he is calling Achish lord, who is king of one of the most formidable enemies that Israel has? Achish is the only one of the Philistine lords that is named as king. This demonstrates to us: if we are not being obedient to God; then we are calling the king of our most formidable enemy, Satan, lord.

In this chapter we see the providential hand of God working, to keep David from fighting against the people he is to be king over. We are reminded of the scripture in: **1Co 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;**

but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." We are certainly assured that God is making this way of escape for David.

We see that it is not profitable to live with the enemies of our people, for it causes much confusion. A reminder of the admonition of scripture in: ***Mt 10:23 "But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come."*** When we suffer persecutions at the hands of our own brethren, we should never leave the church, our land of promise in this world, that Jesus has provided for us. If there is no resolution to be had where we are, we should move to another church. However, we would remind the readers, there is a scriptural way of resolving issues between church members, which is to be followed to the fullest extent, before we move to another city.

This is a reminder to us; when we are born-again, our life spirit is indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God. This is why God has told us in: ***Heb 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.***" Just as God is working providentially in David's life, God is also working providentially in the lives of all the Children of God.

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow! Amen!