

1 Samuel 29

David has embedded himself and his men with the Philistines, God's enemies. How can this be? The first verse of Chapter 27 told us the reason. David despaired of ever finding safety in the land ruled by Saul so departed into exile in a foreign land for a year and four months.

But David finds something more than mere protection in Philistia. He for the first time serves a king who recognizes and rewards his loyalty. Achish has given him the respect and honor that David begged in vain to receive from Saul.

Questions for study and discussion:

1. If David is a man after God's own heart, how can we explain his serving a Philistine king?
2. What other examples do we have of Jews serving Gentile kings? How does their experience compare with David's?
3. How is the Lord protecting David in this chapter?

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Saul would rightly regard Achish as one of the uncircumcised, alienated from God. But there is no doubt Achish has shown more kindness and trust toward David.

There are two lessons for us. First, those who belong to God should not have to supply their need for appreciation or respect among the people of the world. Second, God can sometimes use the good conduct of unbelievers as a reproach to our own behavior. See 1 Corinthians 5:1 for an example. We should pay attention.

4. In verse 8, is David sincere in wishing to fight against Achish's enemies?
 5. David is an example here of the believer seeking protection in the world. What types of difficulties does this lead to?