

I. Introduction.

II. David flees to the pagan Philistines. 27:1-28:2

A. Is David's plan to run to Gath justified? 27:1-4

1. Clearly he is weary of being chased by Saul. 27:1 26:21,19 Pr. 22:3
2. Why does the Philistine King Achish welcome David? 27:2-3 21:10-15
3. David's plan seems to work out. 27:4,7
4. Shouldn't David have trusted God to continue to protect him?
 - a. David is leaning on his own understanding. Pr. 3:5-7 14:12
 - b. David's words are contrary to God's past faithfulness to him. 23:14
 - c. David's words are contrary to God's promises. 24:17 25:29-30
 - d. His faith seems to have failed. 24:15 26:10 27:1
 - e. He would probably benefit from reading his own Psalms! Ps. 62:1ff 27:1-3
5. David's sojourn in the land of the Philistines has some unpleasant consequences.
6. David's time with the Philistines is part of the LORD's plan, regardless of whether David's motives were right. Ro. 8:28 Gen. 50:20

B. David settles in Ziklag. 27:5-7 Josh. 15:31

1. David asks Achish for a town outside of Gath for him and his people.
2. Why does Achish agree?
3. What benefits does David derive?

C. How are we to evaluate David's actions in Ziklag? 27:8-12

1. David tells Achish that he is raiding towns in Judah and Israel when he is really ruthlessly raiding and destroying Israel's non-Philistine enemies.
2. Achish is completely fooled. v. 12
3. How could David's actions be viewed positively? 23:22 15:3 Dt. 20:16-18

D. David is about to face a grave dilemma. 28:1-2

1. The Philistines are gathering for a decisive battle against Saul and Israel. 28:1a
2. David is expected to join Achish and fight for the Philistines. 28:1b
 - a. If he fights for the Philistines, he will attack the LORD's anointed and His people thus making himself unfit to rule Israel.
 - b. If David refuses, Achish will realize he has been deceived and will attack him.
3. What does David's reply mean? v. 2a
4. Only God can deliver David from this mess!

III. David is delivered from having to join the Philistines in battle against Israel. 29:1-11

A. The Philistines prepare for battle against Israel. v. 1-2

B. The Philistine commanders demand that David be sent away. v. 3-5

1. Achish repeatedly defends David, but he is overruled.
2. Ironically, the Philistine rulers are probably right about David. 14:21 23:5
3. We are not told exactly what David was planning to do.

C. David, after protesting, leaves to return to Ziklag (not a moment too soon). v. 6-11

1. Achish is apologetic and reaffirms his faith in David. v. 6-7,9
2. Why is David indignant? v. 8
3. Again David's words can be taken in more than one way. v. 8 28:2 24:8 26:17

- D. This is a great story of how the LORD graciously delivers David. I Co. 10:13
1. The LORD uses the four Philistine rulers who did not trust David to deliver David from going into battle against his people. 23:27 Pr. 21:1 Ge. 50:20 Ro. 8:28
 2. The LORD is working in all of these circumstances to prepare David to be king.
 3. David still has a major challenge facing him in Ziklag. 30:1-6

IV. Concluding applications.

- A. No man, not even David, is perfect. 25:13,21-22,33
- B. Upon whom or what do you lean when you are troubled and weary? Pr. 3:5-7 14:12 Ps. 46 42-43 Ga. 6:9 II Th. 3:13 Re. 2:1f Co. 3:1 Is. 40:28-31 II Co. 12:7-10 II Ti. 2:13
- C. How should we view all of this bloodshed on ‘Sanctity of Human Life Sunday’?
1. The unauthorized taking of human life is a sin against God in Whose image we are made. Ex. 20:13 Gen. 1:27 9:5-6
 2. God has rights that we don’t have, including the authority to take life and to avenge Himself upon the wicked. Dt. 32:39 Heb. 9:27
 3. Those who kill unborn babies and other innocent life are playing God in the worst possible way. Ps. 139:13 51:5 Isa. 49:1 Amos 1:13
 4. God sometimes delegates His right to execute judgment to His servants in government. Rom. 13:4 Gen. 9:6
 5. Under the Old Covenant, God appointed Israel to bring His judgment upon the surrounding pagan nations. 15:3 Dt. 20:16-18 Num. 33:50ff
 6. Does this mean that the modern state of Israel can do whatever it wants, including genocide, to its neighbors (i.e. Gaza)? I Pe. 2:9-10 Mt. 21:33-41
- D. God graciously delivers us from trouble, sometimes by using surprising instruments. I Co. 10:13 Mt. 6:13 Ro. 8:28 11:33 Gen. 50:20 Is. 44:28
- E. How does this text point us to Christ?
1. In this text, David shows us Christ by way of contrast. Where David fell short, Christ is perfect. Isa. 53:9 I Pe. 2:22
 2. Jesus truly is God’s messenger. 29:9 John 1:1ff
- F. God offers grace and hope to sinners. Ps. 119:176

Discussion questions

1. Why do some think David was justified in going to the Philistines?
Why do some think that David was wrong? What do you think?
2. What are some of the results and consequences of David’s action?
3. Where is God in chapters 27 and 29, given that He is mentioned so little?
4. What benefits did David derive from being based in Ziklag?
5. Were David’s actions while in Ziklag justified? Why or why not?
How can we condemn abortion when David killed so many people?
6. What dilemma did David face because he was with the Philistines at this particular time?
7. What is the big picture of what God is doing in these chapters?
8. What practical lessons can we learn from David’s actions in these chapters?
9. Where can we see Christ in these chapters?
10. Why do we sometimes fail to turn to God when we are in trouble?
How can we learn to trust Him even when we are weary?