

I Samuel 27-31

Historical Books II
Lecture #9

I Samuel

Chapter 27

David in Philistia

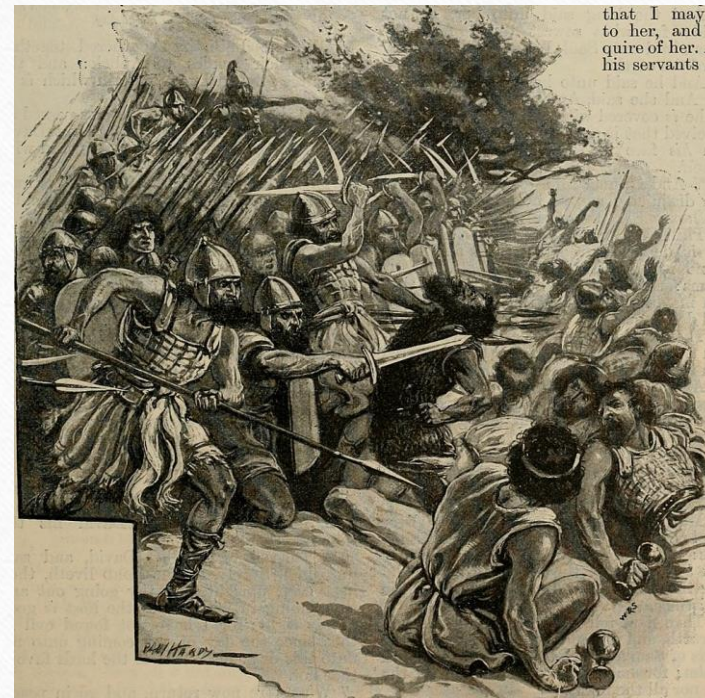
David's Despair

- David has been on the run from Saul for six years.
- He has had numerous close escapes from Saul
 - I think there are more than recorded in Scripture.
- He turns back to the Philistines for refuge.
 - This is a mistake on his part.

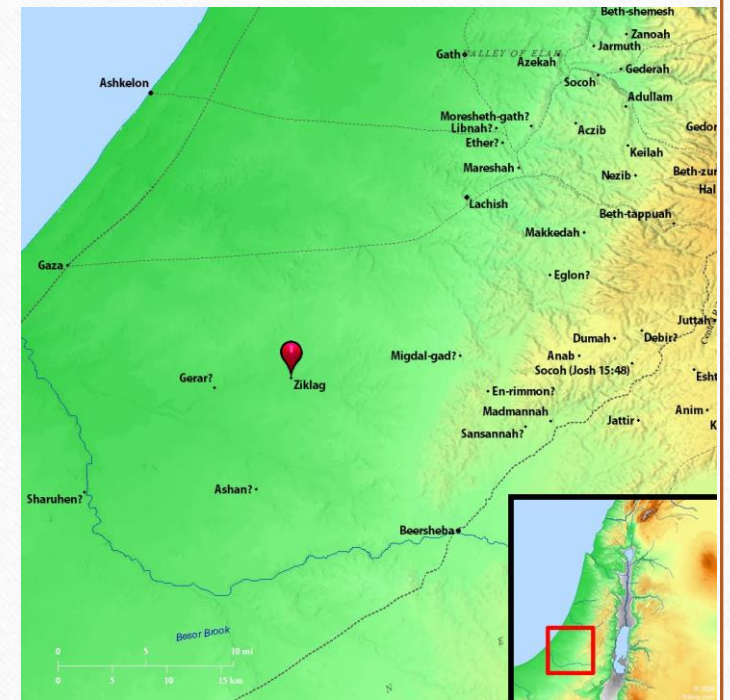


The Growing Philistine Threat

- The Philistines are getting stronger, likely because Saul has been distracted chasing David.
- The rising tensions are likely a reason why Achish accepts David this time.
 - “The enemy of my enemy is my friend.”
– Sun Tzu
- Saul gives up chasing David.



Ziklag



David's Deception

- David is acting as a mercenary for the Philistines.
- They think he is attacking Judah, but he is instead attacking southern Canaanite tribes.
- This ingratiates him with Achish, which will almost force David to really fight his Israelite brethren.



I Samuel

Chapter 28

Saul and the Witch at Endor

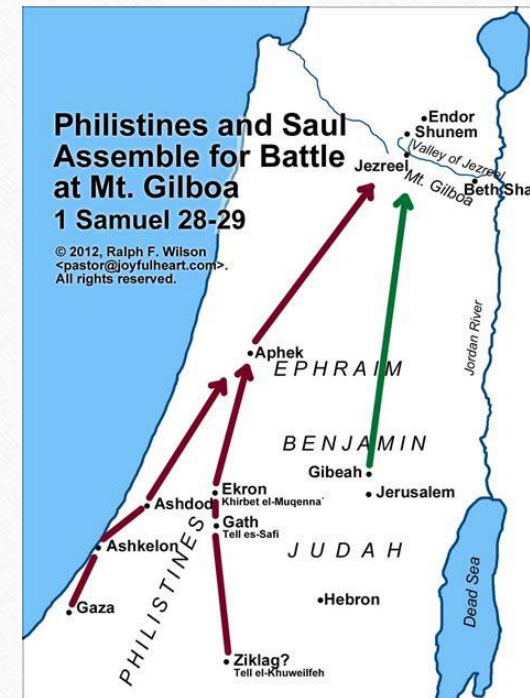
The Gathering Storm

- The Philistines are preparing to invade Israel.
- David is expected to participate.
- He is even promoted to be Achish's bodyguard.



Philistine Advance

- The Philistines are attacking further north than they have in the past.
- They are gathering in the Jezreel Valley.

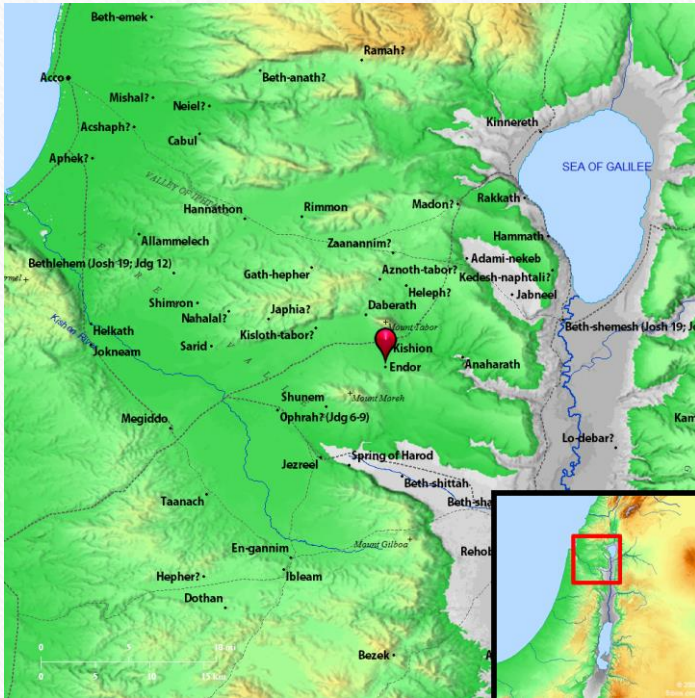


Give Saul *SOME* Credit!

- Saul did at some point wage a campaign to rid Israel of witchcraft.
- References regarding witchcraft: Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 19:31, 20:27; and Deuteronomy 18:10-12.
- But with Samuel dead and God not answering, Saul resorts to another bad decision.



Endor and Gilboa



Was it really Samuel???

- I think it was really Samuel.
 - The woman was surprised to see him.
 - God broke the natural laws to deliver a final message to Saul.
 - It fits in the religious disorder of the day for such an extraordinary event.



Saul's Doom

- This is Saul's third and final rejection as king.
 - First, when he offered sacrifices at Gilgal.
 - Second, when he failed to destroy the Amalekites.
- Vs. 19 – *tomorrow* means “future”



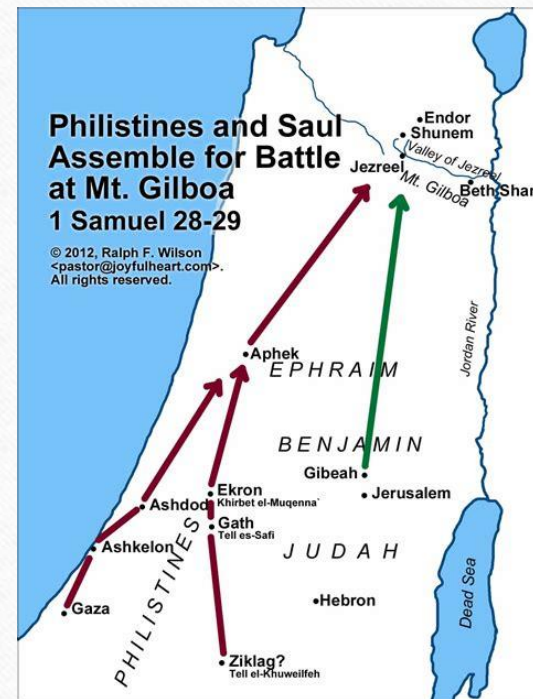
I Samuel

Chapter 29

David Dismissed by the Philistines

Preparations for War

- The lords of the Philistines (probably the five kings of their *pentapolis*) gather and organize their army for battle.



Doubts about David

- The other lords do not want David to go to battle with them.
 - They remembered his history with them and thought he would turn on them.
- Achish defends David



David's Reluctant Exit

- “David’s words expressing his great willingness to stay with the enemies of God show how deep a believer may fall when he has wandered away from God. He calls wicked Achish ‘my lord the King’ and his own people Israel, whose anointed king he was, ‘the enemies.’ God’s mercy kept him from plunging deeper than that.”
- David is providentially removed from the battle.
- Had he been there, he could have taken the kingdom by force.
- God made sure everyone knew He gave David the kingdom.

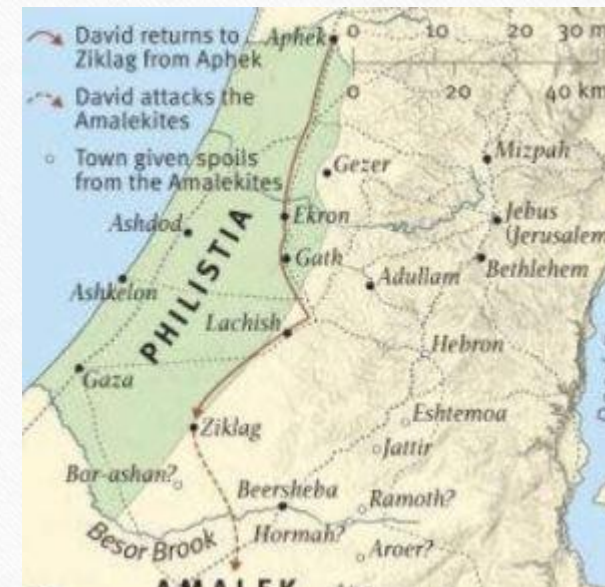
I Samuel

Chapter 30

David at Ziklag

David's Retreat

- After his dismissal by the Philistines, David and his men go back home to Ziklag.



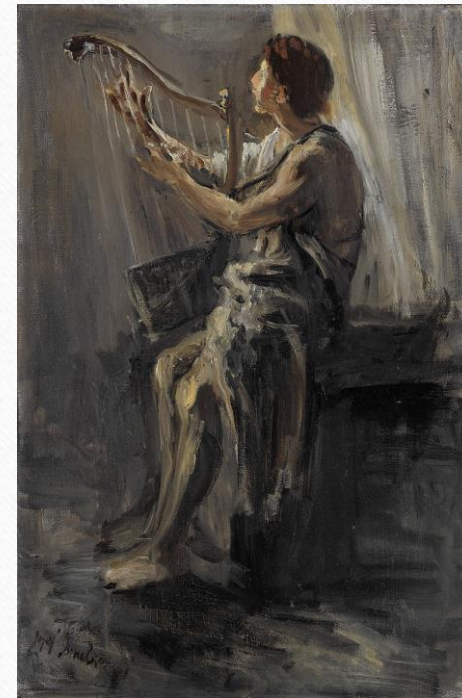
The Amalekite Raid

- With the Philistines marching northward, the wily Amalekites make raids into their southern territories.
- They attacked Ziklag, taking everyone prisoner and all its wealth as spoils.
- David's lies made this possible.



David's Despair and Recovery

- “And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.” – vs. 6



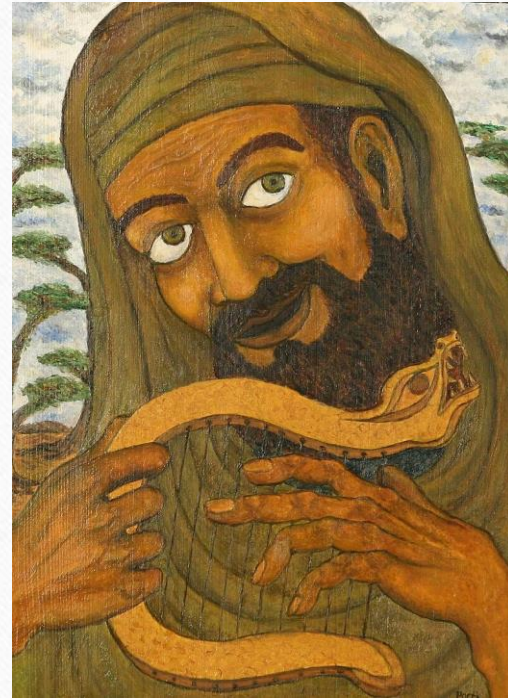


The Pursuit

- David and his 600 men head south after the Amalekites.
- 200 men are too weary to continue and stay by Besor brook.
- An Egyptian captive tells where the Amalekites are camped.

Victory!

- David's surprise attacks defeats the Amalekites and recovers all their families and wealth, plus more from other raids.
- David divides the spoils among ALL his men.
- He sends gifts from the spoils to the leaders of Judah.

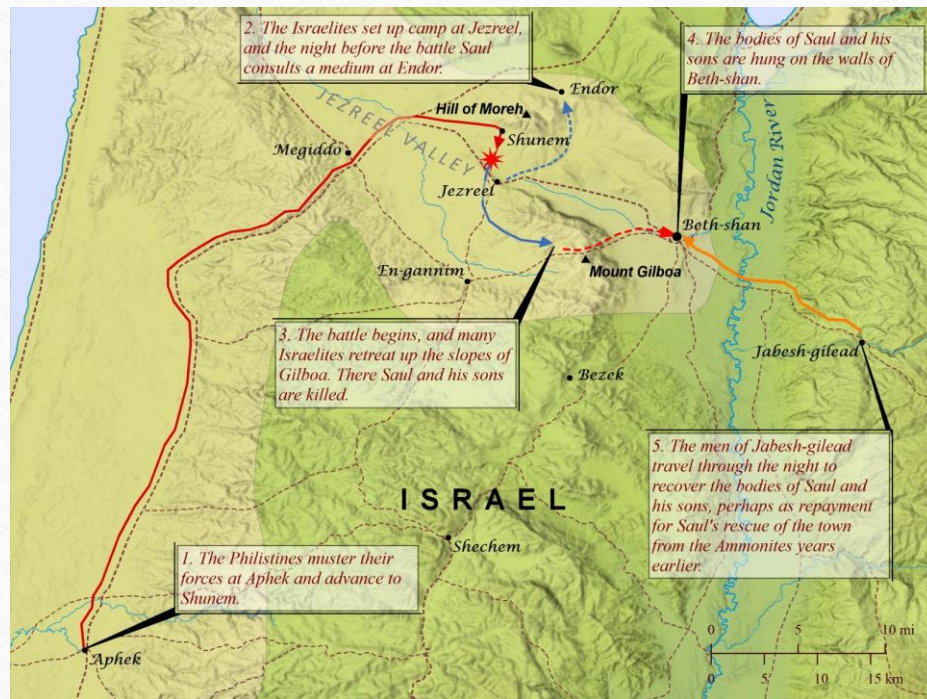


I Samuel

Chapter 31

Saul's Defeat

Israel driven to Gilboa



Saul's Final Moments

- His sons have already died in the retreat.
 - Saul is wounded by an arrow(s).
- Saul asks his armor bearer to kill him.
 - The armor bearer refuses.
- Saul commits suicide by falling on his own sword.

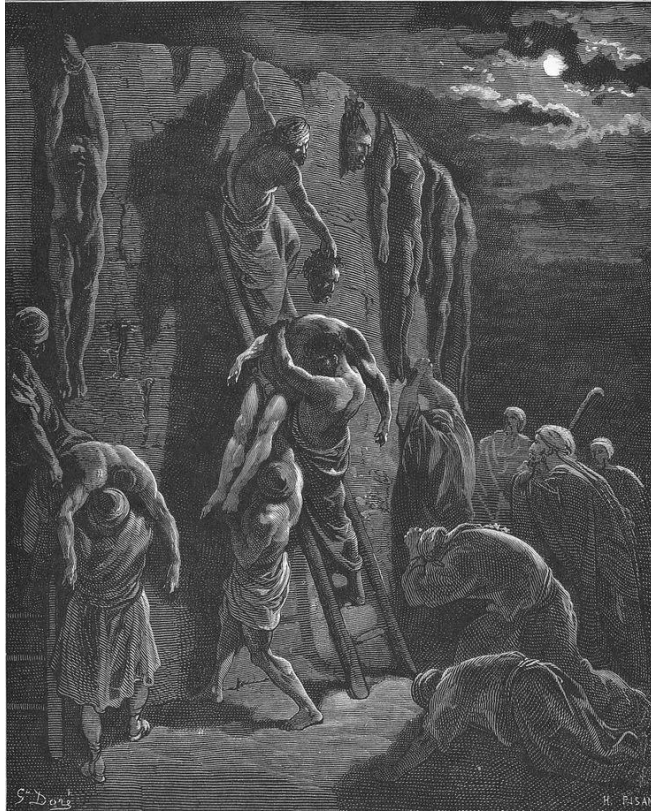


Fallout from Gilboa

- This is a complete disaster for Israel.
- They are defeated in battle and their leaders are dead.
- The bodies of Saul and his son are paraded like war trophies in Philistia.



Jabesh-Gilead



- The men of Jabesh-Gilead respond to the news Gilboa and the desecration of the bodies of Saul and his sons.
- Either because of their kinship to him or his deliverance of them 40 years prior, they raid Philistia and reclaim the bodies.
- They burn and bury the remains and mourn for seven days.