

The Jewish Kingdom - Lesson 29

The Philistines Reject David

With the major assault ready to commence, the the Philistine generals balk at having David and his men join in their campaign.

72. The Philistines Reject David - I Samuel 29:1-11

- To review, the Philistines are about to mount a major campaign against Israel and Saul (see I Samuel 29:1-2). David is caught in a predicament. Should he join in and fight against his people and the king that wanted him dead? Should he join in with his people against the Philistines and the king that had befriended him? David agreed to accompany Achish into battle against Israel.
- The Philistines were lead by the kings of their five principal cities: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Efron, and Gath. David was in service to Achish, king of Gath, who was but one leader amongst five.
- The battle that is to come will be fought in the Jezreel Valley. Yes, that is also called the valley of Megiddo and will be site of the battle of Armageddon. It has been site to countless battles throughout the centuries. Jezreel means “God scatters”.
- Aphek - the exact location is unknown and there are multiple locations with this name. This one would be near Jezreel, or possibly the site of the battle that killed Hophni and Phineas in I Samuel 4. The name means “strength”.
- We will see that Israel is camped near Mount Gilboa in I Samuel 28:4. Gilboa means “boiling spring”, so the description in vs. 1 of a fountain (or spring) is apt.
- vs. 2 - the military might of the Philistines is on display as it works its way to Jezreel. This is an orderly march, arranged something like modern companies and regiments. David, as part of the personal guard, is with Achish at the rear of the formation.
- vs. 3 - Of course you would question the presence of members of the enemy in your midst. The excuse Achish gives is that David was the enemy of Saul and that he had been faultless in service to Achish.
- Note that David may have the focus, but it was concern over not only him personally but also the men that followed him.
- vs. 4 - the other Philistine lords do not have a personal connection to David and see him as a threat. David would be in an advantageous position should he turn on them.
- vs. 5 - that hit song must have gotten some play time in Philistia too.
- vs. 6 - it is interesting to note that the pagan king swears by the true God in his testimonial of David’s service.
- vs. 7 - Achish thoroughly trusts David, but yields to the other leaders in this matter.
- vs. 8 - David’s protest is more over the insult of being untrusted and sent home than over his eagerness to fight.

- vs. 9-10 - Achish orders David to return home
- Thus David and his men will have no part in the battle to come, though they have a personal battle to come when they return home to Ziklag. Next time...