

1st Samuel 29

Verses 1 - 2

Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek, while the Israelites were camping by the spring which is in Jezreel. ² And the governors of the Philistines were proceeding on, *leading* hundreds and thousands, and David and his men were proceeding in the back with Achish.

Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek, while the Israelites were camping by the spring which is in Jezreel.

See Map 2901



Verses 3 - 5

³ Then the commanders of the Philistines said, “What *are* these Hebrews *doing here?*” And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, “Is this not David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or *rather* these years, and I have found nothing at all *suspicious* in him since the day he deserted *to me* to this day?” ⁴ But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him, and the commanders of the Philistines said to him, “Make the man go back, so that he will return to his place where you have assigned him, and do not let him go down to battle with us, or in the battle he may become an adversary to us. For how could this *man* find favor with his lord? *Would it not be* with the heads of these men? ⁵ Is this not David, of whom they sing in the dances, saying, ‘Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands’?”

³ Then the commanders of the Philistines said, “What *are* these Hebrews *doing here?*” And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, “Is this not David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or *rather* these years, and I have found nothing at all *suspicious* in him since the day he deserted *to me* to this day?”

We are told here that David had been in Philistia for years. The Septuagint gives us a more definite period of time.

3 And the lords of the Philistines said, Who [are] these that pass by? And Anchus said to the captains of the Philistines, [Is] not this David the servant of Saul king of Israel? He has been with us some time, even this second year, and I have not found any fault in him from the day that he attached himself to me even until this day.

⁴ But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him, and the commanders of the Philistines said to him, “Make the man go back, so that he will return to his place where you have assigned him, and do not let him go down to battle with us

The Philistine commanders convinced King Achish that David should not go along. David and his men were saved from making war on their own people and as it turned out they were needed at home in order to save their wives and property from the Amalekites. God knows how to multitask. ☺

Verses 6 - 11

⁶ Then Achish called David and said to him, “As the Lord lives, you *have indeed been honest*, and your going out and your coming in with me in the army are pleasing in my sight; for I have not found evil in you since the day of your coming to me to this day. Nevertheless, you are not pleasing in the sight of the governors. ⁷ Now then, return and go in peace, so that you will not do *anything* wrong in the sight of the governors of the Philistines.” ⁸ However, David said to Achish, “But what have I done? And what have you found in your servant since the day that I came before you, to this day, that I cannot go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?” ⁹ But Achish replied to David, “I know that you are pleasing in my sight, like an angel of God; nevertheless the commanders of the Philistines have said, ‘He must not go up with us into the battle.’ ¹⁰ Now then, rise early in the morning with the servants of your lord who have come with you, and *as soon as* you have risen early in the morning and have light, leave.” ¹¹ So David got up early, he and his men, to leave in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

⁶ Then Achish called David and said to him, “As the Lord lives, you have indeed been honest, and your going out and your coming in with me in the army are pleasing in my sight; for I have not found evil in you since the day of your coming to me to this day. Nevertheless, you are not pleasing in the sight of the governors.

Unfortunately, David had not been honest with King Achish and one has to wonder if the high praise that came from the king pricked the conscience of David in any way?

⁸ However, David said to Achish, “But what have I done? And what have you found in your servant since the day that I came before you, to this day, that I cannot go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?”

David was really laying it on thick at this point. In no way did David want to go into battle with Achish.

¹¹ So David got up early, he and his men, to leave in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

See map 2905 above