

Chapters 27 and 29 are like a single act of the continuing saga between David and Saul. These two chapters are interrupted by an encounter with a witch at a place called En-dor. More on that passage later. For now, we see in this study that David has just come off another experience of sparing Saul's life. What ends, in chapter 26, as a possible change of heart for Saul, appears to be more of the same shallow apologies from Saul, and David has now reached his wits end. These two chapters give insight to David's loss of heart, as he falls from success and victory, to discouragement and hopelessness.

1 Samuel 27, 29

David's Trials With Saul & the Philistines

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

Often our circumstances can create a sort of fatigue that draws our eyes from where things should be, to where they simply shouldn't. It's easy. Even when we know how we should act, what we should do, maybe even why we should pray, we resort to taking matters into our own hands. We think we can handle things better than God, trusting ourselves more than Him and His clear, and sometimes obvious, direction.

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

CAN you recall a time of discouragement, when you felt like you were genuinely at the end of your wits? **WHAT** circumstances surrounded your specific situation that made it push you to your limits?

WHAT words would you use to describe the way you handled that particular situation?

HOW "involved" do you think God is when you face discouraging situations and various trials in life?

ARE there ways God used trials in your life to teach you significant lessons? **WHAT** were some of those lessons?

CAN you share an experience when God used people, specific prayers, or His Word to carry you through a trial of some kind?

1 Samuel 27, 29

David's Trials

With Saul and the Philistines

Read 1 Samuel 27 and 29

OBSERVATION

Chapter 27

What can you observe from the text regarding David's attitude?

What is David's solution to his situation (vs. 1-4)?

Where does David move to and for how long is he there (vs. 6-7)?

How does David spend his time in Ziklag?

How does Achish view his relationship to David (27:12-28:2)?

Chapter 29

Where are David and his men as they join the Philistine procession?

How do the commanders of the Philistines feel about David's presence with them?

What command does Achish give to David as the chapter ends?

INTERPRETATION

Chapter 27

Why does David choose to live among the Philistines?

Who is Achish? Where has David encountered him before (see 1 Samuel 21:10-15)?

How effective is David's effort to flee Saul as he runs to Gath? Is Saul truly done pursuing him? Where is David placing his hope and security at this point?

Consider David's ways of raiding in vs. 8-11. How do you think God may have been using this time in David's life, despite his motivations?

Chapter 29

What can you assume of Achish and his awareness of David's purposes (keep in mind 1 Samuel 21:10-15)?

What other experiences have the Philistines had with the Israelites deceiving them in war that would add to their apprehension of David joining them in battle (see 1 Samuel 14:21)?

APPLICATION

What are some ways that discouragement can lead *you* to make poor decisions?

How do *you* take control of situations in uncertain circumstances?

What steps can you take in order to walk through uncertainty with faith in God's purposes rather than your own?