

## David, King Achish and Gath in 1 Samuel

### 1 SAMUEL 27.1-3

David said in his heart, "I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul; there is nothing better for me than to escape to the land of the Philistines; then Saul will despair of seeking me any longer within the borders of Israel, and I shall escape out of his hand." So David set out and went over, **he and the six hundred men who were with him, to King Achish son of Maach of Gath. David stayed with Achish at Gath, he and his troops, every man with his household...**

### 1 SAMUEL 29.1-11

Now the Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, while the Israelites were encamped by the fountain that is in Jezreel. As the lords of the Philistines were passing on by hundreds and by thousands, and **David and his men were passing on in the rear with Achish, the commanders of the Philistines said, "What are these Hebrews doing here?"** Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, "Is this not David, the servant of King Saul of Israel, who has been with me now for days and years? Since he deserted to me I have found no fault in him to this day." But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him; and the commanders of the Philistines said to him, "**Send the man back, so that he may return to the place (2 Sam 15.19)** that you have assigned to him; he shall not go down with us to battle, or else he may become an adversary to us in the battle. For how could this fellow reconcile himself to his lord? Would it not be with the heads of the men here? **Is this not David, of whom they sing to one another in dances, 'Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?**" Then Achish called David and said to him, "**As YHWH lives (2 Sam 15.21)**, you have been honest, and to me it seems right that you should march out and in with me in the campaign; for I have found nothing wrong in you from the day of your coming to me until today. Nevertheless the lords do not approve of you. So **go back now (2 Sam 15.20)**; and go peaceably; do nothing to displease the lords of the Philistines." David said to Achish, "But what have I done? What have you found in your servant from the day I entered your service until now, that I should not go and fight against the enemies of **my lord the king (2 Samuel 15.21)**?" Achish replied to David, "I know that you are as blameless in my sight as an angel of God; nevertheless, the commanders of the Philistines have said, 'He shall not go up with us to the battle.' Now then rise early in the morning, you and the servants of your lord who came with you and go to the place that I appointed for you. As for the evil report, do not take it to heart, for you have done well before me. Start early in the morning and leave as soon as you have light." So **David set out with his men (2 Samuel 15.22)** early in the morning, to return to the land of the Philistines. But the Philistines went up to Jezreel.