

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

PART I

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN

1 Samuel 26:1-28:2

I would like to begin with Psalm 35 today.

Psalm 35:1

**“Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me;
fight against those who fight against me.”**

Psalm 35:7-9

**“For without cause they hid their net for me;
without cause they dug a pit for my soul. Let
destruction come upon him unawares, And let the
net which he hid catch himself; Into that very
destruction let him fall. And my soul shall rejoice in
the Lord; it shall exult in his salvation.”**

Psalm 35:19

**“Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies
rejoice over me.”**

Psalm 35:27, 28

“Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; And let them say continually, ‘The Lord be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of his servant.’ And my tongue shall declare Your righteousness And Your praise all day long.”

David is in the will of God in chapter 26 and he is out of the will of God in chapter 27.

We start with him in fellowship with the Lord and we are going to see him make another big one today and run right out of the will of God.

To refresh your mind:

In study number one David was anointed at the age of 16 by Samuel and he was on call to the palace anytime Saul needed him for some soothing music.

In study number two he became a national and prominent figure by the slaying of Goliath.

This led to study number three and an intense jealousy on the part of Saul against David.

In fact, twice while David was playing the harp to soothe Saul, Saul tried to kill him by throwing his spear at him.

In study number four David went from faith with the Philistine to fear of Saul in number three to actual

failure in study number four. He lied to Ahimelech the priest, got some bread and a sword, and went down into the land of the Philistines.

He went down to the city of Gath and there he had to fake insanity in order to escape from that place. Coming back up to the cave of Adullam in study number four David met God face to face. He in essence says, I looked to the enemy for my provision, I left the country, and I lied.

And in study number five it was like this is a different guy. There were two statements that stood out that were so special. “He inquired of the Lord” and “he said to Abiathar the priest bring the ephod, I want to find out what God’s will is in this matter.”

And so study five was just fantastic.

He was walking with the Lord, he was seeking the Lord’s face, and things were great. we also said that study five was a great illustration of self-control. Remember David found himself in a cave with his 600 men and Saul comes in and takes the afternoon siesta and he sneaks over and cuts off a part of his robe and the men of course tell him to kill him and he restrains himself from that. Great self-control. He could have, by one little stab of the dagger, become king and been released from the life of a vagabond in chapter 24.

And then last week in chapter 25 David just let it all fall apart. Nabal did not give him the hospitality that he deserved and he said Put on your swords, we are going

number one they did it because they were scared that if they showed any allegiance toward David they too were going to be wiped out like the city of Nob.

But why did David leave the stronghold of En Gedi and come back here in this region since he knows that these people betrayed him before?

The only answer to that is that he, as a result of marrying Abigail, now has tremendous land and livestock interests in the area. Maon, and Carmel, and Ziph are all very close together. And so David has come up to check on all of his assets in the area. The Ziphites are even more threatened by the fact that now David does own land there. And they don't like the fact that he is one of their neighbors and hated so much by Saul. So they go up there.

v. 2 So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search there for David.

Now that is exactly what happened in study number five. He took three thousand men, he went down and started looking for David again.

Now what happened the last time he did that? Do you remember after the robe was cut off and David comes out and says, "see, you were in my hands?" Remember what Saul said?

Saul said, "I will never touch you, I love you, you are going to become king of the land, you can trust me, I will never do this again, and he weeps—is this my servant David.

Remember all that?

“David, please, make a covenant with me that you will not let my family be wiped out when you become king. It is all yielding to David. Now all of the sudden, all of this comes up again. Why? Saul is a man who never repented.

It has been two years since that experience. And all of the sudden the Ziphites come up and what happens? Bam! The green-eyed monster of jealousy just rises up and engulfs him. So he grabs three thousand men and he heads down there and it is the same song, second verse, and it is always a whole lot louder and a whole lot worse when you come back to it again the second time.

v. 3 Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the desert.

Geographically, Saul and David again are very close to each other in the same region.

v. 4 When he saw that Saul had followed him there, he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived.

v. 5 Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had laid down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him.

It is kind of like the wagon trains. You have three thousand guys out in a big circle and in the center of that is Abner and Saul.

Now you met Abner three or four weeks ago in the battle with Goliath. Abner is the first cousin of Saul. And he is Saul's military general or commander of the armed forces. And a very key person in the life of Saul and his administration as far as military matters are concerned.

But you see what the Ziphites did? They stirred up this green monster of jealousy that had kind of been put to rest but had never been dealt with and here it jumps out all over again.

Principle: If you do not judge sin properly in your life, it is going to come back worse the second time.

And for Saul the Ziphites stirred it up again. He is reliving two years ago all over again. He is right back to square one.

Do you have any problems like that in your life -- lust, alcohol, anger, bitterness, or resentment?

Have you gotten to the place now where you just excuse it?

“Well, that is just the way I am. I am sorry, you are just going to have to learn to live with it.”

You know, that’s a chicken’s way out. It is just a stubborn, bullheaded pride that keeps you **failing in those areas.**

Rev. Arthur W. Pink points out, “The action of Saul here provides a solemn illustration of a well-known principle. If sin be not dethroned and mortified, it will soon recover its strength and when a suitable temptation is presented, break out again with renewed force.”

David comes into this situation and he surveys these three thousand guys down here in the valley, he is in fellowship with the Lord, and in the middle of it he sees Saul and Abner down there.

v. 6 David then asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?"

Now you looked at that and you have a whole string of new characters and you got lost for a second. You might be thinking Ahimelech didn't he get massacred at Nob? This is not the same Ahimelech. This is Ahimelech the Hittite. He evidently was a mercenary. There were several of those guys who came over and Hittites were fabulous military men.

Some of the most courageous men on David's army were Hittites. Who was the other Hittite that we are going to meet in the future? Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, is also a Hittite.

Now there are a couple of other guys here and some names that kind of threw you for a minute.

Let's see if we can get some information so we can put some flesh on these people.

Who is Zeruah? That is David's sister.

Can you imagine introducing your sister to somebody and saying, this is Zeruah, my sister? Who in the world would name their daughter Zeruah? But that is what Jesse and his wife called David's sister. And she had three sons. My three sons—it is real easy to remember that—Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. You are going to meet

Asahel, he is going to slip into the picture in one of the studies in part two and then he is going to be gone.

Abishai and Joab you are going to love.

Joab is the counterpart to David that Abner is to Saul. He is his military commander and general through most of David's term of service as king. You are going to like Joab.

Joab and Abishai are brothers. And you are going to love Abishai if you like guys who are always ready for a rumble.

I mean Abishai every time he gets close he just wants to hack them. **Shemia is cursing him in a future study and he just wants to lop his head off. You are going to see him today in the same way. If you mess around with Abishai you are going to come out a loser. He is just that way.**

So David turns to these two guys and he says, you know, I am going down there, who will go down to the camp with me?

Can you imagine how they are feeling? Looking at three thousand guys laying down there sacking out. And Abner and Saul are in the middle. And who is going to go? Ahimelech knows that it is better to be a live chicken than a dead duck so he just keeps his mouth shut, he just zips it quick and says nothing.

Abishai, he doesn't care what the odds are, one against three thousand, right away he volunteers. Yeah, David, I will go with you.

So we have an uncle and a nephew here getting ready to go down into this camp in this very precarious set of circumstances to teach Saul a lesson.

v. 7 So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.

v. 8 Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won't strike him twice."

Just give me one and I will get him and it will all be over. That is almost exactly what they said two years ago wasn't it? Remember when Saul was lying in the cave?

1 Samuel 24:4:

"The men said, "This is the very day the Lord spoke of when He said to you, "I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish."

Was that the right thing to do? You see it was not. David rebuked his men. He said this is not God's will. We will not lift our hand against the Lord's anointed. And he has to basically do that with Abishai here, his nephew, in this situation.

I think Abishai is thinking, well after all, he has taken three shots at you with a spear and tried to pin you to the wall. I will just do it once, I will not even have to do it twice. I can take care of him and it will be so quick and so easy. Just let me at him.

v. 9 But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?"

Hebrews 10:30 goes there:

Hebrews 10:30

"For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is mine; I will repay,' And again 'The Lord will judge His people.'"

v. 10 As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "the Lord himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.

David learned something last week. Remember when Nabal had a heart attack and ten days later he was dead? David learned that when you leave it in God's

hands and let Him take care of it, which is what we are supposed to do and let God handle it, He can handle it real well.

And he basically tells Abishai, look, as far as Saul is concerned it is going to be over before too long and one of two things is going to happen. Either his time will run out and he will die or he will go into battle and perish.

David is looking at it from the divine perspective now and that is really refreshing. Leave him alone. God will take care of Saul just like he did Nabal.

I nearly made a mistake by trying to wipe out Nabal by putting on a sword and going over there. I learned my lesson and I will act accordingly. And so David passes the test and that is great.

v. 11 But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."

Now I know what you're thinking how in the world can two guys stand there and have a conversation with three thousand men laying around? You know some of them are snoring but some of them are light sleepers. How can they do that? And then how can they sneak in there? Well I am glad you're thinking.

It is in verse 12.

v. 12 So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the Lord had put them into a deep sleep.

Has that ever happened in the Bible before? Remember when they got ready to raise Jesus out of the grave? All the guards were asleep.

How about in Acts 12 and Peter is incarcerated in prison and close to death. God caused a sleep to come upon the guards and he escapes.

And so here in this situation God just lets them go into a deep sleep so this can take place because there is a lesson to be taught.

v. 13 Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them.

David was going to give plenty of room when you have six hundred against three thousand, you give them plenty of space to move.

v. 14 He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, "Aren't you going to answer me, Abner?" Abner replied, "Who are you who calls to the king?"

Why does he speak to Abner and not to Saul? The reason David speaks to Abner is that Abner now has the place that belonged to David when he was the armor bearer.

When you are the armor bearer your responsibility is to see to it that the king is always protected from his enemies. And you would lay down your life rather than let the life of the king be in jeopardy.

And what he is going to do is teach Saul a lesson indirectly by showing him that he does not have any right out there chasing around for David because when David was the armor bearer he sure never let anything crummy like this happen.

Some enemy come walking in and grab your spear and your water jug while you are lying there asleep. You cannot even sleep. Your armor bearer is not able to do his part.

So he is reproaching Abner and in an indirect way teaching Saul a fantastic point in this whole lesson that David never did have those feelings and he has not changed. It is Saul that has changed.

So he calls out, look what he says to him.

v. 15 David said, “You’re a man, aren’t you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn’t you guard your lord

the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king.

Oh boy that stings! You can see Abner rubbing the sleep out of his eyes and he cannot believe all this stuff he is hearing from this voice up on the hill.

v. 16 What you have done is not good. As surely as the Lord lives, you and your men deserve to die, because you did not guard your master, the Lord's anointed. Look around you. Where are the king's spear and water jug that were near his head?"

**You can just see him.
Where is the spear?
Where is the water jug?
What happened?
Somebody has been here.
He is scared to death.**

v. 17 Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is that your voice, David my son?" David replied, "Yes it is, my lord the king."

"David my son." That is exactly what he said two years ago when he started to cry when he said that.

1 Sam. 24:16

"When David finished saying this, Saul asked, 'Is that your voice, David, my son,' and he wept aloud."

v. 18 And he added, “Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of?”

v. 19 Now let my lord the king listen to his servant’s words. If the Lord has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, men have done it, may they be cursed before the Lord! They have now driven me from my share in the Lord’s inheritance and have said, ‘Go, serve other gods.’

David is saying, if I am wrong, and the Lord has stirred you up against me to get me, then let us quick offer an offering because I am wrong and I want to be right with the Lord. Let’s get an offering and offer it right now. If the Lord has stirred you up to do this.

“If, however, men have done it...” and in essence he could say those turkeys from Ziph are the ones who did it. Also David reminded Saul that he had driven David out from God’s inheritance, and that was just as good as saying that he should serve other gods. He was not allowed to come near the tabernacle and was hunted like a flea or a partridge.

v. 20 Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the Lord. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea—as one hunts a partridge in the mountains.

I am just an insignificant little servant like a flea. And you are coming out here and making such a big deal sending three thousand guys out here, using the military to find a flea.

Now David said I am like a partridge. You are just throwing sticks and stones, you are just exhausting me, chasing me all over this place. And he has been doing this now for about six to eight years. And he is just flat tired and depressed.

The sad thing about it is that it is going to be the partridge mentality that is going to blow David out of the tub in just a moment. Thinking that he is a partridge.

Just the thought of that. That one little thought sown in his mind right now puts him into such a realm of self-pity and the pit of depression that he is going to foul it all up in just a second.

Just one little thought comes whipping through his mind. I am like a flea and like a partridge. That is the thing that is going to eat him up now.

v. 21 The Saul said, “I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have erred greatly.”

Somebody said the Saul of the New Testament said, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course.”

The Saul of the Old Testament said, I have sinned.

Whereas the Saul of the Old Testament says, “I have sinned...”, the Saul of the New Testament says, “I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course.”

There are three things that Saul confesses himself to be guilty of here in verse 21:

- 1. I have sinned.**
- 2. I have acted like a fool**
- 3. I have erred greatly.**

Alan Redpath is classic on this. He said:

“What is the use of saying ‘I have played the fool,’ if he goes on playing the fool? What use are his tears and confession before David if he doesn’t act upon his remorse? We sometimes see people streaming down the aisle in an evangelistic meeting with tear-stained faces. But what difference does emotion make if it does not lead to obedience? What profit is it that a heart has been stirred, unless from that moment the man lives in submission to the will of God. Indeed, it does make a difference, for if a man is emotionally upset as Saul was and awakens to his condition, but only weeps about it

and still doesn't obey God, his second state is a thousand times worse than the first. Emotion that does not lead to action only leads deeper into sin and rebellion."

Verse 22 – David is no dummy.

v. 22 Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it.

v. 23 The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness. The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord's anointed.

David reminds Saul that the Lord's REWARDS are based on two things:

1. A man's righteousness

2. His faithfulness.

v. 24 As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord value my life and deliver me from all trouble."

v. 25 Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David; you will do great things and surely triumph." So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

Saul's wish is three-fold for David. His wish is:

1. That David will be blessed.

2. He will do great things.

3. Surely triumph.

This is the last time these two guys meet on the earth. David hides for four more years from Saul. And then Saul is killed in battle.

David thought to himself. “You know it is what you think that gets you into more trouble than anything else you ever do. When you start thinking to yourself you are putting yourself into a position where you are flat going to be running uphill into the wind and it is going to start hurting people.

When you start thinking to yourself you are setting yourself up for a satanic onslaught that is going to blow you away.

Chapter 27. David still has the partridge on his mind.

27:v. 1 But David thought to himself, “One if these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand.”

We had great ACTION in chap. 26, and we're getting great REACTION in chap. 27.

The word 'but' forms the contrast. "But David thought to himself,..."

Here David needed to "take captive every thought, to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5

Satan always makes his attack on the mind, and David begins to think inwardly to himself. His thought is put into words in this first verse, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul."

He got his eyes on Saul and his circumstances.

He forgets

THE PLAN

THE PURPOSE

AND THE PROMISE

"The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines." The correct approach to the whole thing is, to call upon the Lord.

The reason he is thinking this way is "then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand."

You can look hard in the first verse, and you will find no mention of the Lord. But there are 3 ‘I’s’ and 1 ‘me’ in this verse.

Here David is going to take matters into his own hands once again, and deal from the standpoint of human perspective and leave God out of the picture.

It is during this time that David writes three Psalms: Psalm 10, Psalm 13, and Psalm 22. Listen to this:

Psalm 13:1 says,

**“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?”**

Psalm 10:1 says:

**“Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?”**

Psalm 22:1 says:

**“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning?”**

Somebody said if you and God feel at a distance, guess who moved? See the problem is in David’s life, it is not in the Lord’s.

You know something? There is a common denominator in a lot of the patriarchs in the Bible and that is they had low times in their lives.

Did you ever have a low time in your life? After every moment of great victory it seems like a low time comes.

For Abraham he went down to the land of Egypt, ended up lying down there about Sarah being his sister, and got in a heap of trouble.

Elijah says he gets off of Mt. Carmel because Jezebel sends a telegram and goes whipping out into the desert and throws himself under a juniper tree and wants to die.

Joseph had to have a low time when that cupbearer did not remember him and he had to stay in prison two more years, and he was there unjustifiably so.

In this passage David is making a terrible mistake. He is walking out of the will of God.

You know Lord, those rocks and those sticks are getting close, this partridge is about to die. I am getting tired of running around.

The fiery darts will always hit you when the shield of faith starts to drop. And the evil one just keeps firing them one after another. David has gotten himself into a big mess.

v. 2 So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maach king of Gath.

Twenty-five miles to the northwest from Ziph, they go to Gath. Right back where he was before.

**How do you spell relief? R-O-L-A-I-D-S.
How do you spell relief? G-A-T-H.**

Get out of the land of Israel down into the land of the Philistines and everything is going to be just great.

Satan designs it that when you are going out of His will you go over a golden bridge. But you will drop off at the other side.

When you get out of the will of God you are going to be temporarily blessed and prospered.

You are going to think, this is the most wonderful thing that has ever happened!

And the thrill and the excitement of it are just going to carry you along for a while.

David is convinced he has made the right decision.

v. 3 David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had

his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal.

It was one thing to have David and his men in Gath, but quite another to have the wives and children.

v. 4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.

The word ‘fled’ is never found in relationship to the will of God. Once again, David is fleeing in fear and heading for failure in departing from the will of God.

v. 5 Then David said to Achish, “If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?”

Hey, Achish, do you have a city where we can live while we are down here in the land of the enemy?

Achish likes David so much he says, yeah, sure do, eighteen miles down the road to Ziklag. Perfect, because that is one day’s journey away. You can just see it all working out.

v. 6 So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since.

v. 7 David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months.

Sixteen months out of the will of God. Everything is going great isn't it? Just super.

Do you know what else is happening? All of Saul's army in the north hears that David is down in Ziklag and he is having a good time and they are all actually leaving the army of Israel and coming down to live with David. 1 Chron. 12:22 says they are coming by the hundreds. David's army is swelling and getting bigger. Such success, such blessing, incredible. David just knows he has made the right decision at this point.

v. 8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites.

The Amalekites were about 30-35 miles south of Ziklag,

v. 9 Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish.

v. 10 When Achish asked, "Where did you go raiding today?" David would say, "Against the Negev of Judah" or "Against the Negev of Jerahmeel" or "Against the Negev of the Kenites."

Negev means south. We are from the Negev. We live in the south. We are southerners. The Negev is the southern part of these three regions. Naturally since Davi is in Ziklag he would go down and get the southern part.

v. 11 He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, “They might inform on us and say, ‘This is what David did,’ “ And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory.

What is he doing? Lying again. That is the third time he has lied. Remember he got Jonathan to lie to Saul that he had gone down to Bethlehem when he was hiding out in the field. And he lied to Ahimelech about going on a secret mission for the king. Here he does it again. Psalm 119:29, “Remove from me the way of lying”.

v. 12 Achish trusted David and said to himself, “He has become so odious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant forever.”

chap. 28:1 “In those days, the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, “You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army.”

Now what are you going to do Davie boy? You have to make a choice. You are living in the enemy camp, you are going to have to fight with the enemy against God’s

people. God has a wonderful way of rearranging our circumstances to just teach us some tremendous lessons when we are out of his will. And here that is what is happening. God did intervene, and we will go into that when we get to chapter 29.

v. 2 David said, “Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do.” Achish replied, “Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life.”

David is not intimidated one bit.

Curtain drops, come back next week to see how our hero extricates himself.

What are the lessons that we got out of this study?

LESSON #1: David was in the will of God in chap. 26, and out of the will of God in chap. 27.

LESSON #2: We are never to take vengeance into our own hands.

David will not make that mistake.

LESSON #3: God has obligated himself TO PROTECT and TO PROVIDE for us in every circumstance.

That is a wonderful promise isn't it?

LESSON #4: After every great ACTION, comes a moment of REACTION.

You watch it in your life. After great blessing comes the pits.

You are the most vulnerable after the greatest victory.

LESSON #5: Satan attacks David in the mind.

David thought to himself. He does not bring the Lord into it; he does not bring the ephod, nothing. David thought to himself. Satan attacks us in the realm of the mind. 2 Cor. 10:5, “bring every thought captive under the obedience of Christ.”

LESSON #6: David got his eyes off the Lord and on the circumstances.

On his circumstances again.

LESSON #7: Things seem to go so well temporarily out of the will of God.

Lessons Learned In The Life of David

PART I

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN - 1 Samuel 26:1-28:2

26:v. 1 The Ziphites went to Saul at Gibeah and said, "Is not David hiding on the hill of Hakilah, which faces Jeshimon?"

v. 2 So Saul went down to the Desert of Ziph, with his three thousand chosen men of Israel, to search there for David.

v. 3 Saul made his camp beside the road on the hill of Hakilah facing Jeshimon, but David stayed in the desert. When he saw that Saul had followed him there,

v. 4 he sent out scouts and learned that Saul had definitely arrived.

v. 5 Then David set out and went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the commander of the army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the camp, with the army encamped around him.

v. 6 David then asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai son of Zeruah, Joab's brother, "Who will go down into the camp with me to Saul?" "I'll go with you," said Abishai.

v. 7 So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him.

v. 8 Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won't strike him twice."

v. 9 But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?"

v.10 As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "the Lord himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.

v.11 But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go."

v.12 So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. They were all sleeping, because the Lord had put them into a deep sleep.

v.13 Then David crossed over to the other side and stood on top of the hill some distance away; there was a wide space between them.

v.14 He called out to the army and to Abner son of Ner, "Aren't you going to answer me, Abner?" Abner replied, "Who are you who calls to the king?"

v.15 David said, "You're a man, aren't you? And who is like you in Israel? Why didn't you guard your lord the king? Someone came to destroy your lord the king.

v.16 What you have done is not good. As surely as the Lord lives, you and your men deserve to die, because you did not guard your master, the Lord's anointed. Look around you. Where are the king's spear and water jug that were near his head?"

v.17 Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is that your voice, David my son?" David replied, "Yes it is, my lord the king."

v.18 And he added, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done,

and what wrong am I guilty of?

v.19 Now let my lord the king listen to his servant's words. If the Lord has incited you against me, then may he accept an offering. If, however, men have done it, may they be cursed before the Lord! They have now driven me from my share in the Lord's inheritance and have said, 'Go, serve other gods.'

v.20 Now do not let my blood fall to the ground far from the presence of the Lord. The king of Israel has come out to look for a flea--as one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

v.21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Come back, David my son. Because you considered my life precious today, I will not try to harm you again. Surely I have acted like a fool and have erred greatly."

v.22 "Here is the king's spear," David answered. "Let one of your young men come over and get it.

v.23 The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness. The Lord delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the Lord's anointed.

v.24 As surely as I valued your life today, so may the Lord value my life and deliver me from all trouble."

v.25 Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David; you will do great things and surely triumph." So David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

27:v. 1 But David thought to himself, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand."

v. 2 So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maach king of Gath.

v. 3 David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal.

v. 4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.

v. 5 Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?"

v. 6 So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since.

v. 7 David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months.

v. 8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.)

v. 9 Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish.

v.10 When Achish asked, "Where did you go raiding today?" David would say, "Against the Negev of Judah" or "Against the Negev of Jerahmeel" or "Against the Negev of the Kenites."

v.11 He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, "They might inform on us and say, 'This is what David did.'" And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory.

v.12 Achish trusted David and said to himself, "He has become so odious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant forever."

28:v. 1 In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, "You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army."

v. 2 David said, "Then you will see for yourself what your servant can do."
Achish replied, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life." |

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Read 1 Samuel 26:1-28:2 several times and in your own words outline what is happening in the life of David.**
- 2. What courageous act did David and Abishai perform in verse 7?**
- 3. What does Abishai want to do, according to verse 8?**
- 4. How did the Lord protect David and Abishai, according to verse 12?**
- 5. What questions does David ask of Saul, according to verse 18?**
- 6. How does Saul respond to David, according to verse 21?**
- 7. Where does David go in chapter 27?**
- 8. What awkward position does David find himself in, according to chapter 28:1, 2?**
- 9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?**

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

Lessons Learned In The Life Of David:

STUDY NUMBER SEVEN - 1 Samuel 26:1-28:2

LESSON #1: David was in the will of God in chapter 26, and out of the will of God in chapter 27.

LESSON #2: We are never to take vengeance into our own hands.

LESSON #3: God has obligated himself to protect and to provide for us in every circumstance.

LESSON #4: After every great action, comes a moment of reaction.

LESSON #5: Satan attacks David in the mind.

LESSON #6: David got his eyes off the Lord and on his circumstances.

LESSON #7: Things seem to go so well temporarily out of the will of God.