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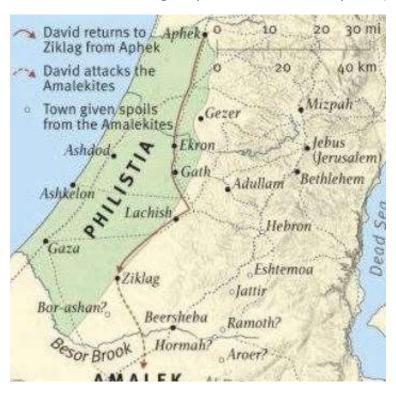
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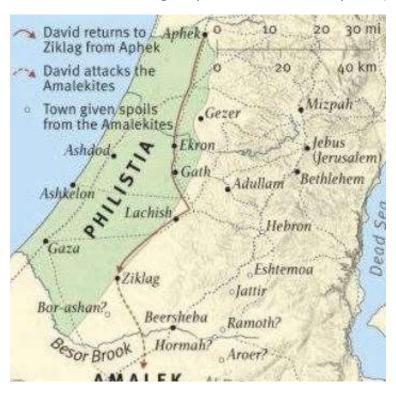
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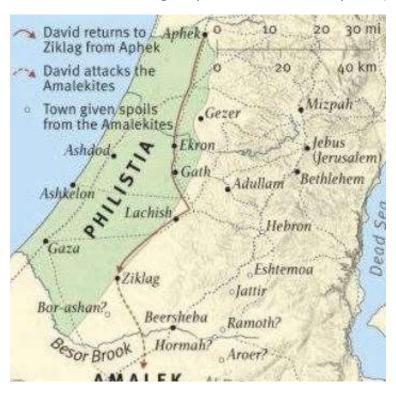
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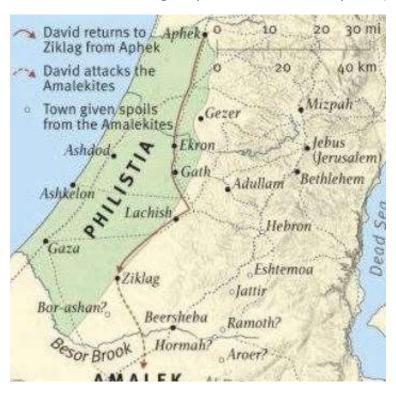
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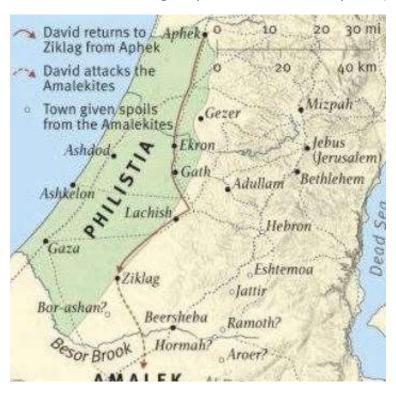
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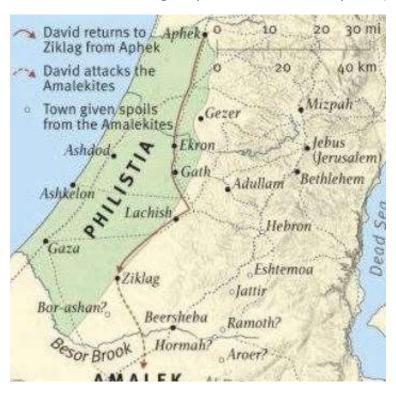
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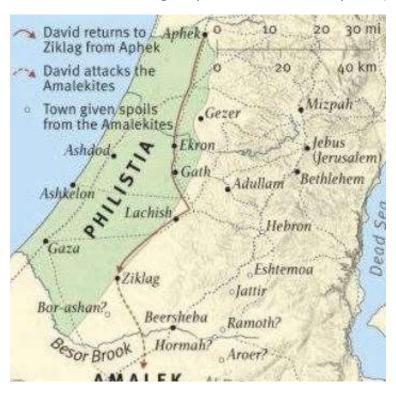
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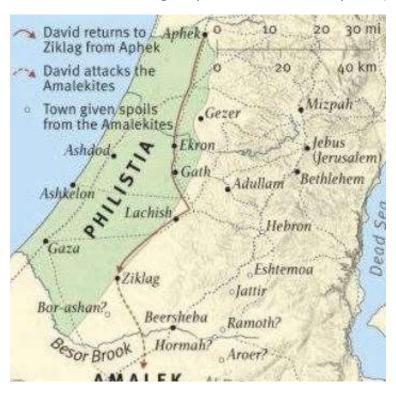
David's life has become a nightmare. King Saul is relentless in his pursuit of David, despite the fact that David has repeatedly shown his loyalty to the king. King Saul promises that he will stop his pursuit of David, but within days he is back on the hunt. David not only fears for his life, but also for that of his family and the families that have started to follow him.

No doubt the first response of David and his spiritual advisers was, "Simply trust God." This is what David has been doing, but he still has no peace. In his frustration, and maybe a little desperation, David takes his band of followers across the border, out of the land of Judea into the territory of the Philistines. King Saul has had limited success fighting the Philistines so David is banking on the fact that the king will not follow him into enemy territory.

Was this move a demonstration of a lack of faith? Was David jeopardizing his relationship with God through this move? Will this move thwart God's plans? Though these questions will take several chapters to answer, we start to find answers in this chapter. As noted earlier, the main question of 1 Samuel is, "Who is in control here?"

- 1. What is David's mood in verse 1? Why does he feel this way?
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- 11. What was David doing when he lived in Ziklag (v. 8)?
- 12. Each of the groups mentioned in verse 8 were groups present when Joshua was instructed to take the land. Could it be that God was completing the work begun at the conquest? What prevented the complete conquest of the land earlier?
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### **Conclusion:**

This chapter shows David on the run, yet even here we see God's hand at work. A city that should have been in Judea's possession is given as a gift to David. Enemies that should have been destroyed already are slowly being dealt with. Resources needed to survive and thrive are being accumulated. Though it looked like David was running from God, it turns out God was already there, with a plan to prepare for David's future.

We also know that for every choice we make there are consequences, and David's choice to raid villages and slaughter all the people within them to keep them silent would affect him later. When it came time to build the Temple David was not allowed to because he had so much blood on his hands. Here is just once instance of that.

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

- <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
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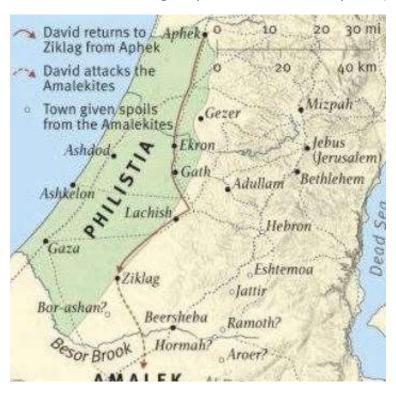
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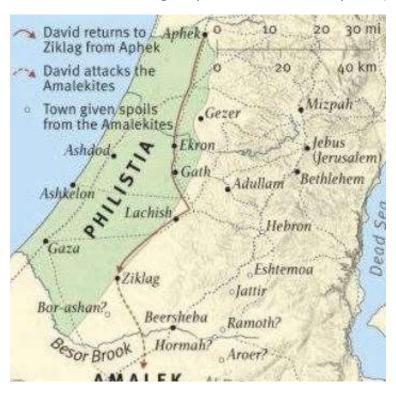
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