

# 1 Samuel 27:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

## Analysis

---

David's internal reasoning reveals a crisis of faith after years of relentless persecution: 'I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul.' Despite repeated deliverances and divine promises, exhaustion produces despair. The Hebrew 'saphah 'espeh' (I shall surely be destroyed) expresses the certainty David feels in this moment of weakness. His solution, seeking refuge among Israel's enemies, represents a strategic calculation that prioritizes immediate survival over trust in divine protection. This chapter reveals that even great faith can waver under sustained pressure.

## Historical Context

---

David had previously fled briefly to Gath (1 Samuel 21) but feigned madness to escape. Now, with 600 men and their families, he returns as a potential military asset rather than a lone fugitive. This politically complex decision would shape the final months of Saul's reign.

## Related Passages

---

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

---

1. When has prolonged difficulty caused you to doubt God's promises despite past faithfulness?
2. How do you evaluate decisions made from exhaustion versus those made from faith?

## Interlinear Text

---

אָד ד יום	אָספּ ה	עַתָּה	לִבּוֹ	אֶל	דָּוִד	וַיֹּאמֶר
day	I shall now perish		in his heart		And David	said
H3117	H5595	H6258	H3820	H413	H1732	H559
אֶחָד	כִּי	טוֹב	לִי	אֵין	שָׁאוּל	מִיָּדוֹ:
one	for me than that	there is nothing better			and Saul	by the hand
H259	H3588	H2896	H0	H369	H7586	H3027
פְּלִשְׁתִּים	אֶרֶץ	אֶל	וְנִמְלָטָה י	וְנִמְלָטָה י		
of the Philistines	into the land		I should speedily	I should speedily		I should speedily
H6430	H776	H413	H4422	H4422		H4422
בְּכָל	עוֹד	לְבַקֵּשׁ נִי	שָׁאוּל	מִמֶּנִּי	וְנוֹאֵשׁ	
		of me to seek	and Saul		shall despair	
H3605	H5750	H1245	H7586	H4480	H2976	
מִיָּדוֹ:	וְנִמְלָטָה י	יִשְׂרָאֵל	גַּב וְל			
by the hand	I should speedily	of Israel	me any more in any coast			
H3027	H4422	H3478	H1366			

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Isaiah 51:12** (Parallel theme): I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass;

**1 Samuel 23:17** (References Israel): And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)