

# 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of 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

אָמַר	לֵב	עַתָּה	אָפָּה	זַיְמָה	אָמַר
said	in his heart	H6258	I shall now perish	day	one
H559	H3820		H5595	H3117	H259
לֵב	טַב	כִּי	לֵב	טַב	מִזְדָּחָה
by the hand	and Saul	H369	there is nothing better	for me than that	
H3027	H7586	H0	H2896	H3588	
פָּלָשָׁת	יָמָם	אַל	אֵצֶן	וְנִמְלְטָה	וְנִמְלְטָה
I should speedily	I should speedily	H413	into the land	of the Philistines	
H4422	H4422		H776	H6430	
בְּכָל	עַד	לְבָקֵשׁ	מִן	שָׁאֹל	מִזְדָּחָה
shall despair	and Saul	H4480	of me to seek	H1245	H5750
H2976	H7586			H3605	
מִזְדָּחָה	וְנִמְלְטָה	וְנִמְלְטָה	וְנִמְלְטָה	וְנִמְלְטָה	וְנִמְלְטָה
me any more in any coast	of Israel	H1366	I should speedily	by the hand	
	H3478		H4422	H3027	

## 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 • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)