

1 Samuel 27:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that were with him unto Achish, the son of Maoch, king of Gath.

Analysis

David's flight to Achish of Gath with six hundred men represents a significant escalation from his earlier desperate visit. The Hebrew 'wayya'abor' (passed over) suggests crossing a boundary, both geographical and spiritual. David's band now included families, transforming from a guerrilla force into a community requiring permanent settlement. This move placed the future king of Israel in service to a Philistine lord, creating moral and political complexities that would test David's integrity throughout his sixteen-month stay.

Historical Context

Achish, son of Maoch (or Maachah), ruled Gath, one of the five principal Philistine cities. The Philistines, recent migrants from the Aegean region, operated as competing city-states rather than a unified nation, allowing David to exploit their political divisions.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What compromises have you made in seasons of desperation that created ongoing complications?
2. How do you navigate relationships with those whose values differ from yours when survival requires cooperation?

Interlinear Text

אִישׁ מֵאֹת יְמִינָה
and a hundred men
arose And David and he passed over

H6965 H1732 H5674 H1931 H8337 H3967 H376

מִלְּרָא מַעַן בֶּן אַשְׁר
the king of Maoch the son of Achish that were with him unto him
H834 H5973 H413 H397 H1121 H4582 H4428

׃ גָּתָה
of Gath
H1661

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 25:13 (References David): And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

1 Samuel 21:10 (Kingdom): And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.