

## Veracity and Forbearance

As much as I don't like what happened between David & Bathsheba after David's rise to the throne of Israel, I have to admit that David was quite an extraordinary man, and also that he did, for the most part, pursue Godly goals & objectives throughout his whole life.

One of his nobler accomplishments had to do with his ability of forbearance. Twice he had opportunities to wipe-out his opposition to the throne, King Saul, who was fervently trying to kill David. But David refused to do any harm whatsoever to the man he knew was the Lord's "anointed", even though the Lord's anointed was so desperately trying to kill him, and all because of jealousy, which is a sin.

David had so much respect & reverence for the Lord, almost always putting the Lord's will over his own, that even when he had very clear opportunities to manipulate circumstances and seize control of the highest office in the land, he held fast to his belief that the Lord's will is what should always be controlling. Not many people could have maintained that kind of self-control, especially in the face of certain victory that may have been his for the taking.

But on the other hand, and to David's credit, who knows what the consequences might have been had David exercised impatience and faithlessness, rather than self-control and extreme patience. He may very well have ended-up the recipient of the same kind of fate he'd chosen to dole out...who knows.

I really admire what he did, or rather what he chose not to do, in those circumstances. I think there's a great lesson in that for all of us. And I also think David exercised incredibly good judgment when he didn't trust Saul to keep his word about not continuing to hunt him down once Saul learned that David had passed-up two clear opportunities to kill him. David knew that Saul was susceptible to the influences of other people, people who were un-scriptural in their thinking, and in their opinions, about matters involving Christ-likeness. David knew that Saul would not likely keep his word, so he moved his residence to a place he knew Saul would never follow, he moved right into the heart of the enemy's territory, he moved to the Philistine stronghold. They respected David because of what he'd once-upon-a-time done to their own hero, Goliath. In fact, they often honored David by asking him to participate and help them out in some of their great battles, with the exception of one.

I think these are great lessons for us today when we need to evaluate our own ability to exercise forbearance, especially in the face of great temptation to do otherwise, and when we need to discern the trustworthiness of people who we know will do us harm if given a chance.

I just love this stuff. I can't get enough of it. I think the life-lessons are current, timely, and pretty fantastic.

I hope you have an amazing day!!

- Jack

## 1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

### David Among the Philistines

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."<sup>2</sup> So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maok king of Gath.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.<sup>5</sup> 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?"<sup>6</sup> So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since.<sup>7</sup> David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months.<sup>8</sup> 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.)<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> 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."<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> Achish trusted David and said to himself, "He has become so obnoxious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant for life."