

Christian Life in Exile

1 Samuel 27:1-12

Read through the Bible passage and pray that God would give you spiritual insight.

1. This is called a “Godless” Bible passage since God is not mentioned in it. How should we think about a Bible passage as *from* God if he is not mentioned in it? Another example of this is the book of Esther. What can we learn about God in that book?
2. After vv.1-3, Saul stops pursuing David (v.4). What do you think his motives are?
3. David is effectively driven out of the presence of the Lord (outside of the land of Israel) by Saul. One could say that he experienced “exile”. What should our prayers look like when we feel that God is far away? Take a look at Psalm 10 and 22.
4. When God established his covenant with the people of Israel, he warned them that if they were to disobey he would send them into exile. You can read about that in Deuteronomy 28:15-68. In what ways do you think 1 Samuel 27 foreshadows the exile Israel would later experience in Babylon? What are some of the key differences between David here and the Israelites then?
5. It is hard to assess the moral character of David’s actions in this chapter. Do you think he was justified or not to put a ban (kill all those of the area) on the Geshurites, Girzites, and Amalekites (v.8)? Do you think he was justified in tricking Achish about the exact locations of his raid (v.10)? Consider carefully 28:1-2 as well.
6. Part of David’s problem might have been what “he said to himself” in v.1. There is a right way to talk to ourselves and a wrong way. Why do you think v.1 might reflect a wrong way and Psalm 43:5 and Psalm 103 a right way?
7. In contrast to question 5, what was David supposed to learn about God in chapter 18-25? Perhaps remind yourself of some of the highlights: 1 Samuel 18:24-29; 19:10, 18, 23; 20:42; 23:26-29.
8. In what way should you and I consider ourselves as strangers and exiles in this world? Consider 1 Peter 2:11-12 and John 17:15-16.
9. Being in the land of the Philistines as an exile from Israel also speaks to becoming an outsider. In what way did Jesus come to bring in outsiders? Think about Hebrews 13:12-13. What should this do to our attitude to those who are outside the church?

Pray that God by his Holy Spirit would enable you to take these words and put them into practice.