

# A Wandering Life

**Introduction.** Most of the time when people study David's life, they concentrate on his victory over Goliath, which is a triumph of faith, or his failure with Bathsheba, which is a defeat of the flesh.

But we are going to examine another section of his life: his fleeing from Saul. This was done while he was still a young man in his teenage years and early 20s, and from these chapters in 1 Samuel, Christians can learn a good lesson.

## ***I. David Flees From Saul***

- A. After Saul gave the command to kill David (1 Samuel 19:1), both Michal and Jonathan protected him in 1 Samuel 19-20.
- B. However, by 1 Samuel 21, David is now completely separated from Saul's court and is considered an outlaw. Therefore, David had to seek shelter.
- C. The following is a brief outline of David's wanderings in chapter 21-27:
  - 1. Saul seeks David's life (19:1-23:29).
    - a) Saul attempts to kill David (19:1-24).
    - b) Jonathan helps David escape (20:1-42).
    - c) David prepares for Saul's pursuit (21:1-22:5).
      - (1) David is protected by Ahimelech (21:1-9).
      - (2) David is protected by Achish (21:10-15).
      - (3) David gathers forces at Adullam (22:1-2).
      - (4) David hides his parents at Mizpah (22:3-5).
    - d) Saul slaughters the priests at Nob (22:6-23).
    - e) David saves Keilah from the Philistines (23:1-6).
    - f) The Philistines save David from Saul (23:7-29).
  - 2. David spares Saul's life (24:1-26:25).
    - a) David spares Saul in the cave (24:1-22).
    - b) Abigail keeps David from bloodshed (25:1-44).
    - c) David spares Saul in the camp (26:1-25).
- D. In chapter 27, David escaped to the Philistines and again comes into contact with Achish (vv. 1-12). At this point, Saul "sought no more again for him" (v. 4).
- E. It is significant to note that David never attempted to fight back against Saul, only flee. He had two prime opportunities to kill him in the cave and the camp, but he would not lift his hand against God's anointed.

## ***II. David Writes About His Experiences***

- A. Several of David's psalms were written around this time.
  - 1. Psalm 59: When Saul sent his men, and they watched the house to kill him (1 Samuel 19:11-17).
  - 2. Psalm 56: The danger posed by Achish when the Philistines took David in Gath (1 Samuel 21:10-13).
  - 3. Psalm 34: The deliverance of David when he was driven away by Achish (1 Samuel 21:14-15).
  - 4. Psalm 57: When David fled from Saul in the cave (1 Samuel 22:1).

5. Psalm 52: When Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul that David is come to the house of Ahimelech (1 Samuel 22:22).
  6. Psalm 54: When the Ziphites, David's fellow countrymen from Judah, came and told Saul that David hid among them (1 Samuel 23:19-20; 26:1).
  7. Psalm 18: When the Lord delivered David from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul (2 Samuel 1:11-12; 5:1-5).
- B. A great man of faith, who had defeated the great warrior Goliath, learned to trust in God in a much more deep and abiding way, and praise Him for His unrelenting mercy.

### ***III. We Are Wanderers***

- A. As part of the body of Christ, we are no longer strangers and foreigners, but we are fellowcitizens with the saints (Ephesians 2:19). We have become a part of the collective, universal body of the church.
- B. All the Old Testament worthies were strangers and pilgrims on the earth, and were looking for a better country (Hebrews 11:13-16). Peter then addresses us as strangers and pilgrims in 1 Peter 2:11.
  1. The term "strangers" is translated as "aliens," "foreigners," "sojourners," "wanderers," and "transients."
  2. The term "pilgrims" is translated as "exiles," "temporary residents," "foreigners," "nomads," and my personal favorite, "not of the earth."
- C. The responsibility to be this kind of person means that we abstain from fleshly lusts, for they wage war against the soul of man.
  1. We are not conformed to the world (Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 1:14). We are conformed to Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:10).
  2. Someone who does not conform is going to look different, so how different do you look? Do you look like a stranger or foreigner to this world or do you look like an identical twin? Don't worry about the ramifications of standing against the world. Trust God like David!

**Conclusion.** Just like David fled in exile from Saul, we flee in exile from the world and its lusts. Satan is a roaring lion, seeking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8). We need to see ourselves as sojourners, pilgrims, and wanderers on the earth, staying away from evil and look to Jesus for our example and strength (Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 2:21).