



# THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF 1 SAMUEL

[PART 48]

## WHEN THE PHILISTINES BECAME DAVID'S SAVIOUR

Reading: **1 Samuel 23: 19 - 29**

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### Introduction

- These chapters remind us of a boxing contest for a title.
- David is in one corner and Saul (the holder of the title) is in the other.
- David is the underdog and Saul appears the odds on favourite.
- [Ch 23:1 - 13] David survives another round.
- [Vs 14 - 18] David makes it to the bell and gets a '**breather**'.
- In [vs 19 - 29] the bell goes for another round.

### 1 Another Blow

- The Ziphites reveal David's location to king Saul.
- [Vs 21] Saul is '**Mr Two Faces**'.
- A good tree cannot bring forth bad fruit. Saul is a bad tree.
- Saul's armies march to find David.
- David and his men flee again for their lives.
- He heads to a location referred to as '**the Rock**'.
- This was probably a small mountain.
- **NB.** When you're in trouble flee to '**the Rock of Ages**'.

## 2 Closing In For The Kill

- From [vs 26] it seems Saul is closing in for the kill.
- Saul splits his army to catch David in the middle.

## 3 But A Messenger

- In [vs 14] the key phrase is '**But God**' and now in [vs 27] its '**But a messenger**'.
- Just as Saul thinks he's about to rid himself of David the Philistines invade Israel.
- This is a most welcome distraction for David.
- At the time David doesn't know why, when Saul has him at his mercy he withdraws.

## 4 The Big Picture - Providence

- Unknown to David, the Philistines have been his saviour.
- This is not a story of strange saviours and startling timing - its Providence.
- The word '**Providence**' is made up of a prefix ('**pro**' meaning '**before**') & a root ('**videre**' meaning '**to see**').
- The word means '**to see before hand**').
- God is not just a helpless spectator looking down at what's happening.
- Because He cares for His people He often changes what is happening.
- All of life is under God's watch and governance.
- Providence is God performing in time what His sovereignty ordained in eternity.
- Providence ( the invisible hand of God) put it into the hearts of the Philistines to invade to be a distraction for David to escape.
- Consider the wonderful texts of [Daniel 4:17, 25, 32].
- Consider the statement of Joseph in [Genesis 45:5 - 8].
- Providence: God see, He cares and He intervenes.
- Joseph's God, Daniel's God, David's God is OUR God.

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