

**The Kingdom of David**  
**1 Samuel 21:10-15**  
**4/4/10**

**Overview**

1. David flees to Achish, king of Gath
2. Being afraid, David feigns madness and is delivered
3. Consideration of spiritual warfare and suffering

*(v10) And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath. (v11) And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?" (v12) And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. (v13) So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. (v14) Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? (v15) Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"*

**David flees to Achish, king of Gath**

1. *And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath.*
  - A. Gath - One of the 5 city-states of Philistia ([1 Sam 6:17](#))
  - B. Interesting that David would flee to Philistia. [1 Sam 27:1](#) perhaps an insight into his thinking.
2. *And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"*
  - A. David is recognized.
    - i. Must have been a well known person.
    - ii. Even the songs that the people sang about him are known to the Philistines. (see [1 Sam 29:5](#))

## Being afraid, David feigns madness and is delivered

1. *And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath.*
  - A. [Ps 56](#) written 'when the Philistines seized him (David) in Gath'. May have been this episode or perhaps the episode related in Chapter 29.
    - i. The enemy
      - a. *man tramples*
      - b. *attacker oppresses*
      - c. *enemies trample*
      - d. *many attack*
      - e. *injure my cause*
      - f. *thoughts are against me for evil*
      - g. *stir up strife*
      - h. *lurk*
      - i. *watch my steps*
      - j. *wait for my life*
    - ii. David
      - a. *I put my trust in you*
      - b. *I praise your word*
      - c. *I shall not be afraid*
      - d. *I will call*
      - e. *I know - God is for me*
      - f. *In God I trust*
      - g. *I must perform my vows*
      - h. *I will render thank offerings*
      - i. *I walk before God in the light of life.*
    - iii. God
      - a. *gracious to me*
      - b. *in wrath cast down the peoples*
      - c. *count my tossings*
      - d. *put my tears in your bottle*
      - e. *delivered my soul from death*
      - f. *kept my feet from falling.*
2. *So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard.*
  - A. Behavior such as this certainly would make one think he was insane.
3. *Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? (v15) Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"*
  - A. David's behavior was obviously convincing

- B. The occasion of [Psalm 34](#)
  - i. Title of the Psalm refers to **Abimelech**
    - a. Possibly a title for the King of Gath (similar to Pharaoh in Egypt) - [Gen 20:2](#); [26:1](#)
  - ii. One possible structure
    - a. Praise - v 1-3
    - b. Testimony - v 4-7
    - c. Exhortation - v 8-10
    - d. Commands - v 11-14
    - e. Instruction - v 15-22
  - iii. A specific consideration - (v6) *This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all of his troubles.* (v7) *The angel of the Lord encamps around those who rear him, and delivers them.*
    - a. In v6 one sense suffering, and in v7, spiritual warfare is implied - See [2 Kings 6:1-23](#)

### Consideration of spiritual warfare and suffering

1. Basis of all of our thinking about these issues must be the Fall of Man, and God's pronouncement of consequences - [Gen 3:14-19](#)
  - A. There is enmity between the serpent and man
    - i. The serpent is the devil (and Satan) - [Rev 20:2](#)
    - ii. The devil desires to make life miserable for man
      - a. [Job 1:6-12](#); [Luke 4:1-13](#) (with emphasis on v 13 - *until an opportune time*; [1 Peter 5:8](#))
2. Spiritual warfare
  - A. Old Testament - [Dan 10:13](#)
    - i. Even though the devil seeks to work evil toward mankind, there are unseen struggles between Satan and God's messengers.
  - B. New Testament
    - i. Jesus and Satan [Mt 4](#), [Luke 10:17-20](#)
    - ii. [Eph 6:10-18](#) *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take*

*the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints*

- a. Purpose - *that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil*
  - b. Participants
    - i. *be strong in **the Lord***
    - ii. *the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly places*
      - a. [Luke 10:17-20](#)
  - c. Protection
    - i. **whole** armor of God
      - a. *having fastened on the belt of **truth**,*
        - a. [John 17:17](#)
      - b. *breastplate of **righteousness***
        - a. [Phil 3:9](#); [1Cor 1:30](#); [2Cor 5:21](#)
      - c. **gospel** of peace
        - a. [Isa 52:7](#)
      - d. *shield of **faith***
        - a. [1 Jn 5:4, 5](#)
      - e. *helmet of **salvation***
        - a. [1 Th 5:8](#)
      - f. *the sword of the **Spirit***
        - a. The Word of God, which will be used as the Spirit desires - [Luke 21:14, 15](#)
  - d. Pray and persevere
3. Suffering
- A. Sometimes our suffering is a test from God
    - i. Abraham - [Heb 11:17](#)
    - ii. Joseph - [Ps 105:17-19](#)
  - B. Sometimes our suffering is from Satan
    - i. Job
    - ii. Peter - [Luke 22:31-32](#)
  - C. Result of our suffering
    - i. comfort - [2 Cor 1:4](#) (for us and subsequently by us to others)
    - ii. glory to God - [2 Thes 1:4-12](#); [Gen 50:20](#)
  - D. The final aspect of our suffering - [1 Pet 5:10](#)