

# The Life of David:

a Character Study  
of a man after God's own heart

Week 4: 1 Sam 25-29

<sup>14</sup> "...The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart,  
and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people...."

1 Sam 13:14

**Week 1:**  
**1 Sam 13-16**

**Week 2:**  
**1 Sam 17-18**



David's Youth

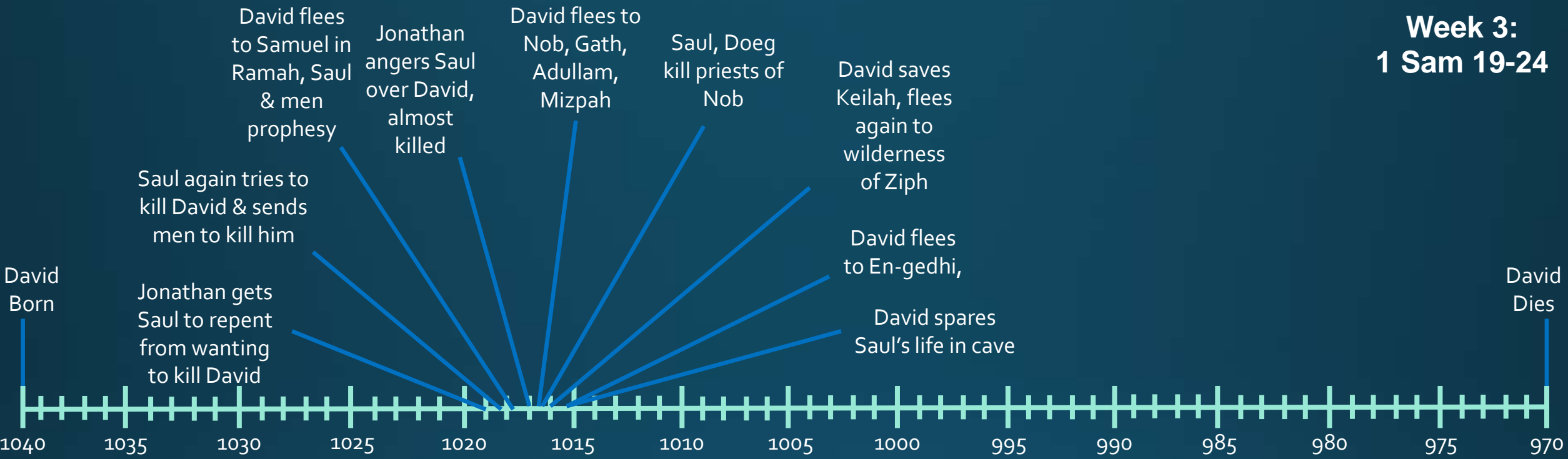
Transition

King of Judah

King of all Israel

# Timeline of David's life

**Week 3:  
1 Sam 19-24**



David's Youth

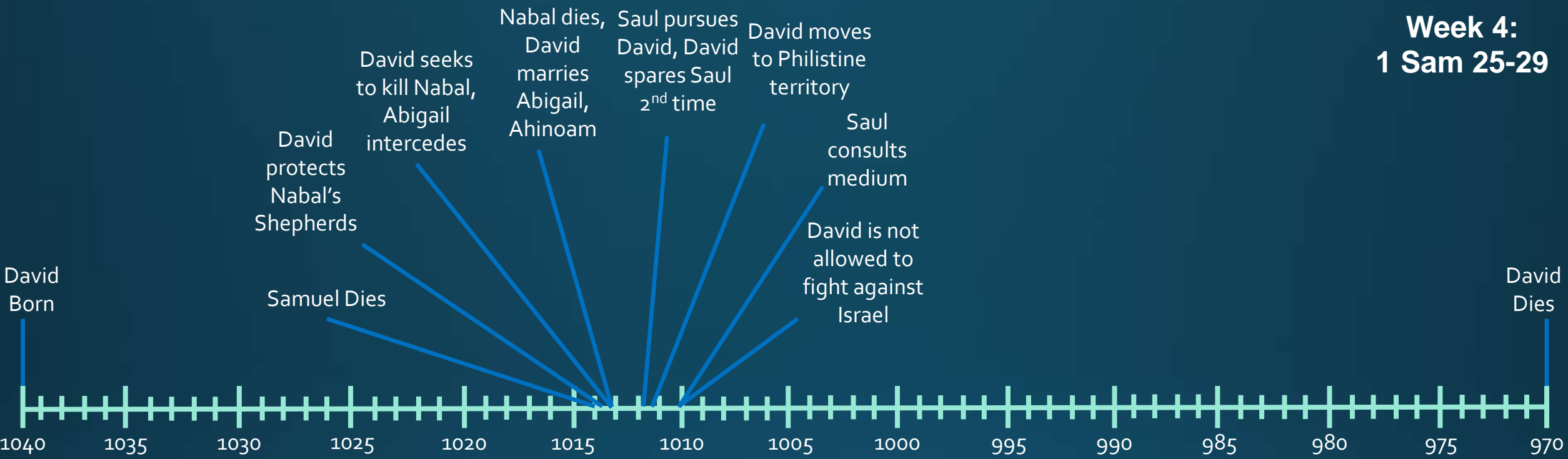
Transition

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# Timeline of David's life

**Week 4:  
1 Sam 25-29**



David's Youth

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# Timeline of David's life



# What we have learned about David

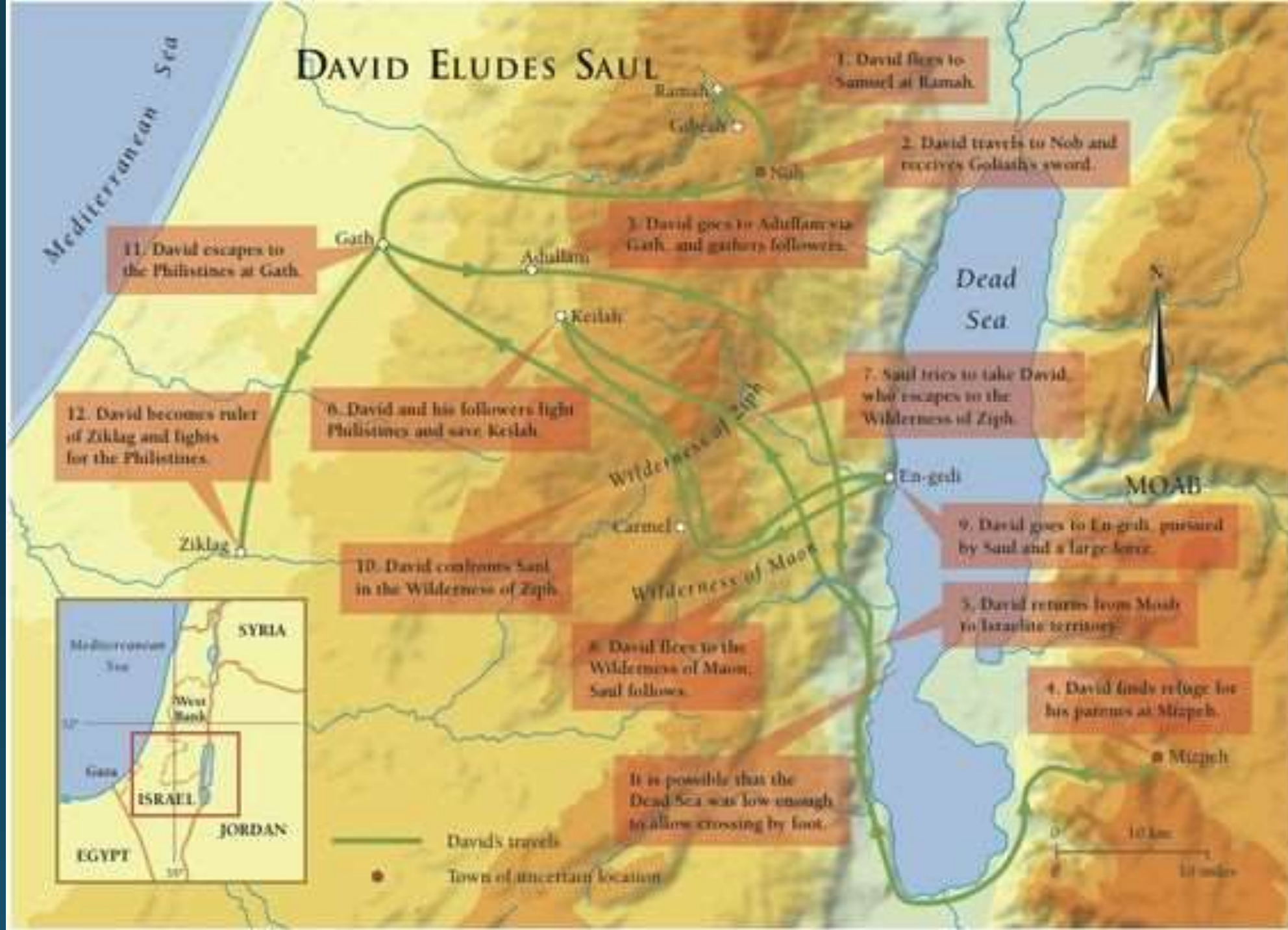
## Positive Traits

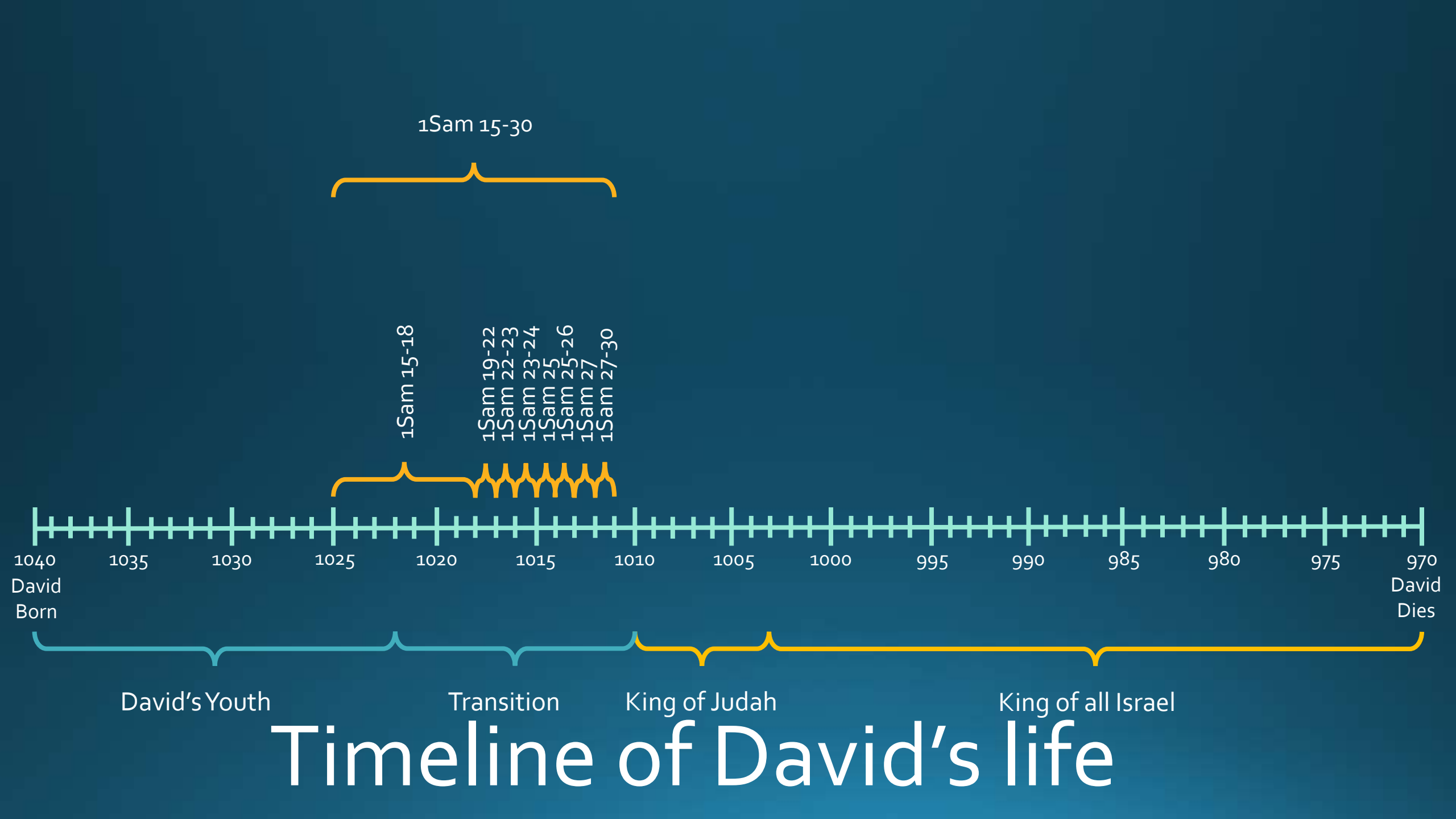
- Bold faith
- Trusts the Lord and seeks Him often
- Accepts responsibility for his own actions
- Wise
- Knows God is in control
- Keeps his word – Covenants

## Negative Traits

- Sometimes does not consult God
- Regularly deceives others

# DAVID ELUDES SAUL





1Sam 15-30



1Sam 15-18

1Sam 19-22  
 1Sam 22-23  
 1Sam 23-24  
 1Sam 25  
 1Sam 25-26  
 1Sam 27  
 1Sam 27-30



King of Judah



David's Youth

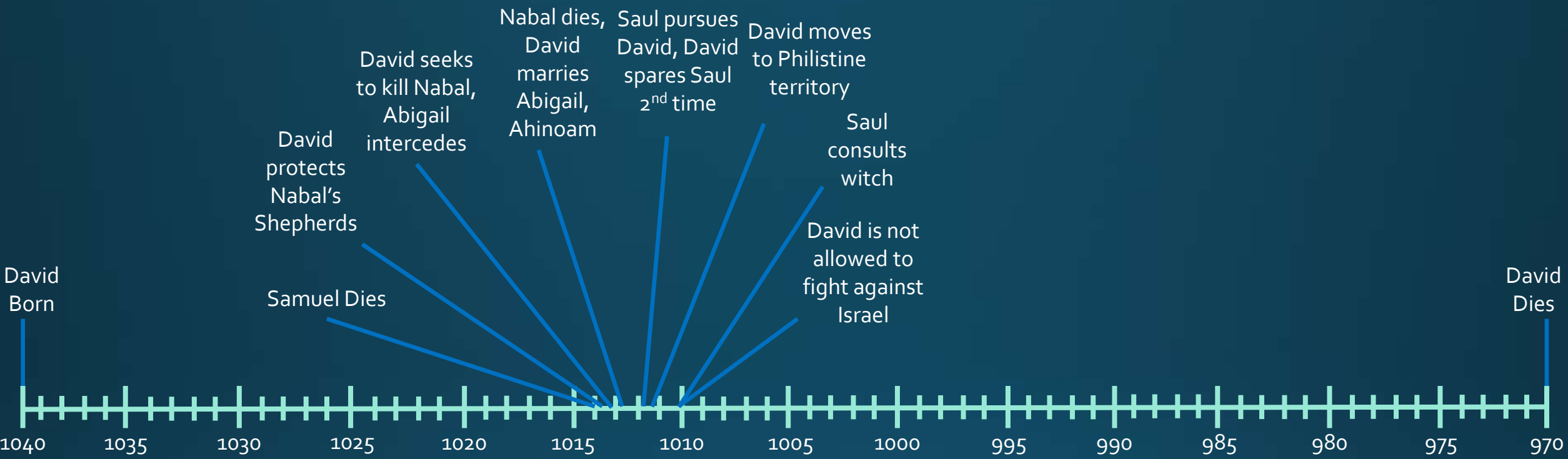
Transition

King of all Israel

# Timeline of David's life

1040  
David  
Born

970  
David  
Dies



David's Youth

Transition

King of Judah

King of all Israel

# Timeline of David's life



# 1 Sam 25

- 1 Samuel dies
- 2-4 David is in the region of Carmel, Nabal is a harsh, evil, rich, fool. His wife Abigail is intelligent and beautiful. It is sheep sheering time.
- 5-8 David sends 10 men to request a gift from Nabal, for all the protection and service his men had provided the shepherds.
- 9 David's men deliver the message and wait.
- 10-11 Nabal responds with insults, "who is this David..."
- 12 The men report the response to David
- 13 David tells men to gird their swords, 400 go after Nabal

# 1 Sam 25

- 14-17 One of Nabal's men informs Abigail about the situation
  - <sup>17</sup> "Now therefore, know and consider what you should do, for evil is plotted against our master and against all his household; and he is such a worthless man that no one can speak to him."
- 18-19 Abigail prepares a worthy gift
- 20-21 David's thoughts...
  - <sup>21</sup> Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have guarded all that this *man* has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; and he has returned me evil for good. <sup>22</sup> "May God do so to the enemies of David, and more also, if by morning I leave *as much as* one male of any who belong to him."
- 25-30 Abigail's plea
  - <sup>25</sup> "Please do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless man, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name and folly is with him; but I your maidservant did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. <sup>26</sup> "Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, since the LORD has restrained you from shedding blood, and from avenging yourself by your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek evil against my lord, be as Nabal. <sup>27</sup> "Now let this gift which your maidservant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who accompany my lord. <sup>28</sup> "Please forgive the transgression of your maidservant; for the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil will not be found in you all your days. <sup>29</sup> "Should anyone rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, then the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; but the lives of your enemies He will sling out as from the hollow of a sling. <sup>30</sup> "And when the LORD does for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and appoints you ruler over Israel, <sup>31</sup> this will not cause grief or a troubled heart to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord having avenged himself. When the LORD deals well with my lord, then remember your maidservant."

# 1 Sam 25

- 32-34 David's response

<sup>32</sup> Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me, <sup>33</sup> and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed and from avenging myself by my own hand.

<sup>34</sup> "Nevertheless, as the LORD God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from harming you, unless you had come quickly to meet me, surely there would not have been left to Nabal until the morning light *as much as one male*."

- 36-38 The Lord strikes Nabal

- 39 David's response to hearing of Nabal's death

<sup>39</sup> When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal and has kept back His servant from evil. The LORD has also returned the evildoing of Nabal on his own head." Then David sent a proposal to Abigail, to take her as his wife.

- 40-44 David marries Abigail, also married Ahinoam, Saul gave Michal to Palti, son of Laish

# 1 Sam 26

- 1-4 Ziphites tell Saul David's location again, Saul pursues with 3000 men
- 5-7 David goes and approaches Saul's camp at night with Abishai where God placed the camp into a deep sleep (v 12)
- 8-11 Dialogue between David and Abishai
  - <sup>8</sup> Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hand; now therefore, please let me strike him with the spear to the ground with one stroke, and I will not strike him the second time." <sup>9</sup> But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be without guilt?" <sup>10</sup> David also said, "As the LORD lives, surely the LORD will strike him, or his day will come that he dies, or he will go down into battle and perish. <sup>11</sup> "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."
- 13-16 David calls out from a distance away and taunts Abner
  - <sup>15</sup> So David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came to destroy the king your lord. <sup>16</sup> "This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, *all* of you must surely die, because you did not guard your lord, the LORD'S anointed. And now, see where the king's spear is and the jug of water that was at his head."



# 1 Sam 26

- 17-20 Saul recognizes David's voice, David speaks to Saul
  - <sup>18</sup> He also said, "Why then is my lord pursuing his servant? For what have I done? Or what evil is in my hand?" <sup>19</sup> "Now therefore, please let my lord the king listen to the words of his servant. If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering; but if it is men, cursed are they before the LORD, for they have driven me out today so that I would have no attachment with the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.'" <sup>20</sup> "Now then, do not let my blood fall to the ground away from the presence of the LORD; for the king of Israel has come out to search for a single flea, just as one hunts a partridge in the mountains."
- 21-25 Saul repents and returns from pursuing David, David departs

# 1 Sam 27

- 1 David decides to live in Philistine territory to stop Saul from pursuing him
- 2-4 David goes to Achish, king of Gath
- 5-7 David asks Achish for a place of his own, Achish gives him Ziklag, David lives in Philistine territory for 1 year & 4 months
- 8-12 David deceives Achish by telling him he is raiding Judean territories, but really raids Canaanite areas, leaving no one alive



Ruins at Ziklag

# 1 Sam 28

- 1 Philistines gather to go to war against Israel, Achish tells David that he will go with him to fight against Israel
- 2 David agrees to fight
- 3-7 When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was greatly afraid. Seeks God, but God does not answer him, so he decides to consult a medium – witch of Endor
- 8-14 Saul deceives the medium, she calls up Samuel
- 15-19 Samuel's dialogue with Saul  

<sup>15</sup> Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am greatly distressed; for the Philistines are waging war against me, and God has departed from me and no longer answers me, either through prophets or by dreams; therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I should do." <sup>16</sup> Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary? <sup>17</sup> "The LORD has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David. <sup>18</sup> "As you did not obey the LORD and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the LORD has done this thing to you this day. <sup>19</sup> "Moreover the LORD will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed the LORD will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines!"
- 20-24 Saul falls on the ground, has to be coaxed to get up and eat



# 1 Sam 29

- 1 Philistines gather for war at Aphek, Israel at Jezreel
- 2 David is with Achish
- 3-5 Philistine leaders do not want David to fight with them

<sup>3</sup> Then the commanders of the Philistines said, "What *are* these Hebrews doing here?" And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, "Is this not David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or *rather* these years, and I have found no fault in him from the day he deserted *to me* to this day?" <sup>4</sup> But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him, and the commanders of the Philistines said to him, "Make the man go back, that he may return to his place where you have assigned him, and do not let him go down to battle with us, or in the battle he may become an adversary to us. For with what could this *man* make himself acceptable to his lord? *Would it not be* with the heads of these men?" <sup>5</sup> "Is this not David, of whom they sing in the dances, saying, 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands'?"

- 6-11 Achish complies with the other leaders and sends David home

<sup>8</sup> David said to Achish, "But what have I done? And what have you found in your servant from the day when I came before you to this day, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"



# Psalms written by David to this point

- Psalm 9 – on David's victory over Goliath - <sup>9</sup> The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, A stronghold in times of trouble;
- Psalm 11 – when David was advised to flee to the mountains - <sup>5</sup> The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates.
- Psalm 59 – Saul surrounding the town where David was staying - <sup>10</sup> My God in His lovingkindness will meet me; God will let me look *triumphantly* upon my foes.
- Psalm 17 – on the murder of the priests by Doeg - <sup>13</sup> Arise, O LORD, confront him, bring him low; Deliver my soul from the wicked with Your sword,
- Psalm 31 – David's persecution by Saul - <sup>17</sup> Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I call upon You; Let the wicked be put to shame, let them be silent in Sheol.
- Psalm 34 – when David pretended he was mad - <sup>19</sup> Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- Psalm 35 - David's persecution by Doeg - <sup>1</sup> Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; Fight against those who fight against me.
- Psalm 52 – David's persecution by Doeg - <sup>5</sup> But God will break you down forever; He will snatch you up and tear you away from *your* tent, And uproot you from the land of the living.
- Psalm 54 – the treacherousness of the people of Ziph - <sup>4</sup> Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul. <sup>5</sup> He will recompense the evil to my foes; Destroy them in Your faithfulness.

# Psalms written by David to this point

- Psalm 56 – when David was with the Philistines in Gath - <sup>11</sup> In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?
- Psalm 64 – David's persecution by Saul - <sup>1</sup> Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; Preserve my life from dread of the enemy.
- Psalm 109 – David's persecution by Doeg -<sup>24</sup> My knees are weak from fasting, And my flesh has grown lean, without fatness..... <sup>26</sup> Help me, O LORD my God; Save me according to Your lovingkindness.
- Psalm 140 – David's persecution by Doeg - <sup>12</sup> I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted And justice for the poor. <sup>13</sup> Surely the righteous will give thanks to Your name; The upright will dwell in Your presence.
- Psalm 142 – David's prayer while at the cave of Adullam - <sup>5</sup> I cried out to You, O LORD; I said, "You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. <sup>6</sup> "Give heed to my cry, For I am brought very low; Deliver me from my persecutors, For they are too strong for me.
- Psalm 35 – David leaving Gath - <sup>1</sup> Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; Fight against those who fight against me.
- Psalm 57, 58 – David's refusal to kill Saul in the cave - <sup>10</sup> The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked. <sup>11</sup> And men will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely there is a God who judges on earth!"
- Psalm 63 – David's prayer while in the wilderness of Engedi - <sup>3</sup> Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You. <sup>4</sup> So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.
- Psalm 141 – David's prayer when driven from Judea - <sup>8</sup> For my eyes are toward You, O GOD, the Lord; In You I take refuge; do not leave me defenseless.

# Conclusions & Applications

## Conclusions

- David consistently sought the Lord.
- David trusted that God would deal with his enemies.
- God is our refuge and our defense.
- The Lord tests both the righteous and the wicked.
- Man can do nothing that is not God's will.

## Applications

- Whenever conflicts arise, we must first trust in God, and then act from the wisdom he has given us.
- A bad choice of friends or environment can put us in situations we do not want to be in.
- Sometimes our part is to wait and trust in God.
- We must discern when we are to act and when we should wait on God.
- How we respond to trials and adversity should differentiate us from unbelievers