

# **THE PROCESS IS PAINFUL**

## **1 SAMUEL 16:1-13**

1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

2 And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

3 And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

4 And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

5 And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.

7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

## **2 SAMUEL 5:1-4**

1 Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

2 Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel.

4 David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

## **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

### **1 SAMUEL 8:1-9 (N.L.T.)**

1 As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel.

2 Joel and Abijah, his oldest sons, held court in Beersheba.

3 But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice.

4 Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel.

**5** “Look,” they told him, “you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.”

**6** Samuel was displeased with their request and went to the LORD for guidance.

**7** “Do everything they say to you,” the LORD replied, “for they are rejecting me, not you. They don’t want me to be their king any longer.

**8** Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment.

**9** Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about the way a king will reign over them.”

### **GENESIS 49:8-10 (N.L.T.)**

**8** “Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will grasp your enemies by the neck. All your relatives will bow before you.

**9** Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?

**10** The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor.

### **2 SAMUEL 7:12-16 (N.L.T.)**

**12** For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong.

**13** He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will secure his royal throne forever.

**14** I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will correct and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do.

**15** But my favor will not be taken from him as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from your sight.

**16** Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.”

### **1 SAMUEL 16:14-23 (N.L.T.)**

**14** Now the Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and the LORD sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear.

**15** Some of Saul’s servants said to him, “A tormenting spirit from God is troubling you.

**16** Let us find a good musician to play the harp whenever the tormenting spirit troubles you. He will play soothing music, and you will soon be well again.”

**17** “All right,” Saul said. “Find me someone who plays well, and bring him here.”

**18** One of the servants said to Saul, “One of Jesse’s sons from Bethlehem is a talented harp player. Not only that—he is a brave warrior, a man of war, and has good judgment. He is also a fine-looking young man, and the LORD is with him.”

**19** So Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, “Send me your son David, the shepherd.”

**20** Jesse responded by sending David to Saul, along with a young goat, a donkey loaded with bread, and a wineskin full of wine.

**21** So David went to Saul and began serving him. Saul loved David very much, and David became his armor bearer.

**22** Then Saul sent word to Jesse asking, “Please let David remain in my service, for I am very pleased with him.”

**23** And whenever the tormenting spirit from God troubled Saul, David would play the harp. Then Saul would feel better, and the tormenting spirit would go away.

### **1 SAMUEL 17:48-51 (N.L.T.)**

**48** As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him.

**49** Reaching into his shepherd’s bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground.

*50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword.*

*51 Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head.*

### **1 SAMUEL 18:5-30 (N.L.T.)**

*5 Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike.*

*6 When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals.*

*7 This was their song: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!"*

*8 This made Saul very angry. "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!"*

*9 So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.*

*10 The very next day a tormenting spirit from God overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand,*

*11 and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice.*

*12 Saul was then afraid of David, for the LORD was with David and had turned away from Saul.*

*13 Finally, Saul sent him away and appointed him commander over 1,000 men, and David faithfully led his troops into battle.*

*14 David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the LORD was with him.*

*15 When Saul recognized this, he became even more afraid of him.*

*16 But all Israel and Judah loved David because he was so successful at leading his troops into battle.*

*17 One day Saul said to David, "I am ready to give you my older daughter, Merab, as your wife. But first you must prove yourself to be a real warrior by fighting the LORD's battles." For Saul thought, "I'll send him out against the Philistines and let them kill him rather than doing it myself."*

*18 "Who am I, and what is my family in Israel that I should be the king's son-in-law?" David exclaimed. "My father's family is nothing!"*

*19 So when the time came for Saul to give his daughter Merab in marriage to David, he gave her instead to Adriel, a man from Meholah.*

*20 In the meantime, Saul's daughter Michal had fallen in love with David, and Saul was delighted when he heard about it.*

*21 "Here's another chance to see him killed by the Philistines!" Saul said to himself. But to David he said, "Today you have a second chance to become my son-in-law!"*

*22 Then Saul told his men to say to David, "The king really likes you, and so do we. Why don't you accept the king's offer and become his son-in-law?"*

*23 When Saul's men said these things to David, he replied, "How can a poor man from a humble family afford the bride price for the daughter of a king?"*

*24 When Saul's men reported this back to the king,*

*25 he told them, "Tell David that all I want for the bride price is 100 Philistine foreskins! Vengeance on my enemies is all I really want." But what Saul had in mind was that David would be killed in the fight.*

*26 David was delighted to accept the offer. Before the time limit expired,*

*27 he and his men went out and killed 200 Philistines. Then David fulfilled the king's requirement by presenting all their foreskins to him. So Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife.*

*28 When Saul realized that the LORD was with David and how much his daughter Michal loved him,*

*29 Saul became even more afraid of him, and he remained David's enemy for the rest of his life.*

*30 Every time the commanders of the Philistines attacked, David was more successful against them than all the rest of Saul's officers. So David's name became very famous.*

## **1 SAMUEL 19 (N.L.T.)**

**1** Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David. But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David,

**2** told him what his father was planning. "Tomorrow morning," he warned him, "you must find a hiding place out in the fields.

**3** I'll ask my father to go out there with me, and I'll talk to him about you. Then I'll tell you everything I can find out."

**4** The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him. "The king must not sin against his servant David," Jonathan said. "He's never done anything to harm you. He has always helped you in any way he could.

**5** Have you forgotten about the time he risked his life to kill the Philistine giant and how the LORD brought a great victory to all Israel as a result? You were certainly happy about it then. Why should you murder an innocent man like David? There is no reason for it at all!"

**6** So Saul listened to Jonathan and vowed, "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be killed."

**7** Afterward Jonathan called David and told him what had happened. Then he brought David to Saul, and David served in the court as before.

**8** War broke out again after that, and David led his troops against the Philistines. He attacked them with such fury that they all ran away.

**9** But one day when Saul was sitting at home, with spear in hand, the tormenting spirit from the LORD suddenly came upon him again. As David played his harp,

**10** Saul hurled his spear at David. But David dodged out of the way, and leaving the spear stuck in the wall, he fled and escaped into the night.

**11** Then Saul sent troops to watch David's house. They were told to kill David when he came out the next morning. But Michal, David's wife, warned him, "If you don't escape tonight, you will be dead by morning."

**12** So she helped him climb out through a window, and he fled and escaped.

**13** Then she took an idol and put it in his bed, covered it with blankets, and put a cushion of goat's hair at its head.

**14** When the troops came to arrest David, she told them he was sick and couldn't get out of bed.

**15** But Saul sent the troops back to get David. He ordered, "Bring him to me in his bed so I can kill him!"

**16** But when they came to carry David out, they discovered that it was only an idol in the bed with a cushion of goat's hair at its head.

**17** "Why have you betrayed me like this and let my enemy escape?" Saul demanded of Michal. "I had to," Michal replied. "He threatened to kill me if I didn't help him."

**18** So David escaped and went to Ramah to see Samuel, and he told him all that Saul had done to him. Then Samuel took David with him to live at Naioth.

**19** When the report reached Saul that David was at Naioth in Ramah,

**20** he sent troops to capture him. But when they arrived and saw Samuel leading a group of prophets who were prophesying, the Spirit of God came upon Saul's men, and they also began to prophesy.

**21** When Saul heard what had happened, he sent other troops, but they, too, prophesied! The same thing happened a third time.

**22** Finally, Saul himself went to Ramah and arrived at the great well in Secu. "Where are Samuel and David?" he demanded. "They are at Naioth in Ramah," someone told him.

**23** But on the way to Naioth in Ramah the Spirit of God came even upon Saul, and he, too, began to prophesy all the way to Naioth!

**24** He tore off his clothes and lay naked on the ground all day and all night, prophesying in the presence of Samuel. The people who were watching exclaimed, "What? Is even Saul a prophet?"

## **1 SAMUEL 21:10-15 (N.L.T.)**

*10 So David escaped from Saul and went to King Achish of Gath.*

*11 But the officers of Achish were unhappy about his being there. "Isn't this David, the king of the land?" they asked. "Isn't he the one the people honor with dances, singing, 'Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands?'"*

*12 David heard these comments and was very afraid of what King Achish of Gath might do to him.*

*13 So he pretended to be insane, scratching on doors and drooling down his beard.*

*14 Finally, King Achish said to his men, "Must you bring me a madman?"*

*15 We already have enough of them around here! Why should I let someone like this be my guest?"*

## **1 SAMUEL 22:1-5 (N.L.T.)**

*1 So David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there.*

*2 Then others began coming—men who were in trouble or in debt or who were just discontented—until David was the captain of about 400 men.*

*3 Later David went to Mizpeh in Moab, where he asked the king, "Please allow my father and mother to live here with you until I know what God is going to do for me."*

*4 So David's parents stayed in Moab with the king during the entire time David was living in his stronghold.*

*5 One day the prophet Gad told David, "Leave the stronghold and return to the land of Judah." So David went to the forest of Hereth.*

## **1 SAMUEL 23 (N.L.T.)**

*1 One day news came to David that the Philistines were at Keilah stealing grain from the threshing floors.*

*2 David asked the LORD, "Should I go and attack them?" "Yes, go and save Keilah," the LORD told him.*

*3 But David's men said, "We're afraid even here in Judah. We certainly don't want to go to Keilah to fight the whole Philistine army!"*

*4 So David asked the LORD again, and again the LORD replied, "Go down to Keilah, for I will help you conquer the Philistines."*

*5 So David and his men went to Keilah. They slaughtered the Philistines and took all their livestock and rescued the people of Keilah.*

*6 Now when Abiathar son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, he brought the ephod with him.*

*7 Saul soon learned that David was at Keilah. "Good!" he exclaimed. "We've got him now! God has handed him over to me, for he has trapped himself in a walled town!"*

*8 So Saul mobilized his entire army to march to Keilah and besiege David and his men.*

*9 But David learned of Saul's plan and told Abiathar the priest to bring the ephod and ask the LORD what he should do.*

*10 Then David prayed, "O LORD, God of Israel, I have heard that Saul is planning to come and destroy Keilah because I am here.*

*11 Will the leaders of Keilah betray me to him? And will Saul actually come as I have heard? O LORD, God of Israel, please tell me." And the LORD said, "He will come."*

*12 Again David asked, "Will the leaders of Keilah betray me and my men to Saul?" And the LORD replied, "Yes, they will betray you."*

*13 So David and his men — about 600 of them now — left Keilah and began roaming the countryside. Word soon reached Saul that David had escaped, so he didn't go to Keilah after all.*

*14 David now stayed in the strongholds of the wilderness and in the hill country of Ziph. Saul hunted him day after day, but God didn't let Saul find him.*

*15 One day near Horesh, David received the news that Saul was on the way to Ziph to search for him and kill him.*

*16 Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God.*

**17** “Don’t be afraid,” Jonathan reassured him. “My father will never find you! You are going to be the king of Israel, and I will be next to you, as my father, Saul, is well aware.”

**18** So the two of them renewed their solemn pact before the LORD. Then Jonathan returned home, while David stayed at Horesh.

**19** But now the men of Ziph went to Saul in Gibeah and betrayed David to him. “We know where David is hiding,” they said. “He is in the strongholds of Horesh on the hill of Hakilah, which is in the southern part of Jeshimon.

**20** Come down whenever you’re ready, O king, and we will catch him and hand him over to you!”

**21** “The LORD bless you,” Saul said. “At last someone is concerned about me!”

**22** Go and check again to be sure of where he is staying and who has seen him there, for I know that he is very crafty.

**23** Discover his hiding places, and come back when you are sure. Then I’ll go with you. And if he is in the area at all, I’ll track him down, even if I have to search every hiding place in Judah!”

**24** So the men of Ziph returned home ahead of Saul. Meanwhile, David and his men had moved into the wilderness of Maon in the Arabah Valley south of Jeshimon.

**25** When David heard that Saul and his men were searching for him, he went even farther into the wilderness to the great rock, and he remained there in the wilderness of Maon. But Saul kept after him in the wilderness.

**26** Saul and David were now on opposite sides of a mountain. Just as Saul and his men began to close in on David and his men,

**27** an urgent message reached Saul that the Philistines were raiding Israel again.

**28** So Saul quit chasing David and returned to fight the Philistines. Ever since that time, the place where David was camped has been called the Rock of Escape.

**29** David then went to live in the strongholds of En-gedi.

### **1 SAMUEL 25:1-42 (N.L.T.)**

**1** Now Samuel died, and all Israel gathered for his funeral. They buried him at his house in Ramah. Then David moved down to the wilderness of Maon.

**2** There was a wealthy man from Maon who owned property near the town of Carmel. He had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats, and it was sheep-shearing time.

**3** This man’s name was Nabal, and his wife, Abigail, was a sensible and beautiful woman. But Nabal, a descendant of Caleb, was crude and mean in all his dealings.

**4** When David heard that Nabal was shearing his sheep,

**5** he sent ten of his young men to Carmel with this message for Nabal:

**6** “Peace and prosperity to you, your family, and everything you own!”

**7** I am told that it is sheep-shearing time. While your shepherds stayed among us near Carmel, we never harmed them, and nothing was ever stolen from them.

**8** Ask your own men, and they will tell you this is true. So would you be kind to us, since we have come at a time of celebration? Please share any provisions you might have on hand with us and with your friend David.”

**9** David’s young men gave this message to Nabal in David’s name, and they waited for a reply.

**10** “Who is this fellow David?” Nabal sneered to the young men. “Who does this son of Jesse think he is? There are lots of servants these days who run away from their masters.

**11** Should I take my bread and my water and my meat that I’ve slaughtered for my shearers and give it to a band of outlaws who come from who knows where?”

**12** So David’s young men returned and told him what Nabal had said.

**13** “Get your swords!” was David’s reply as he strapped on his own. Then 400 men started off with David, and 200 remained behind to guard their equipment.

**14** Meanwhile, one of Nabal’s servants went to Abigail and told her, “David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he screamed insults at them.

**15** *These men have been very good to us, and we never suffered any harm from them. Nothing was stolen from us the whole time they were with us.*

**16** *In fact, day and night they were like a wall of protection to us and the sheep.*

**17** *You need to know this and figure out what to do, for there is going to be trouble for our master and his whole family. He's so ill-tempered that no one can even talk to him!"*

**18** *Abigail wasted no time. She quickly gathered 200 loaves of bread, two wineskins full of wine, five sheep that had been slaughtered, nearly a bushel of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 fig cakes. She packed them on donkeys*

**19** *and said to her servants, "Go on ahead. I will follow you shortly." But she didn't tell her husband Nabal what she was doing.*

**20** *As she was riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, she saw David and his men coming toward her.*

**21** *David had just been saying, "A lot of good it did to help this fellow. We protected his flocks in the wilderness, and nothing he owned was lost or stolen. But he has repaid me evil for good.*

**22** *May God strike me and kill me if even one man of his household is still alive tomorrow morning!"*

**23** *When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed low before him.*

**24** *She fell at his feet and said, "I accept all blame in this matter, my lord. Please listen to what I have to say.*

**25** *I know Nabal is a wicked and ill-tempered man; please don't pay any attention to him. He is a fool, just as his name suggests. But I never even saw the young men you sent.*

**26** *"Now, my lord, as surely as the LORD lives and you yourself live, since the LORD has kept you from murdering and taking vengeance into your own hands, let all your enemies and those who try to harm you be as cursed as Nabal is.*

**27** *And here is a present that I, your servant, have brought to you and your young men.*

**28** *Please forgive me if I have offended you in any way. The LORD will surely reward you with a lasting dynasty, for you are fighting the LORD's battles. And you have not done wrong throughout your entire life.*

**29** *"Even when you are chased by those who seek to kill you, your life is safe in the care of the LORD your God, secure in his treasure pouch! But the lives of your enemies will disappear like stones shot from a sling!*

**30** *When the LORD has done all he promised and has made you leader of Israel,*

**31** *don't let this be a blemish on your record. Then your conscience won't have to bear the staggering burden of needless bloodshed and vengeance. And when the LORD has done these great things for you, please remember me, your servant!"*

**32** *David replied to Abigail, "Praise the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today!*

**33** *Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder and from carrying out vengeance with my own hands.*

**34** *For I swear by the LORD, the God of Israel, who has kept me from hurting you, that if you had not hurried out to meet me, not one of Nabal's men would still be alive tomorrow morning."*

**35** *Then David accepted her present and told her, "Return home in peace. I have heard what you said. We will not kill your husband."*

**36** *When Abigail arrived home, she found that Nabal was throwing a big party and was celebrating like a king. He was very drunk, so she didn't tell him anything about her meeting with David until dawn the next day.*

**37** *In the morning when Nabal was sober, his wife told him what had happened. As a result he had a stroke, and he lay paralyzed on his bed like a stone.*

**38** *About ten days later, the LORD struck him, and he died.*

**39** *When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise the LORD, who has avenged the insult I received from Nabal and has kept me from doing it myself. Nabal has received the punishment for his sin." Then David sent messengers to Abigail to ask her to become his wife.*

*40 When the messengers arrived at Carmel, they told Abigail, “David has sent us to take you back to marry him.”*

*41 She bowed low to the ground and responded, “I, your servant, would be happy to marry David. I would even be willing to become a slave, washing the feet of his servants!”*

*42 Quickly getting ready, she took along five of her servant girls as attendants, mounted her donkey, and went with David’s messengers. And so she became his wife.*

### **1 SAMUEL 27:1-4 (N.L.T.)**

*1 But David kept thinking to himself, “Someday Saul is going to get me. The best thing I can do is escape to the Philistines. Then Saul will stop hunting for me in Israelite territory, and I will finally be safe.”*

*2 So David took his 600 men and went over and joined Achish son of Maach, the king of Gath.*

*3 David and his men and their families settled there with Achish at Gath. David brought his two wives along with him—Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail, Nabal’s widow from Carmel.*

*4 Word soon reached Saul that David had fled to Gath, so he stopped hunting for him.*

### **1 SAMUEL 28:1-2 (N.L.T.)**

*1 About that time the Philistines mustered their armies for another war with Israel. King Achish told David, “You and your men will be expected to join me in battle.”*

*2 “Very well!” David agreed. “Now you will see for yourself what we can do.” Then Achish told David, “I will make you my personal bodyguard for life.”*

### **1 SAMUEL 29 (N.L.T.)**

*1 The entire Philistine army now mobilized at Aphek, and the Israelites camped at the spring in Jezreel.*

*2 As the Philistine rulers were leading out their troops in groups of hundreds and thousands, David and his men marched at the rear with King Achish.*

*3 But the Philistine commanders demanded, “What are these Hebrews doing here?” And Achish told them, “This is David, the servant of King Saul of Israel. He’s been with me for years, and I’ve never found a single fault in him from the day he arrived until today.”*

*4 But the Philistine commanders were angry. “Send him back to the town you’ve given him!” they demanded. “He can’t go into the battle with us. What if he turns against us in battle and becomes our adversary? Is there any better way for him to reconcile himself with his master than by handing our heads over to him?”*

*5 Isn’t this the same David about whom the women of Israel sing in their dances, ‘Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands?’”*

*6 So Achish finally summoned David and said to him, “I swear by the LORD that you have been a trustworthy ally. I think you should go with me into battle, for I’ve never found a single flaw in you from the day you arrived until today. But the other Philistine rulers won’t hear of it.*

*7 Please don’t upset them, but go back quietly.”*

*8 “What have I done to deserve this treatment?” David demanded. “What have you ever found in your servant, that I can’t go and fight the enemies of my lord the king?”*

*9 But Achish insisted, “As far as I’m concerned, you’re as perfect as an angel of God. But the Philistine commanders are afraid to have you with them in the battle.*

*10 Now get up early in the morning, and leave with your men as soon as it gets light.”*

*11 So David and his men headed back into the land of the Philistines, while the Philistine army went on to Jezreel.*

### **1 SAMUEL 30:1-8 (N.L.T.)**

*1 Three days later, when David and his men arrived home at their town of Ziklag, they found that the Amalekites had made a raid into the Negev and Ziklag; they had crushed Ziklag and burned it to the ground.*

*2 They had carried off the women and children and everyone else but without killing anyone.*



**3** *When David and his men saw the ruins and realized what had happened to their families,*

**4** *they wept until they could weep no more.*

**5** *David's two wives, Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal from Carmel, were among those captured.*

**6** *David was now in great danger because all his men were very bitter about losing their sons and daughters, and they began to talk of stoning him. But David found strength in the LORD his God.*

**7** *Then he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring me the ephod!" So Abiathar brought it.*

**8** *Then David asked the LORD, "Should I chase after this band of raiders? Will I catch them?" And the LORD told him, "Yes, go after them. You will surely recover everything that was taken from you!"*