

## Message #69

## I Samuel 29:1-11

We have been living in interesting times politically. I do not ever remember praying more fervently for the outcome of an election than we did this year. But the truth is no matter what the outcome is, **God is still sovereign**. No one will ever beat Him, His will or His program.

In fact, when God decides that He wants to change things, He has total and complete sovereign power to be able to do it. That point is very clear from this text.

When the events of this chapter began, there were two major things David did not know:

1) He did not know that Saul was about to be killed. 28:19

He had no knowledge of what transpired between Samuel and Saul.

2) He did not know that the Amalekites were going to raid his city of Ziklag. 30:1

God obviously knew both of these things and in His sovereignty, God did not want David near the execution of Saul, and God did want David back home to track down the Amalekites.

What God will use to get David exactly where He wants him is the godless leadership of the Philistines. This is part of the sovereign, secret, hidden purpose of God in order to bring David to the throne to be king of Israel. **God will use godless political leadership as part of a process to make David king.**

What we clearly learn here is this:

**GOD SOVEREIGNLY DIRECTS EVERY STEP OF HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE AND HE EVEN USES GODLESS DECISIONS OF GODLESS PEOPLE AND GODLESS POLITICAL POWERS, ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN AND PURPOSE.**

Never underestimate the sovereignty of God, even when you see a world being run by godless political leaders. God is still watching over His elect and He has a plan He is operating.

This is an amazing chapter that displays the sovereignty of God in a remarkable way. God uses lost heathens to get David where He wants David to be. He protects David; He executes Saul and then He uses David to take out the Amalekites. In all of this David has no clue as to what God is doing. He starts out thinking he is going with the Philistines and ends up in a completely different place.

When we are faithful to God, we may know with certainty that God is directing our steps even when we don't know it or see it or sense it. If ever there is a text that displays that, it is this one right here.

There are six Divine Sovereignty observations we may make from this one chapter. David has no clue what is going on here. He is just living life and remaining faithful to God in the midst of political turmoil.

**SOVEREIGNTY OBSERVATION #1** – God causes the Philistine army to move to attack Israel. **29:1-2**

The Philistine army was very organized and very large. When the Philistines gathered all of their armies to go up against the Israelites, they were actually being led by the silent, secret, sovereign hand of a sovereign God. God was going to cause this movement with the Philistines because He was going to use them to kill Saul.

The Philistines came up against Israel, organized into troops of hundreds and thousands. David and his men were near the back of the military march and apparently their job was to protect Achish (**29:2**).

Now if you are in Israelite, none of this makes much sense. But what God is going to do is kill Saul and elevate David to being King and all of this is being perfectly orchestrated by the Sovereign God.

David and his men have no clue as to what is happening; but God does. He was controlling every bit of this.

**SOVEREIGNTY OBSERVATION #2** – God causes the Philistine commanders to not want David going to war with them against Israel. **29:3-5**

The Philistine commanders spotted David and his men near Achish and wanted to know what in the world are they doing here on this campaign against Israel.

Achish responded that David and his men had been faithful to him ever since he had deserted Saul. Achish had made David and his men his own personal bodyguard as a lifetime appointment (28:3). But when the Philistine commanders saw that, they were not happy.

Frankly, they had every right to be skeptical. If you saw a person who had been your enemy suddenly join ranks with you as if he was your long, lost buddy, you would wonder just exactly what is happening.

These commanders were obviously thinking David could turn against us in the rear of our attack and do us great harm. Let's say that your worst enemy all of a sudden comes to you and starts pretending to be your long, lost buddy; you too would be very cautious and skeptical because they may be trying to undermine everything you are trying to accomplish.

Now frankly these commanders are very wise and their minds are being controlled by God. I am convinced that if David had been with them and it came down to a choice between fighting for the Philistines against Israel, David would have fought against the Philistines.

According to **verse 5**, these Philistine commanders actually remember the song that had been sung about David. Saul had killed thousands and David had killed his ten thousands. This is no coincidence because these events are actually all about making David the king who replaces Saul. This is one of those little innuendoes that means a great deal in the sovereign scheme of things.

Achish, who is the king, has full confidence in David, but he is out voted by his commanders. They did not want David with them on this mission and they wanted Achish to send David back to Ziklag.

Now here is where the sovereignty of God becomes amazing. **God is the one who is controlling and turning the Philistine commander's minds so that He can get David out of this.** The commanders are not determining this; God is.

There are times when we may find ourselves surrounded by hassles that do not make any sense to us. We are faithful to God and we are not in any known sin. God may be directing us to the exact spot He wants us to be. You may have no clue what is happening or why it is happening; but God does. Stay faithful.

**SOVEREIGNTY OBSERVATION #3** – God uses Achish to inform David of the commander's decision. **29:6-7**

Achish called David and told him that he completely trusted him. It is quite an amazing testimony and reputation with Achish:

- 1) David has been upright. **29:6a**
- 2) David and his army had been pleasing in his sight. **29:6b**
- 3) David has not done one thing evil since he had been with Achish. **29:6c**

What we have here is a heathen giving a testimony for David. David certainly shines bright for God by this testimony.

In spite of the fact that Achish thought so highly of David, Achish decided to ask David to leave. He decided to listen to his commanders. Now who is behind this decision? God.

What no one here realizes is that God is turning all of these players' minds in exactly the way He wants to turn them. David is where he was supposed to be and God wanted to move him to another location and these are the circumstances and the decisions God uses to accomplish it.

**SOVEREIGNTY OBSERVATION #4 – David wants to know what he has done wrong. 29:8**

David was the kind of man who was serious about any job you gave him. He wanted to do the job right. Whatever he did he did at the highest level.

If you put him on the side of a mountain with sheep, he did that job right. If you told him to take a lunch to his brothers, he did that job right. This was not the kind of man who got fired from any job because he wasn't doing it.

So when he was asked to leave, David wondered what he had done. Probably David was planning what he would do if the Philistines attacked Israel and he may have been disappointed that he was being taken out of this situation. He wanted to know what he had done wrong.

Now in all reality these Philistines had been good to David. They had given him a place to live and they had given him a job to do, which was protecting, and they provided food to eat.

Many people work for others who are not right with God, but they provide a good living for God's people. If you are asked to leave the job that you know you are doing well, naturally you want to know why.

Truth is David has not done one thing wrong. God wants to move David. God knows it and David doesn't know it. **God was providentially directing David because God was using these very events to make him king of Israel.**

**SOVEREIGNTY OBSERVATION #5 – Achish encourages David and sends him away. 29:9-10**

Achish again reaffirmed to David that he had been pleasing in his sight. In fact, he told David that he had been a "Godsend," like an angel of God.

Now the Philistines were not known to be real believers in God, but this one knew about God and he actually believed David had been a true Godsend.

So Achish told David to get up early in the morning and take all of his servants and men with him and leave at first light.

No one but God knew what this was all about. David was just living life in the context of being faithful to God and he could not control these circumstances.

**SOVEREIGNTY OBSERVATION #6 – David leaves and goes back to Ziklag. 29:11**

This is a major moment in the sovereign plan of God. This is one battle God does not want David to be in. God's will is that he leave this fight.

It is not always the will of God to have His faithful servant fight every battle. Sometimes it is the will of God to have him leave. That is the way it was for David.

**PRACTICAL APPLICATION:**

- 1. God is totally and completely sovereign over everything in our lives—positive and negative.**
- 2. God is sovereign in every political situation, even over that which we do not understand.**
- 3. Sometimes we may be asked to leave when we have done nothing wrong and if that happens, realize that God may be leading you to the greatest blessings of your life.**
- 4. God is sovereign even over ruthless political leaders and powers.**
- 5. Sometimes when we feel like a loser, we may be the biggest winner.**
- 6. Even when we don't know what is going on, stay faithful to God, because He does.**