Chapter 27

v.1 "David falters in his faith and under pressure of Saul's superior forces feels compelled to seek security outside Israel's borders." (NIV)

v.2 "In contrast to David's previous excursion into Philistia, Achish is now ready to receive him because he has become known as a formidable adversary of Saul. Moreover, to offer sanctuary under the circumstances would obligate David and his men to serve at his call in any military venture." (NIV)

"He had gotten into trouble there before (21.10-15), but now he was the leader of a strong band of 600 men and his reception was much better." (Missler)

"The granting of landed properties to favored servants was a common part of the feudal economy of the city-states of the ancient Near Eastern Bronze Age." (McCarter)

v.5 "In a district of his own, David could observe his own religious rites as a worshiper of Jehovah and not be under the constant surveillance of the king." (Missler)

"Although David did defect to Philistia, he did so only when driven to it by Saul's persecutions, and although he did enter the service of a Philistine king, he was merely using the opportunity to acquire a base of operations from which to fight other enemies of Israel.... In the end he found a way to use his sojourn as an occasion for enriching the people of Judah (30.26-31)." (McCarter)

Chapter 28

v.2 "David's reply was ambiguous. The words, 'what thy servant can do,' contained no distinct promise of faithful assistance in the war with the Israelites." (Missler)

v.5 We are fearful when we are out of the Lord's will.

v.6 While David has a priest and a prophet, Saul is completely cut off from the Lord.

v.7 "A number of stern passages warn against any involvement with or practice of these satanic arts: (Deut 18.9-12; Exodus 22.18; Leviticus 19.26, 31; 20.6, 27).... It seems likely that: **1)** Samuel's coming was of the Lord and not because of the witch's art; **2)** The witch was surprised when Samuel appeared; and **3)** Samel came because he had a special message for the king from the Lord." (Missler)

v.11 "That the spirit of Samuel actually appeared was the view of the ancient rabbis…. The same view was held by Justin Martyr, Origen, and Augustine. Tertullian and Jerome maintained that the appearance of Samuel was a diabolical delusion." (Missler)

v.12 "The medium was used…to convey to Saul that the impending battle would bring death, would dash his hopes for a dynasty and would conclude his reign with a devastating defeat of Israel." (NIV)

v.20 "It is almost unbelievable that King Saul, a man chosen by God, could ever participate in so wicked a deed; yet the record is there—"let him who thinks he stands take heed, lest he fall" (1 Cor 10.12)." (Missler)

Chapter 29

v.4 "He will turn against us during the fighting. The Philistines had experienced just such a reversal on a previous occasion (see 14.21)." (NIV) "The 'Philistine commanders,' the ranking generals, are not of the same opinion [as Achish]. They have been free of the spell of David's charm and are mindful of his old reputation as a Philistine killer." (McCarter)

v.8 "David pretends disappointment in order to keep intact his strategy of deception." (NIV)

v.7 "According to biblical tradition Philistia comprised five, semi-independent cities (Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, Ashkelon, and Gaza), each of which was ruled by a "lord." (McCarter)

Question: Was David trusting God to show him the way through this great dilemma?

Thought: Perhaps David and his men would have turned the tide in favor of the Israelits, but God had determined to take Saul's life.