

The Life of David

1 Samuel 26

David Spares Saul's Life...Again



...his righteousness, and shall
a people that shall be born, that
he hath done *this*.

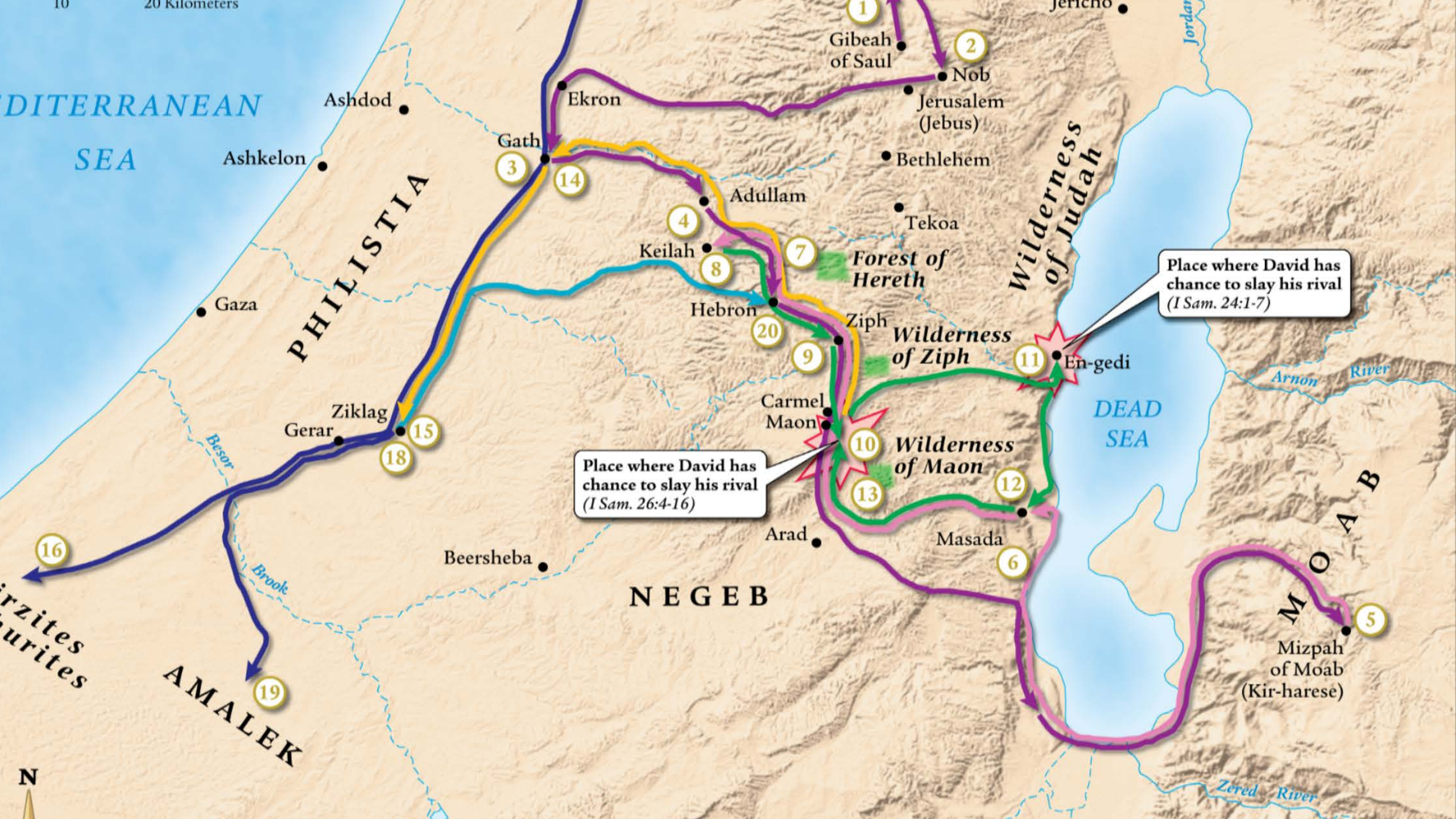
PSALM 23
A Psalm of David.

THE LORD is my shepherd;
1 I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down
in green pastures: he leadeth
me beside the still waters.
3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth
me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.



Saul finds David (26:1-4)

- Saul learns of David's location from the Ziphites (v1)

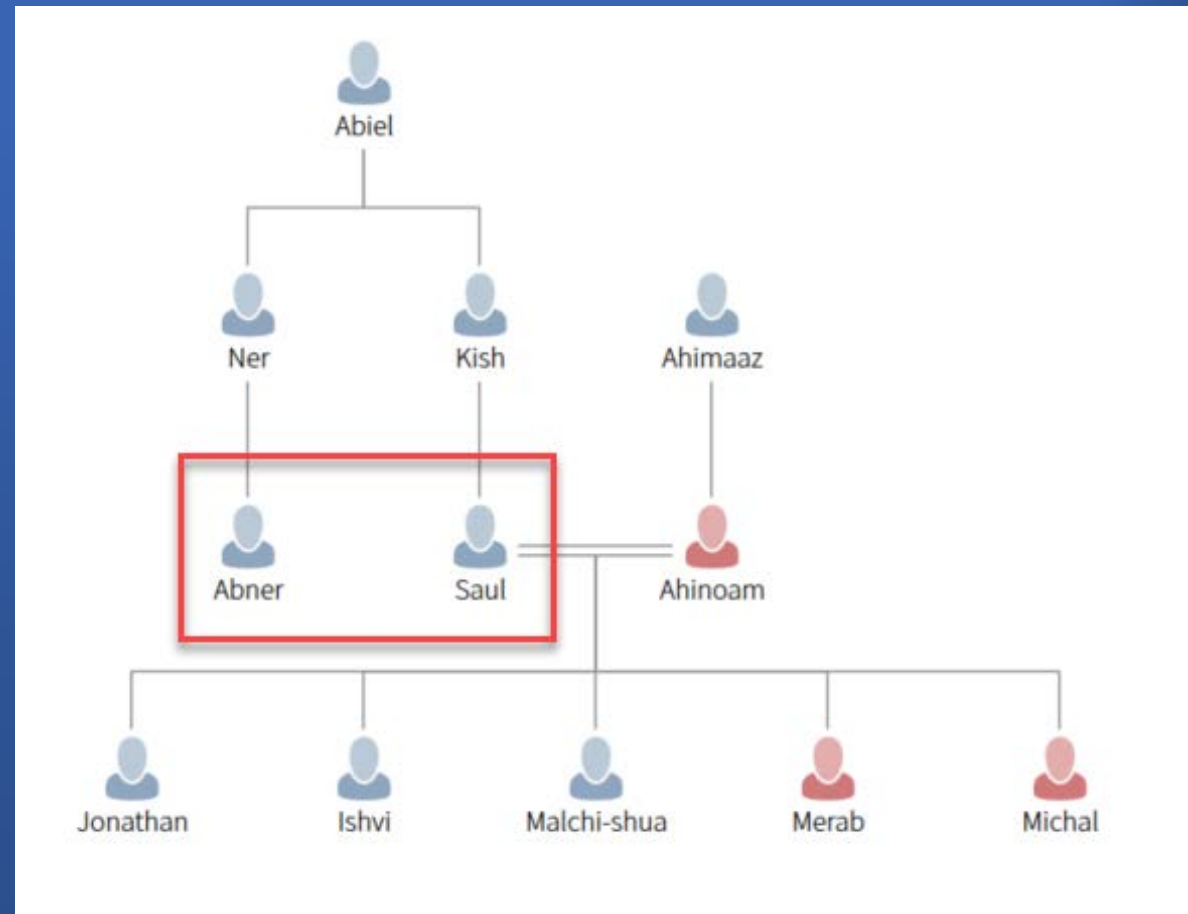


Saul finds David (26:1-4)

- Saul learns of David's location from the Ziphites (v1)
- Saul then pursues David with 3,000 chosen soldiers in the wilderness of Ziph (v2)
- David sends out spies to confirm Saul's coming (vv3-4)

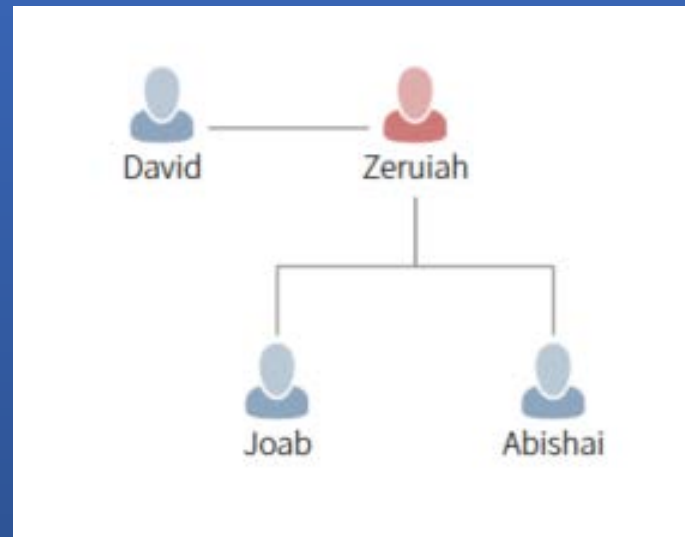
David finds Saul (vv5-12)

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- David asks for a volunteer to go down with him into the camp (v6)
- David and Abishai sneak up beside Saul (v7)
- Abishai asks David if he can kill Saul (v8)
- David says no – we cannot harm the Lord's anointed without guilt (v9)
- Instead, David is confident the Lord will deal properly with Saul (v10)
- Rather than take his life, they just take his spear and jug of water (vv11-12a)
- God provided protection by causing a deep sleep to fall on Saul and all the soldiers (v12b)

David confronts Abner and the soldiers (vv13-16)

- David crossed over to stand on top of the mountain (v13)
- David condemns Abner and the soldiers for not properly guarding the king (vv14-15)

David confronts Saul (vv17-20)

- David asks again why Saul is seeking to kill him (vv17-19)
 - If initiated by God, let Him accept an offering from me (v19a)
 - If initiated by men, let them be cursed (v19b)
 - *Because David has been driven away from the blessing of the Lord's people and land*
 - *Because David has been driven away as if to go worship other gods elsewhere*
 - David tells Saul he is being foolish (v20)

Saul responds to David (v21)

- Saul confesses that he has sinned (v21a)
- Saul tells David he can return and partake of your inheritance and worship of the Lord (v21b)
- Saul pledges to not seek to harm David again (v21c)
- Saul admits to playing the fool (v21d)

David and Saul depart (vv22-25)

- David returns Saul's spear (v22)
- David appeals to the Lord's judgment for righteousness and faithfulness (vv23-24)
- Saul blesses David and they depart (v25)

Discussion Questions

- What actions and traits of Saul should we avoid?
- What actions and traits of David should we emulate?