

¹And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.²And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that were with him unto Achish, the son of Maach, king of Gath.³And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife.⁴And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him.⁵And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?⁶Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day.⁷And the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months.⁸And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt.⁹And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish.¹⁰And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south

¹وَقَالَ دَاوُدُ فِي قَلْبِهِ، إِنِّي سَاهُكُ يَوْمًا بِيَدِ سَاوُلَ، فَلَا شَيْءَ خَيْرَ لِي مِنْ أَنْ أَقْلِتَ إِلَى أَرْضِ الْفِلِسْطِينِيِّينَ فَيَبْأَسَ سَاوُلُ مِنِّي فَلَا يُقَتِّسَ عَلَيَّ بَعْدُ فِي جَمِيعِ تُحُومِ إِسْرَائِيلَ، فَأَتَجُو مِنْ يَدِهِ. ²فَقَامَ دَاوُدُ وَغَبَرَ هُوَ وَالسِتُّ مِئَةَ الرَّجُلِ الَّذِينَ مَعَهُ إِلَى أَخِيشَ بْنِ مَعُوكَ مَلِكَ جَثَ وَأَقَامَ دَاوُدُ عِنْدَ أَخِيشَ فِي جَثَ هُوَ وَرَجَالُهُ، كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ وَبَيْتُهُ، دَاوُدُ وَأَمْرَأَاتُهُ أَخِيوَعُمُ الْبَزْرَعِيلِيَّةُ وَأَبِيغَايِلُ امْرَأَةُ نَابَالِ الْكَرْمَلِيَّةُ. ⁴فَأَخْبَرَ سَاوُلَ أَنَّ دَاوُدَ قَدْ هَرَبَ إِلَى جَثَ فَلَمْ يَعْذُ أَبْصًا يُقَتِّسْ عَلَيْهِ. ⁵فَقَالَ دَاوُدُ لِأَخِيشَ، إِنْ كُنْتُ قَدْ وَجَدْتُ نِعْمَةً فِي عَيْنِكَ فَلْيُعْطُونِي مَكَانًا فِي إِحْدَى قُرَى الْحَقْلِ فَاسْكُنْ هُنَاكَ. وَلِمَاذَا يَسْكُنُ عَبْدُكَ فِي مَدِينَةِ الْمَمْلَكَةِ مَعَكَ. ⁶فَأَعْطَاهُ أَخِيشَ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ صِفْلَعًا. لِذَلِكَ صَارَتْ صِفْلَعُ لِمُلُوكِ يَهُودَا إِلَى هَذَا الْيَوْمِ. ⁷وَكَانَ عَدَدُ الْأَيَّامِ الَّتِي سَكَنَ فِيهَا دَاوُدُ فِي بِلَادِ الْفِلِسْطِينِيِّينَ سَنَةً وَأَرْبَعَةَ أَشْهُرٍ. ⁸وَصَعِدَ دَاوُدُ وَرَجَالُهُ وَغَزَوْا الْجَشُورِيِّينَ وَالْجَزْرِيِّينَ وَالْعَمَالِكَةَ لِأَنَّ هَؤُلَاءِ مِنْ قَدِيمِ سُكَّانِ الْأَرْضِ مِنْ عِنْدِ شُورَ إِلَى أَرْضِ مِصْرَ. ⁹وَصَرَبَ دَاوُدُ الْأَرْضَ، وَلَمْ يَسْتَبْقِ رَجُلًا وَلَا امْرَأَةً، وَأَخَذَ غَنَمًا وَبَقَرًا وَخَمِيرًا وَجَمَالًا وَثِيَابًا وَرَجَعَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَخِيشَ. ¹⁰فَقَالَ أَخِيشُ، إِذَا لَمْ تَغْزُوا الْيَوْمَ، بَلَى. عَلَى جَنْوَبِ يَهُودَا وَجَنْوَبِ الْبَزْرَعِيلِيِّينَ وَجَنْوَبِ الْقَيْسِيِّينَ. ¹¹فَلَمْ يَسْتَبْقِ دَاوُدُ رَجُلًا وَلَا امْرَأَةً حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ إِلَى جَثَ إِذْ قَالَ، لَيْلًا يُخِيرُوا غَنَّا قَانِلِينَ، هَكَذَا فَعَلَ دَاوُدُ. وَهَكَذَا عَادَتْهُ كُلَّ أَيَّامِ إِقَامَتِهِ فِي بِلَادِ الْفِلِسْطِينِيِّينَ. ¹²فَصَدَّقَ أَخِيشُ دَاوُدَ قَانِلًا، قَدْ صَارَ مَكْرُوهًا لَدَى سَعْيِهِ إِسْرَائِيلَ، فَيَكُونُ لِي عَبْدًا إِلَى الْأَبَدِ.

of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites.¹¹ And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines.¹² And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.