

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)

TITLE: Program 32 – His Unseen Presence

TUESDAY

OPEN

Are you, my friend, in a difficult difficult circumstance? Do you think it will never end? Do you feel like you've been in the wilderness and everything is barren and dry and you are about to shrivel and die yourself? Have you seen, have you felt, have you experienced the divine presence there with you in the wilderness? If not, I promise you that when you get on the other side you're going to look back and you're going to see He was there all the time.

PART ONE

You look out the window and everything is so beautiful, so lush, so green and so warm and sunny and you think, O God, I wish my life were like that, because my life isn't like that at all. It is barren. It is dark and I don't think I'm ever going to come out of it. And God is saying to you today, "Oh yes, Oh yes, I'm just around the corner, and My presence is going with you all the way. You need not fear." This is what we're seeing as we're looking at

this portion of 1 Samuel, as we're looking at the divine presence in the wilderness, the divine presence, unseen, but experienced, felt. Or when you get through a certain phase of that wilderness journey you turn and you look back and you say, "God, You were there." Well David, as we go to 1 Samuel chapter 29, David is in a predicament because remember he is with the Philistines. He has gone over to the side of the Philistines, not really, but he's living over there because he had to escape from Saul, because he knew that if he did not get out of Judean territory, that was inhabited by Israel at that time, that Saul would never stop pursuing him. And he was right. And so you remember that he went over and he was living in the Philistine territory. He moved to Ziklag, which Achish gave him as his own city. And Achish the king of the Philistines, does not know that David has been going down, taking with him his mighty men of valor and wiping out Gergizites and other "ites" that live in the land that are not supposed to be in the land. And so when we come to chapter 29 we come to a very interesting predicament. And I want you to watch how David handles himself. And as we get through this and we move on we're going to see God's divine presence unseen, but very definitely guiding all the way. And Beloved, as we look at this, I want you to know that we're looking at history. We're studying the very words of God, and that's why this program exists. *Precepts for Life* is so that you might discover truth for yourself, so that you might come face to face with absolute pure, unadulterated truth. You say, "You're patting that Book." This Book is the Bible. You say, "But that was written by men." Oh no. Someone's told you that and you've believed what a man has said, but you haven't believed what God has said. You haven't believed what is proved here. You have a narrow thinking, and you have a bias thinking if you think this is a book that is an ordinary book. This is a Book that God wrote through human instruments, and those human instruments wrote what God breathed into them, what God spoke through them. And this is why we want you to join us in this program, *Precepts for Life*, and grow with us in the

knowledge of God, to learn His precepts precept upon precept, so that through His precepts you can get understanding. We have a website and it's called preceptsforlife.com, preceptsforlife.com and you can go to that website, you can download the study guides that go with what I'm teaching you. You can find out and discover tools that will help you discover truth for yourself. And of course, we're doing some basics of observation as we go through the text. And if you will just observe, observe, observe. Observe means find out what does it say? When you find out what does it say, usually interpretation will rise to the surface, and especially in historical books like this. So that's preceptsforlife.com. All right, 1 Samuel, chapter 29. **"Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies [in] Aphek, while the Israelites were camping by the spring which is in Jezreel."**(1Samuel 29:1) Now if you've been following you know that finding out where you are is so important, now understanding the geography. So the Israelites are camping near the spring that's in Jezreel, the beautiful beautiful Jezreel valley. And the Philistines are gathered at Aphek. Now what are we doing? Well if we're discovering what the Word of God says and where we are, then we want to double underline it in green, because it's a geographical location and geographical locations tell me where something took place. It says in verse 2, **"And the lords of the Philistines were proceeding on by [the] hundreds and by thousands, and David and his men were proceeding on in the rear with Achish."**(29:2) So what you have is you have Achish, the Philistine going to battle. And you have all the lords of the Philistines; there wasn't one Philistine king. So you have all the lords going, and at the rear of Achish is David and his men. Now we haven't stopped and we haven't looked at these men, but there are some important things that I want you to see. Remember I told you, (*yawning*) it's kind of a ho-hum book in 1 Chronicles and you open it up and it gives you genealogies, and then all of a sudden you discover who's who, and that helps. Well it also tells you about David's mighty men. And I want you to go

to 1 Chronicles, chapter 12. Now remember one of the important things when you're studying the Bible is to let Scripture interpret Scripture. And so many times you'll hear somebody teach and it might be a truth, but they have distorted the Word of God, or that particular passage in order to teach what they want to teach. We don't have to do that. It's all in this Book and we need to use it properly. But if we let Scripture interpret Scripture. Now it's no big deal right here with Scripture interpreting Scripture, but you get an insight into David's mighty men. And these mighty men are the men that are going to really make David the man he is, and this is one of the things I want you to know. In the wilderness look for God's mighty men, mighty women of valor to help you in that wilderness, to help you stand and to fight the enemy. Ask God, "God show me where the mighty men are. Where are the mighty men, the mighty women of valor?" Well, in 1 Chronicles, chapter 12 I want to show you something. It says in verse 19, "[And] **From Manasseh....**," and this is a tribe, "**...also some defected to David when....**,"(1Chronicles 12:19a) Now you want to mark *when* because it's a time phrase. So it's going to tell us when they defected to David. "**...when he was about to go to battle with the Philistines against Saul....**,"(12:19b) So he has just told us and if we know the Scripture, and we're reading Chronicles after having read 1 Samuel, we go, "Oh, oh, I know that. I know when that was." It's like when you read the Psalms and it says, "And David wrote this when he was in a cave hiding from so and so." And you say, "Oh I know that." What is so beautiful Beloved is the Word folds together like that, and Scripture compliments Scripture. And as you learn precept upon precept upon precept you learn more. So it says, "**...But they did not help [him]....**,"(12:19c) You say, "I've got some friends like that that didn't help me." Yeah, there's Job's friends. It says, "**...But they did not help [him], for the lords of the Philistines after consultation sent him away, saying, 'At the cost of our heads he may defect to his master Saul.'**,"(12:19d) Now that one verse gives us insight into this and the two go together. So this

is where David's mighty men are. You say, "But now wait a minute. Those men didn't come and join him." Oh, are you smart! I am so proud of you. That's right; those went away. So let's go back to 1 Samuel chapter 27 because I did not cover this when we were looking at it, but it says in 1 Samuel 27, verse 7, **"The number of days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months. Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites and the Girzites and the Amalekites...;"(1Samuel 27:7-8a)** [etc., David and his men.] Next to this verse write 1 Chronicles, chapter 12, verses 1-7, and let's go back to 1 Chronicles, chapter 12 and I want to pick up not all the verses, but just a couple. In verse 1 it says **"Now these are the ones who came to David at Ziklag...,"(1Chronicles 12:1a)** Now remember this is why you mark your geographical locations; this is why you mark your time. It says, **"[When he] came to David at Ziklag, while he was still restricted because of Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men who helped him in war. They were equipped with bows, using both the right hand and the left to sling stones and to shoot arrows from the bow; they were Saul's kinsmen from Benjamin."(12:1-2)** and then it gives you the names of these men. Now I want you to know, you may have a friend Beloved, that is going through the wilderness, and you've been helping your friend. Nobody sees it; nobody knows it, but your friend's in the wilderness and you know it, and you're right beside that friend. And you're there to sling those stones; you're there to pray, you're there to protect, but you think God's not using me. I'm so insignificant. Nobody knows who I am. I'm not popular. They don't put my name in the church bulletin. But O Precious One, God knows your name. God knows your name and God is going to see that you are recorded. Do you know that He has a book of life? Do you know that He has a book of remembrance? Do you know that He has all sorts of books and that He's keeping books on you? And the keeping of the books is in order to reward you on that very very special day. We're about to see how God takes David

through the wilderness, when the sun's not shining, when everything is just the color of sand. And yet he has his mighty men there and God is working through the mighty men and God is protecting them all the way. We'll talk about it in just a vital moment.

PART TWO

Welcome back Beloved. As we return to 1 Samuel 29 I want you to get the picture. I want you to understand that here are all the lords of the Philistines converging at Aphek. There are the Israelites camped in Jezreel near the spring because water is necessary. And then at the rear of Achish is David with his men, his mighty men, all going to war. Now all of a sudden these Philistines start looking around and they see a Hebrew, and what do they say? It says, **“Then the commanders of the Philistines said, ‘What are these Hebrews doing here?’ And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, ‘Is [it] this not David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, who has been with me [all]...these years, and I have [not] found [any] fault in him from the day he deserted me to this day?’”(1 Samuel 29:3)** In other words, he believes that David is on his side. He's got David at his rear, which means if you have someone at your rear you really trust them, because you can't see how they're moving. And all this time, although David has been lying to him, and as David has been carrying out the commandments of the Lord to clean up the people that were left in the land after the days of Joshua, although he's been doing this, Achish does not know this. Achish is offended. **“But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him...,”(29:4a)** I mean this is men going to war. These are men that are leaders. These are men now whose tempers are flaring and they're angry with him. **“...and the commanders of the Philistines said to him, [to Achish], ‘Make the man go back, that he may return to his place where you have assigned him, and do not let him go down to battle with us, or in the battle he may become an adversary [for] us. For with**

what could this man make himself acceptable to [the] lord? Would it not be [to take] the heads of these men?’”(29:4b) Would it not be for him to attack us and him to put us to death? Oh yes, you are right. But it’s not making himself acceptable with Saul. They don’t understand the conflict between Saul and David. They don’t understand that the man to the rear is the next king of Israel, their archenemy. And he goes on to say, **“Is this not David, of whom they [sang] in the dances, saying, ‘Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands’?”(29:5)** I mean tempers were hot. They were on their way to battle, and the lords of the Philistines, the lords, not one, not two, the lords of the Philistines had gathered up against Achish. But listen, listen; it is God. Watch how God spares David. It says, **“Then Achish called David and said to him, ‘As the Lord lives you have been upright, and your going out and your coming in with me in the army are pleasing in my sight; for I have not found evil in you from the day of your coming to me to this day....’”(29:6a)** Remember he likes this man. He’s made David his armor bearer. It says, **“...Nevertheless, you[’re] not pleasing in the sight of the lords. Now therefore return and go in peace, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines. [And] David said to Achish...,”(29:6b-8a)** I love what David is doing and yet, God is protecting David. And you’re going to understand that when we get to the next chapter. Then you’re going to understand it better. And **“David said to Achish, ‘But what have I done? And what have you found in your servant from the day [which] when I came before you to this day, that I may not go [out] and fight against the enemies of my lord [my] king?’”(29:8b)** How does he sound? He sounds like a loyal servant. We don’t know what he’s thinking. We don’t know what’s going on. But we know one thing; we know that on the other side by that spring in the valley of Jezreel is David’s dearest, closest friend Jonathan. We know that Saul is out there and David has had an opportunity to kill Saul and he has not done it. Twice he could have taken his life. And he didn’t do it cause that’s the

Lord's anointed. But beside the Lord's anointed is Jonathan his warrior son, so if David goes to battle, if David goes out there he is able to protect Jonathan. He is able to protect Saul. He is, in a sense, able to fight from within and fight in the battle and deliver them. And it seems like a way out, doesn't it? It seems like a way that this mighty warrior can do his thing. And according to human reasoning it is a way, but it's not God's way. So many times what happens is we get in the wilderness and we think you know, I've got to get out of this. How am I going to get out of it? And God has His time Beloved to get you out of the wilderness, and God has His way. And if you're a wise man, if you're a wise woman, you are not going to push; you are going to walk and wait upon the Lord. You're going to let the Lord lead you all the way. But watch what happens. He says, **"But Achish replied to David, 'I know that you are pleasing in my sight, like an angel of God; nevertheless the commanders of the Philistines have said, 'He must not go up with us to...battle.' Now then arise early in the morning..., '...with the servants of your lord who have come with you..., '...and as soon as you have...risen early in the morning and have light, depart.'"(29:9-10)** As soon as you see the sun coming up, you get up and you go back to Ziklag. **"So David arose early, he and his men, to depart in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines...."** Double underline it, geographical location. **"...And the Philistines went up to Jezreel."(29:11)** Chapter 30, verse 1: **"[Now] it happened when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day..., '...on the third day, that the Amalekites had made a raid on the Negev and on Ziklag, and had overthrown Ziklag and burned it with fire; and they took captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great, without killing anyone, and carried them off and went their way.'(1Samuel 30:1-2)** David, if he had gone to battle would not even have known that his two wives and his children and his mighty men and their families had been

taken captive by the Amalekites. They would not have known it. Here was another enemy. He's with the Philistines; the Amalekites are making a raid and Israel's over there in the spring in Jezreel getting ready to go to war. And where is God? Where is God? God is in His holy heavens. He is sitting on His throne. And His sovereignty rules over all. And God has the whole situation in His hands. It may not look like it to you. It may not look like it to the people that the Amalekites have taken captive. It may not look like it to David's mighty men as they stand there and as they see what has happened and as they just weep. It says, **“When David and his men came to the city, behold, it was burned with fire, and...David and the people who were with him lift...[up] their voices and wept [and they wept] until there was no strength in them to weep.”(30:3a & 4)** And it's natural to weep and it's all right to weep, but joy will come in the morning if you'll remember that a sovereign God sits upon His throne. And in the wilderness you may not see Him, but He is there. [“He will never leave you. He will never forsake you.”] (Paraphrase Deuteronomy 31:6b) You can say, “The Lord is my helper.”