

The providence of God

The end of Saul's reign
the installation of David's

There is a contrast between the reign of Saul and the reign of David.

David, the king of Israel, a type of the Messiah fulfilling the messianic role of the king of Israel, to provide for Israel and protect Israel; to expand the kingdom as close as possible to the full borders that God had promised to Abraham.

However neither David or Solomon ever fulfilled God's last promise in the Abrahamic covenant

Samuels shifts his focus:
From Saul to David to Saul and back to David

When David went for refuge to the Philistines

There's no hint in the text suggesting David is not trusting in God to keep him and his men alive.

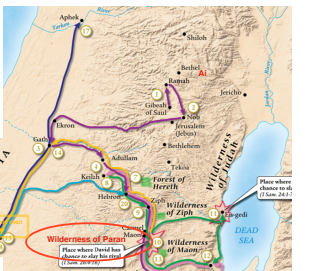
But David is making a tactical military decision using deception.

David has duplicitous dealings with Achish

God's providence behind the scenes, on David's behalf:

God Protecting David

1 Samuel 29:1-11 (NKJV)
1 Then the **Philistines** gathered together their armies at **Aphik**, and the **Israelites** encamped by a fountain which is **Jezreel**.
2 And the **lords** of the **Philistines** passed in review by hundreds and by thousands, but **David** and **his men** passed in review at the rear with **Achish**.



1 Samuel 29:1-4 (NKJV)
1 Now it happened in those days that the **Philistines** gathered their armies together for war, to fight with Israel. And **Achish** said to **David**, "You assembly know that you will go out with me to battle, you and your men."
2 So **David** said to **Achish**, "Surely you know what your servant can do." And **Achish** said to **David**, "Therefore I will make you one of my most garrisoned bowmen."
3 Now **Saul** had said, and all Israel had lamented for him and buried him in **Ramah**, in his own city. And **Saul** had put the mediums and the spiritists out of the land.
4 Then the **Philistines** gathered together, and came and encamped at **Shunem**. So **Saul** gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at **Gilboa**.

3 Then the **princes** of the **Philistines** said, "What are these Hebrews doing here?" And **Achish** said to the **princes** of the **Philistines**, "Is this not **David**, the servant of **Saul** king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or these years?" And to this day I have found no fault in him since he defected to me."
4 But the princes of the **Philistines** were angry with him; so the princes of the **Philistines** said to him, "Make this fellow return, that he may go back to the place which you have appointed for him, and do not let him go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become our adversary. For with what could he reconcile himself to his master, if not with the heads of these men?"

5 In this not **David**, of whom they sang to one another in dances, saying, "**Saul** has slain his thousands, and **David** his ten thousands?"

6 Then **Achish** called **David** and said to him, "Surely, as the Lord lives, you have been upright, and your going out and your coming in will be in the army as good as in my sight. For to this day I have not found you in you since the day of your coming to me. Nevertheless the lords do not favor you.
7 Therefore return now, and go in peace, that you may not displease the lords of the **Philistines**."

8 So **David** said to **Achish**, "But what have I done? And to this day what have you found in your servant as long as I have been with you, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of 'my lord the king?'"
9 Then **Achish** answered and said to **David**, "I know that you are as good in my sight as an angel of God; nevertheless the princes of the **Philistines** have said, 'You shall not go up with us to the battle.'"

Though David didn't recognize it, God was working behind the scene providentially in his behalf.

In a Similar Way, God works behind the scenes, and sometimes we wonder what in the world is going on. But perhaps years later looking back we realize, "all things work together for good to those who love God to those who are called according to his purpose"

10 Now therefore, rise early in the morning with your master's servants who have come with you. And as soon as you are up early in the morning and have light, depart."
11 So **David** and his men rose early to depart in the morning, to return to the land of the **Philistines**. And the **Philistines** went up to **Jezreel**.

Divine Providence is a strength to the believer to know that God is ultimately in control

Romans 8:26-28 (NKJV)
26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with **groanings which cannot be uttered**.
27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Ultimately God is overseeing the events in our life to bring about that which He desires

Definition: Divine Providence

- God's regulation and protective care for all His creation and creatures with special emphasis on His oversight of human history, all people, and especially His people.
- The term is not a biblical term, but describes a biblical concept. It is derived from the Lat. providentia; and the Gr. prōnoia; pronōia, both signifying foresight. Thus indicating that this is related to God's providence.
- The Christian doctrine of divine providence is based on God's character, specifically His attributes of sovereignty, omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, righteousness, justice, and love for His creation.

THE KINGDOM OF KING SAUL

- ★ Capital city
- City
- Site with Philistine presence
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Valley nominally controlled by Saul
- Saul's kingdom



David's deception

While under Achish's Protection David is doing battle in the South destroying Israel's enemy, and telling Achish he was raising into Israel

Dictionary

- regulation | ˌrɛɡjʊˈleɪʃən | noun
"a rule or directive made and maintained by an authority planning regulations."
- omniscience | ˌɒmnɪˈʃɪəns | noun
"the state of knowing everything; the notion of divine omniscience (its regulation for near omniscience and infallibility)"
- omnipotence | ˌɒmnɪˈpəʊns | noun
"the quality of having unlimited or very great power; God's omnipotence"

Examples of acceptable deception

Exodus 1:16-21 (NKJV)
15 Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives and the name of the older Pharaoh.
16 And he said, "When you do the duty of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on their way to the birth, then say to them, 'Why have you done this to me, that you have not buried the Hebrew women?'"
17 And the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.
18 So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?"
19 And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them."
20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty.
21 And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

Rahab's deception

Joshua 2:4-8 (NKJV)
4 Then she said to the two men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from."
5 And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know, pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them."
6 But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them, there with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof."
Joshua's military deception
Joshua 8:1-2 (NKJV)
1 Now the Lord said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.
2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it."