

DRIVEN TO GOD

I Samuel 29-30

*Tonight we will observe the deserter David
driven to God through divinely
ordained difficulties.*

Trials tend to turn us to God!

I. THE TIMES - 29:1-11

- The ebb and flow of history directed by God

A. A SUMMARY

- David is ...

1. Rejected by the commanders (1-5)
2. Dismissed by Achish (6-10)
3. Returning to Ziklag (11)

B. THE REALITY

1. The Commanders are angry (2-5)
2. Achish is deceived (3, 6, 9)
 - a. His testimony
 - b. The truth: David is rotten (cf. 27:8-12)
3. David is traitorous (1-2, 8)

C. THE RETREAT (10-11)

D. THE MERCY

- God's mercy is evident

1. David did not have to fight his own people
2. David did not have to desert Achish
3. The timing of David's return to Ziklag allows him to rescue his family.

II. **THE TRIALS** - 30:1-6a

- Heavy blows to awaken David from complacency

A. REAPING (1-3)

1. David is now entering a reaping season after 18 months of sowing wild oats!
2. A burned city (1)
3. A captured camp (2-3)

B. WEEPING (4-5)

1. Loud cries
2. Tiring cries

C. MUTINY (6a)

1. Disloyalty
2. Disheartening

III. **THE TURN** (30:6b-20)

- David is driven to God!

A. DEPENDENCE (6b)

B. RELIANCE AND OBEDIENCE (7-10)

C. BLESSINGS (11-20)

1. Assistance (11-15)
2. Success (16-20)
 - a. Victory (16-17)
 - b. Recovery (18-19)
 - c. Bounty (20)

IV. **THREE TRUTHS**

- Lessons and observations

- A. The merciful deliverance from one calamity (29:1-11) does not guarantee freedom from another.
- B. Trouble came at last (3:1). Though David may have hoped for continued exemption from the consequences of his sin, after eighteen months of “getting away with it,” he didn’t!
- C. God may bring us to emptiness (30:6) in order to encourage our dependence.

CONCLUSION:

Might we accept trials as a means of turning us to God. – James 1:2-4

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