

**The Attackers: The Immutability of the Promises: Joshua Challenges the Second Generation to Avoid Idolatry, Josh 24:19–20; Idolatry Robs the Believer of Wisdom to Discern the Lie, Prov 10:9, 14, 18, 21, 25, 29, 30, 32; Production of Faith-Rest: David's Reversionism, 1 Sam 21:12; Fear Motivates Bizarre Problem-Solving Device: Fakes Insanity before Achish, v. 13**

14. Ultimately, the opposition was quelled and the occupation of the land was completed. Yet over time, the people failed because they could not make the worship of Yahweh their priority but instead were drawn to the heathen gods of Canaan.
15. Among Joshua's last words to the Israelites before he died was a prediction of their spiritual demise:

**Joshua 24:19** - Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.

**v. 20** - "If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you after He has done good to you." (NASB)

16. The angelic conflict is an ongoing, unabated contest that pits the thinking of the Dark Side against the truth of divine revelation. It will rage until the Second Advent of Christ.
17. Presently, this battle in client nation America is being waged on several fronts. In the political arena, the major combatants are socialists versus capitalists; economic battles are waged between principles espoused by John Maynard Keynes in opposition to those held by Ludwig von Mises; on social issues, the contest is between Progressives and traditionalists; metaphysical ideas wage the world's lies against the truth of the Word.
18. Those without understanding lack the wisdom to filter the lie from those who would lead them astray. Those with wisdom discern the lie and reject its source.
19. The contrast between the wise and the benighted is found in Proverbs 10; here are some excerpts:

**Proverbs 10:9** - He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.

**Proverbs 10:14** - Wise men store up knowledge, but with the mouth of the foolish, ruin is at hand.

**v. 18** - He who conceals hatred has lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool.

**v. 21** - The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of understanding.

**v. 25** - When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation.

**v. 29** - The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the upright, but ruin to the workers of iniquity.

**v. 30** - The righteous will never be shaken, but the wicked will not dwell in the land.

**v. 32** - The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked what is perverted. (NASB)

20. It is faith-rest that enables the believer to develop a relaxed mental attitude. Wisdom develops discernment. Discernment guides believers in their encounters with the wicked while avoiding mental-attitude sins.

### The Production of Faith-Rest:

1. This problem-solving device enables the believer to avoid fear in the face of dangerous circumstances:

**Isaiah 51:7** - "Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, a people in whose heart is My law; do not fear the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings." (NASB)

2. In our recent study of David and Saul in 1 Samuel 21 and 22, there is an incident that occurred following David's meeting with Ahimelech at Nob.
3. David left Nob and went to meet with Achish, the king of Gath, but when the people of Gath recognized him they considered him an enemy.
4. At the Battle of the Valley of Elah, David had slain Goliath with the giant's own sword, the sword that has just been given to him by Ahimelech.
5. The passage does not provide us with the reason David thought it was a good idea to go to Gath. Possibly he assumed that since Saul was their enemy, he could acquire refuge there.
6. His initial intent was to appeal for sanctuary from the king of Gath. His name was Achish, whose Philistine title was Abimelech, a derivative of the Hebrew *melek*, the word for "king."
7. However, David's reputation preceded him. He was recognized by Achish's servants who said, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of this one as they danced, saying, 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?'" (1 Samuel 21:11, NASB)
8. The servants are quoting the song of praise sung by the women that greeted Saul and David following their campaign against the Philistines:

**1 Samuel 18:7** - The women sang as they played, and said, "Saul has slain his thousands, / And David his ten thousands."

9. This reminds David of his triumphal return to Gibeah from the Valley of Elah and it brings him back to reality. He realizes he has put himself in harm's way.
10. Gath is the hometown of Goliath and obviously its citizens have not forgotten how David beheaded their hero. David now becomes afraid of Achish.

**1 Samuel 21:12** - David thought [ Qal imperfect of the verb שׁוּם (*sum*): recall of 1 Samuel 18:6–7 ] about what they said in his heart [ לִבָּב (*levav*): in status quo reversionism ] and was very fearful [ the adverb מְאֹד (*me'oth*) plus the Qal imperfect of the verb יָרָא (*yare'*): feared greatly ] Achish king of Gath.

11. David fled from Israel because he was afraid of Saul's psychotic condition manifest by vindictiveness and implacability.
12. David was deluded by reversionism into thinking a change of environment was an effective problem-solving device.

13. Principle: You are the one with the problem so wherever you go the problem goes with you.
14. Once in Gath, David realizes that all that has changed is the object of his fear: formerly Saul, now Achish.
15. David has isolated himself from divine viewpoint by the presence of fear in his soul. Since he has ignored biblical problem-solving devices, he is restricted to human-viewpoint solutions.
16. If this is to be corrected it must occur in David's soul, not his environment. The issue at hand is the need for reversion recovery.
17. Principle: A reversionist is always upset by someone. The person that disturbs him varies but the attitude of soul-distress is constantly evident.
18. The solution to life's problems occurs through the application of biblical principles to life and circumstances, primarily that of the ten problem-solving devices.
19. David's mental attitude is now dominated by an intense struggle for survival. To do this he will resort to human viewpoint tactics that will change both his vocabulary and his behavior.
20. When a person is in reversionism he often resorts to bizarre problem-solving devices. David is not crazy, but he decides to act as though he is.
21. Philistines were Greeks. They avoided the insane believing they were under discipline from the gods. David knew this and played the part of a deranged Jew.

**1 Samuel 21:13** - He altered his behavior and pretended to be insane [ Hithpoel imperfect of the verb הָלַל (*halal*)<sup>1</sup> ] in their custody, making marks [ Piel imperfect of the verb תָּוַח (*tawah*): to scratch illegibly ] on the doors of the gate and caused his saliva to run down [ Hiphil imperfect of יָרַח (*yarath*): drool ] his beard.

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<sup>1</sup> "In the presence of the Philistines David changes his appearance before their eyes, makes himself worthless in their hands, and feigns senility and mental breakdown; Achish treats him like a madman" (H. Cazelles, "הלל," in *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, eds. G. Johannes Botterweck and Helmer Ringgren, trans. John T. Willis and David E. Green [Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978], 3:412).