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King David
Second Samuel 2:1 to 14:33 and First Chronicles 11:1 to 30:3



The death of **Sha'ul** was the signal for **David's** departure from Ziklag and Philistine territory, but the best way to proceed was far from obvious. **Sha'ul** had left men of power over **his** army who were capable of asserting their authority, and who had the backing of those who had supported **Sha'ul**. In particular, they could count on the loyalty of **Sha'ul's** tribe, **Benjamin**. The Philistines had their outposts as far north and east as Beit-She'an and had established their military hold over **Isra'el**, driving a wedge between the northern tribes and the central area of **Ephraim** and **Benjamin**. **Isra'el's** territory east of the Jordan was more or less intact, but the general picture was one of division and doubt in the absence of one commanding figure to establish and unite the country. **David** was such a man.[211]