

Event 14: A Philistine Sheriff

Event 14 happened during the reign of Saul. Israel occupied the hill country area of Judah. The Philistines controlled the Coastal area in five major cities - Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron. These cities lie along main branches of the Coastal Highway. The flee of David from Saul took him across vastly different geographical landscapes of the country, from coastal highways and the valleys of the Shephelah across the terraced farmland of the Hill Country, deep into the Wilderness and along the shores of the Dead Sea (the lowest point on the face of the earth) to the high Moab tableland

In the second part of event 14, Philistines mobilized at Apehek (blue arrow), preparing to go north to the Jezreel Valley to fight against Saul. This incident is studied in event 9. David was at first going with the Philistines (green arrow), but was ordered to turn around and head south, because the Amalekites were attacking Zigzag. (orange arrows) David pursued the Amalekites and drove them off the Philistine territory. As a sheriff for the Philistines, David learned the terrain of the Coastal area. This knowledge helped him greatly when he became king of Israel and pursued to capture the coastal area.