

# 1 Samuel 17:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

## Analysis

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### **And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?**

David's response 'Is there not a cause?' (halo' dabar, literally 'Is it not a word/matter?') may mean 'Is not this a legitimate concern?' or 'Was I not just asking a question?' His brief reply avoided extended conflict while maintaining resolve. Wisdom to turn from detractors without abandoning mission characterizes mature faith. David neither defended himself extensively nor surrendered his conviction.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Israelite rhetoric valued brevity in conflict situations. David's question preserved family honor by not publicly contradicting his eldest brother while continuing his inquiry. His turning away avoided escalation while maintaining purpose.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do you maintain conviction while avoiding unnecessary conflict with critics?
2. What does David's brief response teach about not being derailed by opposition?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּלֹא וְעַל פָּה

**said**

**And David**

H4100

**What have I now done**

H6258

H3808

H559

H1732

H6213

לֹא:

**Is there not a cause**

H1931

H1697

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Peter 3:9** (Parallel theme): Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

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