

1 Samuel 18:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

Analysis

Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

Chapter 18 concludes with David's reputation ascending while Saul's enmity deepens. The Philistine princes' campaigns provided context for David's continued military success. His wisdom (s akal) exceeded 'all the servants of Saul' - a comparative superlative emphasizing his exceptional ability. The phrase 'his name was much set by' (yaqar, precious/honored) indicates his reputation became increasingly valuable. Every circumstance that should have destroyed David - Saul's schemes, dangerous missions, court intrigue - instead elevated him. God was systematically preparing His chosen king through the very opposition meant to eliminate him.

Historical Context

Philistine military activity was cyclical, with princes leading campaigns during favorable seasons. David's success against these ongoing threats built his reputation among both military personnel and common people. The contrast

between David's rising star and Saul's declining effectiveness became increasingly obvious.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How has opposition in your life become the very means of your growth and preparation?
2. What does David's continued excellence despite danger teach about faithfulness under pressure?

Interlinear Text

צָאֲתָם	שָׁרֵי י	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	וַיְהִי יוֹם	מֵיָד י
they went forth	Then the princes	of the Philistines	H1961	and it came to pass after
H3318	H8269	H6430		H1767
צָאֲתָם	שָׁכַל	דָּוִד	מְכֹל	
they went forth	behaved himself more wisely	that David	H3605	
H3318	H7919	H1732		
עַבְדֵּי י	וַיִּקֶּם רָשָׁא וּלְ	שְׁמוֹ וְ	מְאֹד:	
than all the servants	of Saul	set by	so that his name	was much
H5650	H7586	H3365	H8034	H3966

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 18:5 (References David): And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

2 Samuel 11:1 (References David): And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

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