

1 Samuel 19:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

Analysis

And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Philistines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

The cycle continues: renewed Philistine conflict provided occasion for David's military success, which triggered Saul's jealousy. The Hebrew makkah gedolah ('great slaughter') emphasizes decisive victory. 'They fled from him' indicates total rout. David continued faithful service despite past persecution, demonstrating character that served Israel's good regardless of personal danger. Ironically, the very victories that protected Israel from enemies made David a target of Israel's king. Faithful service in hostile environments often means blessing those who would harm us.

Historical Context

Philistine conflicts were recurrent throughout Saul's reign, providing ongoing military challenges. David's consistent success in these engagements built his reputation while depleting Philistine strength. The great slaughter indicated significant strategic victory.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you continue faithful service to those who may wish you harm?
2. What does David's ongoing military excellence despite court danger teach about compartmentalizing personal conflict from duty?

Interlinear Text

וְתַּחֲנֹן	בְּמִלְחָמָה	לְהִיּוֹת	וְאֵלֶּא	וְאֵלֶּא	וְאֵלֶּא	וְאֵלֶּא
again	And there was war		H1961	went out	and David	and fought
H3254	H4421			H3318	H1732	H3898
וְיָרַבְתָּם	בְּפָלָשָׁת	יָמָם	מִכֶּה	בְּהָמָם	גָּדוֹלָה	וְיָרַבְתָּם
with the Philistines	and slew	H0	slaughter	them with a great	and they fled	
H6430	H5221		H4347	H1419	H5127	

מִפְרָאִים

from

H6440

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