

1 Samuel 19:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.

Analysis

And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.

The evil spirit's return during David's music ministry parallels 16:23, showing Saul's unchanged condition. The detail that Saul 'sat in his house with his javelin in his hand' combines domesticity with menace. Even as David faithfully served, Saul clutched his weapon of murder. The contrast between David's ministry posture and Saul's violent readiness illustrates service amidst danger.

Historical Context

Royal javelins served both as weapons and symbols of authority. Saul's constant possession of the javelin suggests both paranoid readiness and status assertion. David's continued service despite previous attacks shows remarkable commitment.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you continue ministry when those you serve harbor ill intentions?
2. What does Saul's unchanged condition despite David's healing ministry teach about hardened hearts?

Interlinear Text

וְהִיא נְשָׁא וְלָא בְּנֵי בְּנֵי יְהוָה בְּנֵי רַעַם וְתַּרְבָּתוֹ
H1961 spirit from the LORD And the evil H413 was upon Saul H1931
H7307 H3068 H7451 H7586

בְּנֵי בְּנֵי דָבָר יְהוָה יְשִׁיבָה בְּבֵית יְהוָה בְּבֵית יְהוָה
in his house as he sat with his javelin in his hand and David played in his hand
H1004 H3427 H2595 H3027 H1732 H5059 H3027

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 16:14 (Spirit): But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

1 Samuel 16:16 (Spirit): Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well.