

1 Samuel 20:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what is mine iniquity? and what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

Analysis

And David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and came and said before Jonathan, What have I done? what is mine iniquity? and what is my sin before thy father, that he seeketh my life?

David's anguished questions to Jonathan - 'What have I done? what is mine iniquity? and what is my sin?' - express the bewilderment of the unjustly persecuted. The threefold query emphasizes his clear conscience before God and man. Fleeing 'from Naioth in Ramah' suggests the Spirit's protection was temporary, requiring renewed wisdom for the next step. Even after divine deliverance, discernment remains necessary.

Historical Context

David's questions follow ancient Near Eastern legal form for establishing innocence. The threefold repetition emphasizes completeness. His flight from Naioth indicates awareness that miraculous protection might not continue indefinitely.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you process the experience of unjust persecution while maintaining clear conscience?
2. What does David's need for Jonathan's help after miraculous escape teach about ongoing dependence on godly friends?

Interlinear Text

לִפְנֵי י	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיָּבֹא	בְּרָמָה	מִנְיֹת	דָּוִד	וַיִּבְרַח
before	and said	and came	in Ramah	from Naioth	And David	fled
H6440	H559	H935	H7414	H5121	H1732	H1272
וְמָה	עֲוֹןִי	מָה	עָשָׂה יְתִי	מָה	יְהוֹנָתָן	
H4100	H5771	H4100	H6213	H4100	H3083	
בְּפִשִׁי	אֶת	מְבַקֵּשׁ	כִּי	אָבִיךָ	לִפְנֵי	חַטָּאתִי
my life		that he seeketh		thy father	before	and what is my sin
H5315	H853	H1245	H3588	H1	H6440	H2403

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 2:9 (Parallel theme): The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

1 John 3:21 (Parallel theme): Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

2 Corinthians 1:12 (Sin): For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

