

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

לֹפֶג יְהוָה אָמַרָה	בְּרָמָה הַמִּזְבֵּחַ תְּבִרֵךְ	תִּזְבַּח תְּבִרֵךְ	בְּרָמָה הַמִּזְבֵּחַ תְּבִרֵךְ	תִּזְבַּח תְּבִרֵךְ	תִּזְבַּח תְּבִרֵךְ	תִּזְבַּח תְּבִרֵךְ
fled	And David	from Naioth	in Ramah	and came	and said	before
H1272	H1732	H5121	H7414	H935	H559	H6440
וְיַהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה	מִן הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִן הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִן הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִן הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִן הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִן הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְיַהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה				
Jonathan	What have I done	what is mine iniquity				
H3083	H4100	H6213	H4100	H5771	H4100	H4100
וְיַהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה	וְיַהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה	וְיַהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה	וְיַהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה	וְיַהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה	וְיַהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה	וְיַהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה יְהוָה
and what is my sin	before	thy father	that he seeketh	my life	my life	my life
H2403	H6440	H1	H3588	H853	H5315	H5315

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.

