

# 1 Samuel 20:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows are beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away.

## Analysis

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**But if I say thus unto the young man, Behold, the arrows are beyond thee; go thy way: for the LORD hath sent thee away.**

The signal's negative interpretation: 'arrows beyond thee' means flee - 'the LORD hath sent thee away.' The theological framing - 'the LORD hath sent thee away' - places David's departure under divine direction rather than mere human circumstance. Even flight would be God's guidance, not defeat. Jonathan's language transformed potential tragedy into providential direction. Whatever the message, God remained sovereign. The arrows 'beyond' pointed David forward into God's purposes even if those purposes led away from everything familiar.

## Historical Context

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Arrows shot beyond the retriever indicated the direction of departure. The theological interpretation elevated human communication to divine guidance. Jonathan's framing helped David interpret even negative outcomes as God's leading.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How do you interpret difficult circumstances as divine direction rather than mere human opposition?
2. What does it mean to view forced departure as 'the LORD hath sent thee away'?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵם	כִּי	אָמַר	לְעַל	לִמְ	בְּחִזְקָה	יְמִ	הַיְנֵה
H518	H3541	<b>But if I say</b>	<b>thus unto the young man</b>	H5958	H2009	<b>Behold the arrows</b>	H2671
		H559					

  

כִּי	לְרַא	יְהִי	לֹא	מִמֶּךָּ	שְׁלַחְכָּ	יְהִי	לְךָ
H4480	<b>are beyond</b>	H1980	H3588	<b>hath sent thee away</b>	H7971	<b>for the LORD</b>	H3068
		H1973					

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 20:37** (Parallel theme): And when the lad was come to the place of the arrow which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried after the lad, and said, Is not the arrow beyond thee?

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