

1 Samuel 20:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David.

Analysis

And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David.

Saul's casting a javelin at his own son - 'to smite him' - represents the nadir of his spiritual descent. The violence against David now turned against his own heir. Jonathan 'knew that it was determined of his father to slay David' through this unmistakable proof. Sin's trajectory had reached family destruction; Saul would harm anyone who opposed his obsession.

Historical Context

Paternal violence against sons, while not unheard of, violated fundamental family bonds. The javelin - Saul's recurring weapon of rage - now threatened his own flesh. Jonathan's narrow escape paralleled David's previous escapes.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does unchecked sin eventually threaten even those closest to the sinner?
2. What does Saul's willingness to harm Jonathan reveal about where jealousy ultimately leads?

Interlinear Text

לִפְכָּתִים	וְ	עַל	יְה	פָּחָנִית	אֶת	שָׁא	וְ	יְטַלֵּל
cast	And Saul	H853	a javelin	H2595	at him to smite	H5221	knew	H3045
H2904	H7586		H5921		H1931	H5973		H1
him whereby Jonathan		H3588	that it was determined	H3617			of his father	
H3083								
לִפְכָּתִים	אֶת	לִפְכָּמִים	יְתָ	כִּי	כִּי	אָ	מִעַם	אָבִיו
to slay		H853	David		H1732			
H4191								

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 18:11 (References David): And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

1 Samuel 20:7 (Parallel theme): If he say thus, It is well; thy servant shall have peace: but if he be very wroth, then be sure that evil is determined by him.