

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

וַיִּטֹּל	וְשָׂא וְלֹא	אֶת הַחֲזָנִית	עַל יוֹ	לְהַכּוֹת וְ	וַיֵּדַע
cast	And Saul	a javelin	at him to smite	knew	
H2904	H7586	H2595	H5221	H3045	
	וְיֵה וְנָתַן	כִּי	כָּלָה	הָיָא	אָבִיו
him whereby Jonathan	that it was determined	of his father			
H3083	H3617	H1			
	וְיָדָד:	אֶת	לְהַמּוֹת		
to slay	David				
H4191	H1732				

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.