

1 Samuel 20:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

Analysis

And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

The signal unfolds: 'arrow beyond him' communicates the worst - David must flee. Jonathan shot deliberately beyond the boy, encoding danger in distance. The lad ran innocently while Jonathan delivered sentence of separation. The arrow's trajectory pointed to David's future - beyond, away, into exile. Simple archery practice masked heartbreaking farewell. Physical direction carried spiritual meaning; the arrow pointing beyond spoke of journeys ahead and friends left behind.

Historical Context

Archery practice routinely involved servants retrieving arrows. The boy's running provided natural context for shouting distance-related instructions. Jonathan's control of arrow placement allowed precise signal delivery.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How have ordinary actions in your life carried hidden significance?
2. What does the arrow 'beyond' symbolize about David's immediate future?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	הֵן עַר	כָּץ	מֵצֵא	בָּא	אֶת	הַ חֲצָיִם	אֲשֶׁר
And he said	And as the lad	Run	find out	H4994	H853	now the arrows	H834
H559	H5288	H7323	H4672			H2671	
אֵנֹכִי	יָרָה	הֵן עַר	כָּץ	וְהוּא	יָרָה	הַ חֲצִי	לְהַעֲבֹרוֹ
H595	he shot	And as the lad	Run	H1931	he shot	an arrow	beyond
	H3384	H5288	H7323		H3384	H2678	H5674