

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 heartbreakng 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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	וְיַעֲרֶה	רֹא	מִצְא	נָא	אַת	רַב	בְּחַצְיָה	אֲשֶׁר
And he said	And as the lad	Run	find out		H4994	H853	now the arrows	H834
H559	H5288	H7323	H4672				H2671	

אָנֹכִ	רַב	בְּחַצְיָה	מִצְא	רֹא	וְיַעֲרֶה	וַיֹּאמֶר
he shot	an arrow	beyond	find out	run	as the lad	he said
H595	H2678	H5674	H4672	H7323	H5288	H559

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