

1 Samuel 20:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.

Analysis

And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.

David's plan leveraged the New Moon feast (rosh chodesh) as test of Saul's intentions. His obligation to 'sit with the king at meat' was formal court protocol; absence would be noticed. The phrase 'hide myself in the field' shows David's continued fear despite Jonathan's assurances. The 'third day' allowed time for Saul's response to develop fully. Prudent planning combined with trust in God - David did not presume on past deliverances but prepared for the worst while hoping for the best.

Historical Context

New Moon festivals were observed with special sacrifices and feasts (Numbers 28:11-15). Court officials were expected to attend royal feasts. The three-day period provided sufficient time to assess Saul's response. David's planned hiding place would later become the location for Jonathan's arrow signal.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance trusting God with making prudent preparations for danger?
2. What does David's strategic planning teach about faithful wisdom in threatening situations?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	אֶל	יְהוֹנָתָן	הִנֵּה	חֹדֶשׁ
said	And David		unto Jonathan		is the new moon
H559	H1732	H413	H3083	H2009	H2320
מָחָר	וְאַנֹכִי	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	עַם	
Behold to morrow		and I should not fail	and I should not fail		
H4279	H595	H3427	H3427	H5973	
הֵם לָךְ	לֶאֱכֹל	וְשַׁלַּחַת נִי	וְנִסְתַּרְתִּי	בְּשָׂדֵה	עַד
with the king	at meat	but let me go	that I may hide	myself in the field	
H4428	H398	H7971	H5641	H7704	H5704
הָעָרָב	הַשְּׁלִישִׁית				
day at even	unto the third				
H6153	H7992				

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 10:10 (Parallel theme): Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the

trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

Numbers 28:11 (Parallel theme): And in the beginnings of your months ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot;

1 Samuel 19:2 (References David): But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

Psalms 81:3 (Parallel theme): Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.