

# 1 Samuel 20:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.**

David provided clear interpretive criteria for Saul's response: 'It is well' signals peace; 'very wroth' reveals murderous intent. The Hebrew charah (to burn with anger) describes intense rage. David understood that Saul's reaction to his absence would expose his true intentions - acceptance meant safety, while rage confirmed deadly purpose. The test would force Saul to reveal what he had concealed from Jonathan. Sometimes absence serves as better revelation than presence.

## Historical Context

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Reading royal moods was essential survival skill for ancient courtiers. Saul's volatility made such interpretation both necessary and difficult. The proposed test created forced revelation of concealed intent through emotional reaction to apparent defection.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How can someone's reaction to your absence reveal their true feelings toward you?
2. What does this interpretive framework teach about discerning hidden intentions?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵם רְכָבְךָ בְּנֵי אֶתְּנָאָם

H518

H3541

If he say

וְאֵם רְכָב

H559

thus It is well

שָׁלֹום

H2896

shall have peace

שָׁלֹום

H7965

לְעֵבֶד בְּנֵי אֶתְּנָאָם

thy servant

H518

וְאֵם רְכָבְךָ בְּנֵי אֶתְּנָאָם

but if he be very

H2734

וְאֵם רְכָבְךָ בְּנֵי אֶתְּנָאָם

H2734

וְאֵם רְכָבְךָ בְּנֵי אֶתְּנָאָם

H0

וְאֵם רְכָבְךָ בְּנֵי אֶתְּנָאָם

H3045

וְאֵם רְכָבְךָ בְּנֵי אֶתְּנָאָם

H3588

is determined

H3615

וְאֵם רְכָבְךָ בְּנֵי אֶתְּנָאָם

that evil

H7451

H5973

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 25:17** (Evil): Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he is such a son of Belial, that a man cannot speak to him.

**Esther 7:7** (Evil): And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.