

1 Samuel 21:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

Analysis

And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

David's flight to Gath represents desperate, fear-driven decision-making. The Hebrew 'mipne' (from the face of) emphasizes he fled from Saul's threatening presence. Gath was Goliath's hometown—arguably the most dangerous place for David to seek refuge. Yet in his panic, David may have reasoned that enemy territory was safer than Saul's domain. This decision reveals how fear can drive even wise leaders to foolish choices. The future king who would trust God through many trials here succumbed to panic, illustrating the ongoing struggle between faith and fear that marks every believer's journey.

Historical Context

Gath was one of five major Philistine cities, located in the Shephelah (lowlands) west of Judah. As Goliath's city, it held particular animosity toward David. The Philistine city-states operated semi-independently under their own kings (seranim).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. When has fear driven you to make decisions you later recognized as unwise?
2. How do you distinguish between strategic retreat and fear-driven flight?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲשֶׂה אַנְגָּלָל מִפְתַּח אֶלְעָמָן
arose And David and fled that day
H6965 H1732 H1272 H3117 H1931

מִפְתַּח אֶלְעָמָן
for fear of Saul and went
H6440 H7586 H935

וְאַתָּה אֶלְעָמָן
to Achish the king of Gath
H413 H397 H4428 H1661

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