

1 Samuel 21:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.

Analysis

And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.

David's request for weapons continues his deceptive narrative but reveals genuine need. The Hebrew 'chanith' (spear) and 'chereb' (sword) were primary military weapons. His explanation about haste compounds the earlier lie, yet his vulnerability is real—he faces Saul's forces unarmed. The irony deepens: David, Israel's champion who slew Goliath, now begs for any weapon at a sanctuary. This reduction of the mighty warrior to a desperate fugitive illustrates how quickly circumstances can reverse. The passage reminds us that even those greatly used by God experience seasons of profound weakness and dependency.

Historical Context

Weapons were sometimes stored at sanctuaries for safekeeping, as sacred space provided protection against theft. The tabernacle's movable nature meant various items accumulated at its location over time, including war trophies dedicated to the Lord.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain integrity when survival instincts pressure you toward deception?
2. What does David's weaponless state teach about trusting God in vulnerable seasons?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	לְאַחִימֶלֶךְ	וְאֵין	יֵשׁ	תַּחַת	פֶּה
said	And David	unto Ahimelech	not	And is there		
H559	H1732	H288	H371	H3426	H6311	H8478
בְּיָדִי		חֶנֶּי יָת	אוֹ	חֶרֶב־י	כִּי	גַם
here under thine hand		spear		my sword		
H3027		H2595	H176	H2719	H3588	H1571
כְּלִי	לֹא	לֶקַח חֲתִי		בְּיָדִי	כִּי	
nor my weapons		for I have neither brought		here under thine hand		
H3627	H3808	H3947		H3027	H3588	
הָיָה	דְּבַר	הֵמָּה לְךָ	נְחִיזִי:			
required	business	because the king's	haste			
H1961	H1697	H4428	H5169			