

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

תֹּאמֶר יְהִי אָמֶר לְאַחִים לְרַבְּנָה וְאַיְלָה
said And David unto Ahimelech not And is there H6311 H8478
H559 H1732 H288 H371 H3426

בְּיַד יְהִי מְרַבְּבָה גַּם גַּם מְרַבְּבָה
here under thine hand spear my sword my sword H1571 H1571
H3027 H2595 H176 H2719 H3588 H1571 H2719

כֹּל לֹא לְקַח חֲטֹאת בְּיַד יְהִי
nor my weapons for I have neither brought here under thine hand H3588
H3627 H3808 H3947 H3027

בְּמַעַן לְרַבְּנָה נְחֹזֶה דְּבָרָה
required business because the king's haste H5169
H1961 H1697 H4428