

1 Samuel 22:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

Analysis

And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

Saul's accusation combines facts with paranoid interpretation. The Hebrew 'lamah qeshartem' (why have you conspired) assumes guilt while framing the question. The threefold charge—bread, sword, divine inquiry—matches Doeg's report. But Saul's interpretation transforms hospitality into conspiracy, priestly duty into treason. The phrase 'to lie in wait' (Hebrew 'le'orev') was a capital offense, imagining David as an assassin-in-waiting. Saul's 'as at this day' suggests ongoing threat. This interrogation demonstrates how tyrants reframe innocent actions as crimes when paranoia governs perception. The truth was irrelevant; Saul had already determined the outcome.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern trials often presumed guilt when the king brought accusations. Conspiracy against the king was among the most serious crimes,

typically punished by death extending to the conspirator's family. Saul's charge left little room for defense.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do those in power reframe innocent actions to justify predetermined verdicts?
2. What does Saul's accusation teach about the impossibility of reasoning with paranoid authority?

Interlinear Text

עַל־י	קִשְׁרָתָם	לָמָּה שָׂא וּלְ	אֱלֹו	וַיֹּאמֶר
H5921		H4100	H413	H559
	unto him	And Saul		said
	H7194	H7586		
לֹו	בְּתִתֶּנָּךְ	וְיֵשׁ י	וּבֶן	אֶתְּ הַ
H0	H5414	H3448	H1121	H859
	in that thou hast given	of Jesse	against me thou and the son	
בְּאֵלֶּה יָם לֹו	וְשָׂא וּלְ	וְחֶרֶב	לֶחֶם	
H0	H7592	H2719	H3899	
	and hast enquired	and a sword	him bread	
	H430			
הַזֶּה:	כִּי וָם	לֹאֲב ב	אֲלִי	לָק וָם
H2088			H413	
	as at this day	against me to lie in wait		for him that he should rise
	H3117	H693		H6965

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 22:8 (Parallel theme): That all of you have conspired against me, and there is none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

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