

# 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

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**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

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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 יְהוָה שָׁא וְלֹא יֹאמֶר קְשָׁרָת מִן לְפָה H4100 unto him Why have ye conspired H5921 H413 And Saul H7586 H559 H7194

ל בְּתִתְתֶּן אַתָּה יְהוָה בְּנֵי יְהוָה אֲתָּה וְאֶת־  
H859 against me thou and the son of Jesse in that thou hast given H0  
H1121 H3448 H5414

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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