

1 Samuel 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

Analysis

Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

Doeg's opportunistic report fulfills the ominous foreshadowing of 21:7. The Hebrew construction emphasizes his foreign identity—'Doeg the Edomite'—suggesting his willingness to betray where Israelite servants hesitated. His reference to David as 'son of Jesse' mirrors Saul's contemptuous language, ingratiating himself with the king. The detail about Ahimelech's lineage ('son of Ahitub') demonstrates careful observation that would later prove lethal. Doeg had been 'detained before the LORD' (21:7) for religious purposes, yet used information gained at the sanctuary for treachery. This chilling example shows how religious observance without heart transformation produces only more effective wickedness.

Historical Context

Doeg had been promoted to oversee Saul's servants, indicating his trusted position. Edomites, descendants of Esau, had a complex relationship with Israel—sometimes allied, often hostile. Doeg's willingness to inform against Israelite priests may reflect cultural distance from Yahweh worship.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can religious knowledge and access be misused for selfish or harmful purposes?
2. What does Doeg's advancement through betrayal teach about the character flaws corrupt leaders reward?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַן	דָּאָג	הָאֶדֹמִי	וְהוּא	נֶצַח ב	עַל		
Then answered	Doeg	the Edomite	H1931	which was set	H5921		
H6030	H1673	H130		H5324			
עַבְדֵּי	שָׁא וְל	וַיֹּאמֶר	רָא יֵתִי	אֶת	בֶּן	יֵשׁ י	בָּא
over the servants	of Saul	and said	I saw	H853	the son	of Jesse	coming
H5650	H7586	H559	H7200		H1121	H3448	H935
נֹב	אֶל	אֲחִימֶלֶךְ	בֶּן	אֲחִיטוֹב:			
to Nob	H413	to Ahimelech	the son	of Ahitub			
H5011		H288	H1121	H285			

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