

# 1 Samuel 23:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors.

## Analysis

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**Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors.**

David receives intelligence about Philistine aggression while himself a fugitive from Saul. The Hebrew 'shosei' (robbing/plundering) describes the theft of harvested grain—an economic assault on Judean farmers. Keilah, a fortified town in the Shephelah, lay vulnerable to Philistine raids. The threshing floors represented the community's annual food supply; their plunder meant starvation. Despite being hunted by Israel's king, David's concern extends to Israel's welfare. This report initiates a pattern: the outlaw shows more care for Israel than the king. David's response to this crisis reveals character—true leadership seeks the good of others even amid personal suffering.

## Historical Context

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Keilah was located in the lowlands (Shephelah) between the hill country and Philistine territory. Threshing floors were typically located outside town walls for wind access, making them vulnerable to raids. Philistine expansion constantly threatened these border communities.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you respond to others' needs when you yourself are in difficult circumstances?
2. What does David's concern for Keilah teach about true leadership versus self-preservation?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיֹאמְר֣	לֵאמֹר	לִזְלֹּזֶל	הִנֵּה	הַלְשׁוֹתִים	כִּלְסָמִים
<b>Then they told</b>	<b>David</b>	<b>saying</b>	H2009	<b>Behold the Philistines</b>	<b>fight</b>
H5046	H1732	H559		H6430	H3898
וְיֹאמְר֣	לֵאמֹר	לִזְלֹּזֶל	הִנֵּה	הַלְשׁוֹתִים	כִּלְסָמִים
<b>against Keilah</b>	H1992	<b>and they rob</b>	H853	<b>the threshingfloors</b>	
H7084		H8154		H1637	
וְיֹאמְר֣	לֵאמֹר	לִזְלֹּזֶל	הִנֵּה	הַלְשׁוֹתִים	כִּלְסָמִים
<b>against Keilah</b>	H1992	<b>and they rob</b>	H853	<b>the threshingfloors</b>	
H7084		H8154		H1637	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 15:44** (Parallel theme): And Keilah, and Achzib, and Mareshah; nine cities with their villages:

**Micah 6:15** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt tread the olives, but thou shalt not anoint thee with oil; and sweet wine, but shalt not drink wine.