

1 Samuel 23:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake.

Analysis

Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Keilah, to destroy the city for my sake.

David's prayer employs formal covenant language. The address 'LORD God of Israel' (Yahweh Elohei Yisrael) invokes the covenant relationship. David's self-designation as 'thy servant' maintains humility before God. His concern extends beyond self-preservation: Saul threatens 'to destroy the city for my sake'—David worries about collateral damage to the town he just saved. This intercessory dimension elevates his inquiry beyond mere escape planning. The Hebrew infinitive construct 'leshahet' (to destroy) echoes Sodom's destruction, suggesting David sees Saul capable of similar devastation. His prayer recognizes that others suffer when the wicked pursue the righteous.

Historical Context

David's formal prayer follows ancient Near Eastern patterns of divine inquiry—stating the petitioner's understanding of the situation before asking specific questions. This protocol respected God's majesty while presenting human concerns clearly.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you frame your prayers to acknowledge both God's sovereignty and your specific concerns?
2. What does David's concern for Keilah's destruction teach about considering how our presence affects others?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	יְהוָה	י	אֱלֹהֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	שָׁמַע	שָׁמַע
Then said	David	O LORD	God	of Israel	hath certainly	hath certainly	
H559	H1732	H3068	H430	H3478	H8085	H8085	
עַבְדְּךָ	כִּי	מִבְקֶשׁ	שׁ	נָשָׂא	וְלֹא	אֶל	לְשַׁחֵת
thy servant	H3588	seeketh	that Saul	to come	H413	to Keilah	to destroy
H5650		H1245	H7586	H935		H7084	H7843
בְּעִבּוּרֵי:	לָעִיר						
	H5668						
the city							
H5892							

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