

# 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 'leshabet' (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

---

|             |       |         |           |           |                |                |
|-------------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| Then said   | David | O LORD  | God       | of Israel | hath certainly | hath certainly |
| H559        | H1732 | H3068   | H430      | H3478     | H8085          | H8085          |
| thy servant | H3588 | seeketh | that Saul | to come   | H413           | to Keilah      |
| H5650       |       | H1245   | H7586     | H935      |                | H7843          |
| the city    |       |         |           |           |                |                |
| H5892       |       |         |           |           |                |                |

  

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| לְעֵבֶרְיוֹן: | לְעֵיר |
| the city      | H5668  |

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)