

1 Samuel 23:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.

Analysis

And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.

David's awareness of danger remained acute. The Hebrew 'vayar' (saw/perceived) indicates clear understanding of his situation—Saul sought 'his life' (naphsho), not merely his capture. The specific location 'in a wood' (Hebrew 'bachoresh') describes forested area within the wilderness, providing concealment. David's situation combined multiple dangers: the hostile wilderness, Saul's pursuit, and the psychological burden of continuous flight. Yet even in the wood, David was not alone—God's protection continued, and Jonathan's visit (v. 16) would soon encourage him. This verse sets the scene for one of Scripture's most tender friendship moments.

Historical Context

Forested areas in the wilderness of Ziph were rare but existed in certain locations. The 'wood' (choresh) provided concealment but also limited escape routes. David's knowledge of local terrain proved essential for survival during these years.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faith when you clearly see that powerful forces seek your destruction?
2. What does David's wilderness hiding teach about seasons of concealment before exaltation?

Interlinear Text

נִפְשָׁה	וְ	אַתָּה	לְבַקֵּשׁ	שֶׁ	שָׁא	וְלִ	לִפְנֵי	רָא
saw	And David	H3588	was come out		that Saul	to seek	H853	his life
H7200	H1732		H3318		H7586	H1245		H5315

בְּמִדְבָּר	וְ	יְרֵא	בְּחֹרֶשֶׁת
And David	was in the wilderness	of Ziph	in a wood
H1732	H4057	H2128	H2793

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