

# 1 Samuel 23:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?

## Analysis

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**Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strong holds in the wood, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?**

The Ziphites' betrayal contrasts sharply with Jonathan's loyalty. These men of Judah—David's own tribe—informed against him to Saul. Their detailed report reveals knowledge of David's precise locations: strongholds, the wood, the hill of Hachilah, south of Jeshimon. The Hebrew interrogative 'halo' (is it not/does he not) suggests they expected reward for confirmed information. Unlike Keilah's potential betrayal, the Ziphites actively sought Saul out. Judahite betraying Judahite demonstrates that tribal loyalty provided no guaranteed protection. David's enemies existed not only in Saul's court but among his own people.

## Historical Context

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The Ziphites lived in the wilderness of Ziph, the same region where David hid. Their betrayal may have stemmed from fear of Saul's reprisals or hope for royal favor. Jeshimon ('wasteland') described the barren region toward the Dead Sea.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How do you respond when those closest to you betray your trust?
2. What does the Ziphites' betrayal teach about finding security in God rather than tribal or community loyalty?

## Interlinear Text

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וַעֲלֹ	זִפְתִּים	אֶל	שָׁא וּל	הַגִּבְעָה	לֵאמֹר	וְהָלַךְ
<b>Then came up</b>	<b>the Ziphites</b>	H413	<b>to Saul</b>	<b>to Gibeah</b>	<b>saying</b>	H3808
H5927	H2130		H7586	H1390	H559	
וְדָוִד	מִסְתַּתֵּר	עִמָּנוּ	בְּמַצְדּוֹת	בְּחַיֵּי		
<b>Doth not David</b>	<b>hide</b>	H5973	<b>himself with us in strong holds</b>	<b>in the wood</b>		
H1732	H5641		H4679	H2793		
בְּגִבְעַת	הַחֲכִילָה	אֲשֶׁר	מִיָּמִי	הַיְשִׁימוֹן		
<b>in the hill</b>	<b>of Hachilah</b>	H834	<b>which is on the south</b>	<b>of Jeshimon</b>		
H1389	H2444		H3225	H3452		

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 26:1** (References David): And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon?

**1 Samuel 26:3** (References David): And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

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