

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

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—informingly 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

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

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

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

בְּלֹא וְ	לִאמְרָה	רַבָּגְבָּעַת	תָּהָא	שָׁאַל	אֶל	זִפִּים	וְעַל
Then came up	the Ziphites	H413	to Saul	to Gibeah	saying		H3808
H5927	H2130		H7586	H1390	H559		
Doth not David	hide	H5973	himself with us in strong holds	in the wood			
H1732	H5641		H4679	H2793			
in the hill	of Hachilah	H834	which is on the south	of Jeshimon			
H1389	H2444		H3225	H3452			

Additional Cross-References

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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