

1 Samuel 23:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saul also and his men went to seek him. And they told David: wherefore he came down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon.

Analysis

Saul also and his men went to seek him. And they told David: wherefore he came down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon.

The pursuit intensifies as both parties maneuver. David's intelligence network ('they told David') continued functioning, providing warning of Saul's movements. His response—descending 'into a rock' (Hebrew 'hasela')—describes moving into rocky terrain offering natural fortification. The Hebrew 'vayered' (came down) indicates defensive positioning. Saul's pursuit 'after David' (acharei David) mirrors Jonathan's earlier journey 'after David' (v. 16)—the same preposition describes opposite intentions. The wilderness of Maon became the arena for a deadly chase, with David's survival depending on terrain, intelligence, and divine protection.

Historical Context

The rocky terrain of the Maon wilderness contained numerous caves and crevices providing natural hiding places. David's ability to receive timely intelligence suggests a network of sympathizers who reported Saul's movements despite the king's power.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you position yourself defensively during seasons of spiritual attack?
2. What role does community support (like David's informants) play in navigating persecution?

Interlinear Text

וְיַעֲשֵׂה וְיַגְעַל וְיַאֲבְשֵׂה לְבַקֵּשׁ וְיַדְעֵה וְיַדְעֵה

H1980 And when Saul H7586 H376 to seek H1245 H5046 him And they told H1732 David

מִדְבָּר מִדְבָּר וְיַשְׁבֵּה וְיַשְׁבֵּה וְיַשְׁמַע וְיַשְׁמַע

wherefore he came down into a rock and abode in the wilderness of Maon H3381 H5553 H3427 H4057 H4584

מִדְבָּר מִדְבָּר וְיַרְדֵּן וְיַרְדֵּן וְיַעֲמֹד וְיַעֲמֹד

heard And when Saul that he pursued after David in the wilderness H8085 H7586 H7291 H310 H1732 H4057

מִדְבָּר

of Maon

H4584

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