

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

וַיִּלְךָ H1980	וּלְשָׁא H7586	וַאֲנִשִּׁיו H376	לְבַקֵּשׁ H1245	וְגַדוּ H5046	דָּוִד H1732
	And when Saul		to seek	him And they told	David
	וַיָּרֶד H3381	הָסָלַע H5553	וַיֵּשֶׁב H3427	מִדְבַּר H4057	מַעֲוֹן: H4584
	wherefore he came down	into a rock	and abode	in the wilderness	of Maon
וַיִּשְׁמַע H8085	וּלְשָׁא H7586	וַיִּרְדֵּף H7291	אַחֲרָיו H310	דָּוִד H1732	מִדְבַּר H4057
heard	And when Saul	that he pursued	after	David	in the wilderness
	מַעֲוֹן: H4584				
	of Maon				