

1 Samuel 23:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land.

Analysis

But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying, Haste thee, and come; for the Philistines have invaded the land.

Divine providence intervenes through military necessity. The Hebrew 'malak' (messenger) arrives with urgent news—the very enemies Saul ignored while pursuing David now demand attention. The imperative 'haste' (maher) mirrors David's recent urgent flight (v. 26). The Philistine invasion required immediate response; Saul could not continue his personal vendetta while national borders were breached. This providential timing—invasion at the exact moment of encirclement—demonstrates God's sovereign orchestration of geopolitical events to protect His servant. What seemed coincidence was coordination from heaven.

Historical Context

Philistine incursions were ongoing threats during Saul's reign. The timing of this invasion, precisely when Saul had David surrounded, suggests divine intervention through military circumstances Saul could not ignore without dereliction of duty.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How have you seen God use external circumstances to deliver you from danger?
2. What does this providential timing teach about God's sovereign control over nations?

Interlinear Text

וְיֻלָּא בָּאָל שָׁא וְלִאמְרָה מִבְּרָה הַיְלָא כִּי
a messenger But there came unto Saul saying Haste
H4397 H935 H413 H7586 H559 H4116 H1980 H3588

פָּשַׁט יְמֵן עַל בְּאָרֶץ פָּשַׁט
have invaded for the Philistines the land
H6584 H6430 H5921 H776

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 19:9 (Parallel theme): And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, Behold, he is come out to fight against thee: he sent messengers again unto Hezekiah, saying,

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