

1 Samuel 23:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place Selahammahlekoth.

Analysis

Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after David, and went against the Philistines: therefore they called that place Selahammahlekoth.

Saul's forced withdrawal provides David's escape. The Hebrew place name 'Selahammachelekoth' means 'rock of divisions/escapes' (or 'rock of parting/slipping away'), commemorating this dramatic deliverance. The naming of locations after significant events was common in Israel's history, creating geographical markers of divine faithfulness. Saul 'returned' (shub) from pursuing David—the same verb used for repentance—yet this was merely tactical retreat, not heart change. His grudging response to national duty over personal obsession preserved David while revealing Saul's disordered priorities. The rock of escapes became a memorial to God's deliverance.

Historical Context

Naming places after significant events created lasting memorials in Israel's landscape. This rock remained known by this name, reminding later generations of David's narrow escape and God's providential timing through the Philistine invasion.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'rocks of escape' in your life serve as memorials to God's deliverance?
2. How do you commemorate God's interventions to strengthen future faith?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּשָׁב	וְשָׂא וְלֹא	מִרְדֹּף	אַחֲרַי	דָּוִד	וַיִּלָּךְ	אֶת
returned	Wherefore Saul	from pursuing	after	David		against
H7725	H7586	H7291	H310	H1732	H1980	H7125

פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	עַל	כִּי	קָרְאוּ	לְמָקוֹם	הַהוּא	סֵלַע
the Philistines			therefore they called	that place		
H6430	H5921	H3651	H7121	H4725	H1931	H0

הַמַּחֲלָקוֹת:

Selahammahlekoth

H5555