

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

לִקְרֶב אֶת יְהוָה תְּדַבֵּר שָׁא וְלִמְרְדָּג אַפְּכָה יְהוָה
returned Wherefore Saul from pursuing after David against
H7725 H7586 H7291 H310 H1732 H1980 H7125

עַל פְּלִשְׁתִּים כִּי קָרָאוּ לְמַקֵּן וּמְלָקָה
the Philistines therefore they called that place
H6430 H5921 H3651 H7121 H1931 H0

בְּמִקְלָקֹת:
Selahammahlekoth
H5555

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org