

1 Samuel 23:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

Analysis

Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

David's second inquiry demonstrates patient leadership responding to his men's fears. The Hebrew 'vayosef od' (yet again) shows persistent seeking rather than presumption. Rather than dismissing their concerns or rigidly insisting on the first answer, David returns to God. The Lord's response adds assurance: 'I will deliver' (Hebrew 'noten')—the victory belongs to God, not David's military prowess. The addition of 'arise' (qum) adds urgency to the previous 'go.' This second consultation honored both divine authority and human community—David led his men with divine confirmation rather than demanding blind obedience.

Historical Context

Repeated inquiry of God was appropriate when circumstances changed or confirmation was needed. Moses similarly returned to God multiple times during the exodus. David's leadership style incorporated both divine guidance and sensitivity to his followers' concerns.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. When is it appropriate to seek God's confirmation of guidance already received?
2. How does David's response to his men's fears model godly leadership?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה הוֹדָה	וַעֲנֶה הוֹ	יְהוָה ה	לְשֹׂא וּלְ	דָּוִד	עַד וַיִּ	וְסָר
yet again	H5750	Then David	enquired	And the LORD	answered	And the LORD
H3254		H1732	H7592	H3068	H6030	H3068
אֶת	נָתַן	אֲנִי	כִּי	קַעֲלָה	הָ	דָּ
him and said	Arise	go down	to Keilah	H3588	H589	for I will deliver
H559	H6965	H3381	H7084			H5414
בְּיָדְךָ:	פְּלִשְׁתִּים	יָם				
the Philistines	into thine hand					
H6430	H3027					

Additional Cross-References

Judges 7:7 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

Joshua 8:7 (Resurrection): Then ye shall rise up from the ambush, and seize upon the city: for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand.

