

1 Samuel 23:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

Analysis

So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

The battle report confirms God's promise fulfilled. The Hebrew 'makah gedolah' (great slaughter) indicates decisive victory. David's capture of Philistine cattle provided both spoils and practical resources for his band. The concluding statement—'David saved (Hebrew vayosha) the inhabitants of Keilah'—uses salvation language, positioning David as deliverer. This term connects to the judges who 'saved' Israel and anticipates Jesus (Yeshua—'he saves'). The fugitive outlaw accomplished what Israel's king should have done: protecting God's people from their enemies. David's wilderness years became proving grounds for the kingship God had promised.

Historical Context

Military victories often included cattle capture, providing food and economic resources. The defeat of Philistine forces at Keilah protected the grain harvest crucial for the region's survival. David's action demonstrated military capability worthy of future kingship.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How has God proven faithful when you obeyed despite fear?
2. What does David's role as 'savior' of Keilah foreshadow about Christ's greater salvation?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּלָּךְ H1980	דָּוִד So David H1732	וַאֲנָשׁוֹ H376	קַעִילָה: of Keilah H7084	וְלָחָם and fought H3898	בְּפִלְשְׁתִּים with the Philistines H6430
וַיִּנְהֲג and brought away H5090	אֶת H853	מִקְנֵיהֶם their cattle H4735	וַיִּךְ and smote H5221	בָּהֶם H0	מַכָּה slaughter H4347
גְּדוֹלָה them with a great H1419	וַיִּשַׁע saved H3467	דָּוִד So David H1732	אֵת H853	יֹשְׁבֵי the inhabitants H3427	קַעִילָה: of Keilah H7084