

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

Psalm 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

בְּפִלְשַׁת יָם וְלִקְמַד קְעִילָה אֶתֶּן וְיָד לְאַגְּדָה
H1980 So David H376 of Keilah and fought with the Philistines H6430
H1732 H7084 H3898 H6430

מִכְהָנִים מִתְּבָנָה וְיָצַר מִתְּבָנָה
and brought away H853 their cattle and smote H5221 H0 H4347
H5090 H4735 H5221 H0 H4347

קְעִילָה וְשָׁב אֶתֶּן וְיָשַׁע גָּדוֹל הָעִיר
them with a great saved So David H853 the inhabitants of Keilah H7084
H1419 H3467 H1732 H3427 H7084

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