

1 Samuel 23:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.

Analysis

And it was told Saul that David was come to Keilah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.

Saul's interpretation of events reveals his spiritual blindness. The Hebrew 'nikkar' (delivered/sold) suggests God had abandoned David to Saul—a complete misreading of providence. Saul sees divine favor in David's vulnerability, interpreting the fortified town as a trap rather than a refuge. The phrase 'gates and bars' that should signify protection becomes, in Saul's view, David's prison. This distorted theology—seeing God's hand in circumstances that serve one's sinful agenda—typifies those who have lost spiritual discernment. Saul claims divine endorsement for what God actually opposes, a perennial temptation for those pursuing ungodly ends.

Historical Context

Walled cities with gates and bars were normally defensive advantages. Saul's military thinking saw them as limiting David's escape options, turning David's protective action (helping Keilah) into potential vulnerability.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can we misinterpret circumstances as divine endorsement of our wrong desires?
2. What does Saul's distorted view of providence teach about spiritual discernment?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	קַעִילָה	דָּוִד	לְבָאוֹ	כִּי	שָׁאֵל	וַיֵּד
And it was told	And Saul	H3588	by entering	that David	to Keilah	said
H5046	H7586		H935	H1732	H7084	H559
כִּי	בְיָדִי	אֱלֹהִים	אֶת־	נָפַר	שָׁאֵל	וַיֵּד
And Saul	hath delivered	H853	God	him into mine hand	H3588	
H7586	H5234		H430	H3027		
וּבָרִים:	דָּלַת־	בַּעַר־	לְבָאוֹ	נִסְגָּר	וַיֵּד	
for he is shut in	by entering	into a town	that hath gates	and bars		
H5462	H935	H5892	H1817	H1280		

Additional Cross-References

Job 20:5 (Parallel theme): That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?

1 Samuel 23:14 (References God): And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

