

# 1 Samuel 23:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.

## Analysis

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**And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.**

Saul mobilizes Israel's military against David rather than against the Philistines David just defeated. The Hebrew 'lehatstsur' (to besiege) indicates intent for a prolonged operation against the walled town. The bitter irony deepens: David protected Keilah from Philistines; Saul now threatens to besiege the town David saved. The king's priorities have completely inverted—pursuing a loyal servant while neglecting national enemies. Calling 'all the people' for a siege against one man's band demonstrates Saul's excessive response and the army's complicity in his paranoia. The rightful king protects; the corrupt king destroys.

## Historical Context

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Siege warfare was resource-intensive and typically reserved for major military objectives. Saul's willingness to deploy such resources against David indicates the obsessive nature of his pursuit. Keilah's inhabitants would suffer from both the siege and potential reprisals.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How do Saul's priorities (pursuing David rather than Philistines) reveal misplaced focus?
2. What warning does this passage offer about leaders who prioritize personal vendettas over public good?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכָה	דַת	לִמְלָכָת	הַ	בְּעֵמָה	לִיְשָׁמָעַ
called	And Saul	H853	H3605	all the people	to war
H8085	H7586			H5971	H4421
לִקְעִיל	הַ	לְכָה	וְרָא	אֲנָשִׁים	לִמְלָכָת
to Keilah	to besiege	H413	H1732	David	H376
H7084	H6696			H413	H3381

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