

1 Samuel 23:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod.

Analysis

And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to Abiathar the priest, Bring hither the ephod.

David's intelligence network informed him of Saul's plans. The Hebrew 'macharish' (secretly devising) suggests covert planning that David nonetheless discovered. His immediate response—requesting the ephod—demonstrates reliance on divine guidance rather than human strategy alone. The command 'bring hither the ephod' initiates formal inquiry. David's pattern emerges clearly: receive information, seek God's direction, then act. This sequence—intelligence, prayer, action—models wise leadership that values both human awareness and divine wisdom. The ephod had become David's access point to God, replacing the prophetic guidance Samuel previously provided.

Historical Context

David maintained intelligence sources that kept him informed of Saul's movements. The formal request for the ephod indicates the seriousness of divine consultation—this was not casual prayer but structured inquiry through authorized priestly means.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you balance gathering human intelligence with seeking divine wisdom?
2. What does David's immediate turn to the ephod teach about priorities in crisis?

Interlinear Text

בְּרַע	מִשְׁרָע	שָׁא וָל	עַל יְה	כִּי	דָּוִת	וַיְדַע
knew	And David	H3588	H5921	that Saul	secretly practised	mischief
H3245	H1722			H7586	H2700	H7451

בְּאָפָוד:	בְּגַיְשָׁה	פֶּתַח	אֲבִיתָר	אֶל	וְ אָמָר
against him and he said	H413	to Abiathar	the priest	Bring hither	the ephod

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 30:7 (References David): And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

1 Samuel 23:6 (References David): And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand.

Numbers 27:21 (Parallel theme): And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

