

# 1 Samuel 24:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed.

## Analysis

**Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed.**

David's refusal to harm Saul despite opportunity and justification demonstrates respect for God's authority structures even when those in authority act wickedly. His conviction that he cannot 'stretch forth my hand against the LORD's anointed' teaches the principle of leaving vengeance to God rather than taking matters into one's own hands. David's restraint shows mature faith that trusts God to vindicate and promote in His timing. This passage warns against using apparent opportunities to advance personal interests when doing so requires violating godly principles.

## Historical Context

The establishment of monarchy around 1050-1010 BCE represented a dramatic political and theological shift for Israel. Unlike surrounding nations where kings were considered divine or semi-divine, Israel's kings were supposed to function

under God's ultimate authority as laid out in Deuteronomy 17:14-20. The Benjaminite tribe occupied strategic territory between Ephraim and Judah, making Saul's selection a politically astute choice to balance tribal rivalries. Archaeological remains from this period show increased fortification and centralization of settlements, confirming the transition to state-level organization.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage deepen our understanding of God's character, purposes, and ways of working in human history?
2. What specific heart attitudes, thought patterns, or life practices does this passage call you to examine or change?
3. How does this passage connect to the larger biblical narrative of redemption and point toward Christ and the gospel?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲשֶׁר	אֲתָּה	עִינֵּךְ	בַּיּוֹם	הַנֶּה
H2009	Behold this day	H2088	have seen	thine eyes
H3117		H7200		H5869
נִתְנַנְּתָה	יְהִי הָיָה	בַּיּוֹם	בְּמֹעֵד הַיּוֹם	
had delivered	for he is the LORD'S	Behold this day	into mine hand	in the cave
H5414	H3068	H3117	H3027	H4631
רָאָתָם רָאָתָם	לְבִרְכָּת	תִּתְּפַנֵּס	עַל יְמִינְךָ	לֹא
and some bade	me kill	thee but mine eye spared	H5921	and some bade
H559	H2026	H2347	H559	H3808
אָשֶׁל חָ	בְּאַדְנֵךְ	כִּי	מַשְׁיחָ	
I will not put forth	into mine hand	against my lord	H3588	anointed
H7971	H3027	H113	H4899	
הָיוּא:	יְהִי הָ			
for he is the LORD'S	H1931			
H3068				

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 24:4** (References Lord): And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.

**Psalms 105:15** (Parallel theme): Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.