

# 1 Samuel 24:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

## Analysis

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**Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.**

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

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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 Benjamite 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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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

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

## 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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חָטָק	וְשָׂא	שְׁלֹשָׁת	אֲלֶפֶת	אֲנָשִׁים	בָּחֹר	מִכָּל
<b>took</b>	<b>Then Saul</b>	<b>three</b>	<b>thousand</b>	<b>men</b>	<b>chosen</b>	H3605
H3947	H7586	H7969	H505	H376	H977	
לְיִשְׂרָאֵל	וְיָלַךְ	לְבַקֵּשׁ	אֶת	דָּוִד	אֲנָשִׁים	עַל
<b>out of all Israel</b>		<b>to seek</b>		<b>David</b>	<b>men</b>	<b>upon</b>
H3478	H1980	H1245	H853	H1732	H376	H5921 H6440
צֻרֵי	הַעֲלִים:					
<b>the rocks</b>	<b>of the wild goats</b>					
H6697	H3277					

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 26:2** (References David): Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

