

# 1 Samuel 24:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**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.**

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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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**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

רָאשֵׁר	בְּיַם	הַבָּיִת	אֶלְעָזָר	אֶתְנָשׁ	אֶתְמָר
<b>said</b> H559	H376	<b>Then David</b> H1732	H413	H2009	<b>unto him Behold the day</b> H3117

אָמַר	יְהֹוָה	יְהֹוָה	אָמַר
<b>said</b>	<b>of which the LORD</b>	H413	H2009

בְּ יָדְךָ אִיְbjִּיכְךָ	אֶת	נָתַתִּיךְ	unto thee	Behold I will deliver	H853	תְּהִנֵּם אֶת	תְּהִנֵּם אֶת	בְּ יָדְךָ
H5414						H341		H3027

בְּנֵית יְהָוָה	וְעַש יְתָחַת	כִּי-אָשָׁר לֹא	וְלֹא בְּנֵית יְהָוָה	תְּהִלָּתְךָ
unto thee	that thou mayest do	H834	to him as it shall seem good	H3190

וְקַם	אָתָה	מִכֶּרֶת	לִזְהָדֵד	כְּנָפָה	בְּמַעַל	אֲשֶׁר	לִשְׁאָאָל
<b>arose</b>	<b>Then David</b>	<b>and cut off</b>	H853	<b>the skirt</b>	<b>robe</b>	H834	<b>of Saul's</b>
H6965	H1732	H3772		H3671	H4598		H7586

בְּלִטָּה  
privily  
ח3909

## Additional Cross-References

**1 Samuel 26:23** (References Lord): The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.

**1 Samuel 24:10** (References Lord): 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.

**1 Samuel 23:17** (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

**1 Samuel 23:7** (References David): 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.

**1 Samuel 24:18** (References Lord): And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

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