

1 Samuel 25:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

Analysis

And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

David's response reveals dangerous anger. The Hebrew imperative 'chigru' (gird on) commands battle preparation. David arms himself ('David also girded on his sword') joining his men in combat readiness. The division—four hundred attacking, two hundred guarding supplies ('stuff')—indicates tactical organization for punitive raid. David's instant military response to verbal insult, without prayer or divine consultation, contrasts sharply with his careful inquiry before attacking Philistines (23:2) or sparing Saul (chapter 24). Anger, even justified anger, led David toward action he would later recognize as wrong. Abigail's intervention would prevent disaster.

Historical Context

Military expeditions typically left guards for supplies and camp. The four-hundred-man force represented overwhelming strength against an unfortified household.

David's failure to seek divine guidance, unlike his practice before other significant actions, indicates emotional reaction overriding spiritual discipline.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What happens when we respond to insults with force rather than seeking God's direction?
2. How does David's response to Nabal contrast with his patient response to Saul?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	אֵשׁ	וַיִּחַגְּרוּ	אֵשׁ	אֶת	חֶרְבּוֹ
said	And David	every man	And they girded on	every man	H853	his sword
H559	H1732	H376	H2296	H376		H2719
וַיִּחַגְּרוּ	אֵשׁ	אֶת	חֶרְבּוֹ	וַיִּחַגְּרוּ	גַּם	
And they girded on	every man	H853	his sword	And they girded on	H1571	
H2296	H376		H2719	H2296		
דָּוִד	אֶת	חֶרְבּוֹ	וַיַּעַל וְ	אַחֲרָי	דָּוִד	כְּאַרְבַּע
And David	H853	his sword	and there went up	after	And David	about four
H1732		H2719	H5927	H310	H1732	H702
וּמֵאֵת	אֵשׁ	וּמֵאֵת	וַיָּשֶׁב	עַל	הַכֵּלִים	
and two hundred	every man	and two hundred	abode	H5921	by the stuff	
H3967	H376	H3967	H3427		H3627	

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 23:13 (References David): Then David and his men, which were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbare to go forth.

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