

# 1 Samuel 25:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.

## Analysis

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**They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.**

The metaphor 'wall' (Hebrew 'chomah') powerfully describes David's protection. Walls provided security for cities; David's men provided equivalent protection in open fields. The phrase 'by night and day' indicates continuous vigilance—shepherds faced threats at all hours. 'All the while' (kol yemei) emphasizes the extended duration of this protection. This testimony from Nabal's own servant thoroughly validates David's request: real, substantial service had been rendered without request for payment until now. The protective 'wall' that guarded Nabal's flocks contrasts with the military force now coming to destroy his house.

## Historical Context

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Night was particularly dangerous for shepherds, as predators and thieves exploited darkness. David's men providing round-the-clock protection represented significant commitment. The 'wall' metaphor was especially meaningful in a culture where city walls meant survival.

## Related Passages

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How did David's protection of Nabal's shepherds demonstrate his character despite his outlaw status?
2. What does this 'wall' imagery teach about the kind of protection godly leaders provide?

## Interlinear Text

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חֹמֶה	לְיְלָה	כָּל
They were a wall	unto us both by night	and day
H2346	H3915	H3119
עַל יְמֵינוֹ	לְיְלָה	יּוֹם
H1961	H1571	H3605
בְּיֹום כֵּן	כָּל יּוֹם	כָּל יּוֹם
all the while	we were with them keeping	the sheep
H3117	H7462	H6629

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 1:10** (Parallel theme): Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

**Exodus 14:22** (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

**Zechariah 2:5** (Parallel theme): For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

