

1 Samuel 26

Chapter 26 of 31 · 25 Verses · Authorized King James Version

David Spares Saul Again

¹ And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon?

² 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.

³ And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

⁴ David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed.

⁵ And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched: and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him.

⁶ Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee.

⁷ So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.

⁸ Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.

9 And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

10 David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish.

11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

12 So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them.

13 Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space being between them:

14 And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who art thou that criest to the king?

15 And David said to Abner, Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.

16 This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster.

17 And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king.

18 And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?

19 Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods.

20 Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

21 Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.

22 And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it.

23 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.

24 And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation.

25 Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Blood — דָּם (Dam)

Blood

The Hebrew **dam** (דָּם) means blood—representing life itself. 'The life of the flesh is in the blood' (Leviticus 17:11), and blood was required for atonement, foreshadowing Christ's sacrifice.

Faith — אֱמוּנָה (Emunah)

Faithfulness, trust

The Hebrew **emunah** (אֱמוּנָה) encompasses both faith and faithfulness—trusting God and being trustworthy. It implies steadfast reliability, as in 'The just shall live by his faith' (Habakkuk 2:4).

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Repent — שׁוּב / נָחַם (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Samuel 26:1 **References David:** 1 Samuel 23:19

1 Samuel 26:2 **References David:** 1 Samuel 24:2

1 Samuel 26:4 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 10:16

1 Samuel 26:5 **References David:** 1 Samuel 17:20; 17:55

1 Samuel 26:6 **Parallel theme:** 2 Samuel 2:18

1 Samuel 26:8 **References David:** 1 Samuel 24:4. **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 26:23

1 Samuel 26:9 **References Lord:** 2 Samuel 1:14; 1:16. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 105:15

1 Samuel 26:10 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 31:6; Genesis 47:29; Deuteronomy 32:35.

References Lord: 1 Samuel 25:26; 25:38; Deuteronomy 31:14; Psalms 37:13; Romans 12:19

1 Samuel 26:11 **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 24:6; 24:12

1 Samuel 26:12 **References Lord:** Genesis 2:21; Isaiah 29:10. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 15:12

1 Samuel 26:16

Parallel theme: Psalms 79:11; 102:20; Ephesians 2:3. **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 26:9; 26:11; 2 Samuel 12:5. **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 20:31; 2 Samuel 19:28

1 Samuel 26:17 **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 24:16

1 Samuel 26:18 **Parallel theme:** 1 Samuel 24:9

1 Samuel 26:19 **Kingdom:** 2 Samuel 14:16. **Curse:** Genesis 8:21; 2 Samuel 16:11; Proverbs 30:10. **References Lord:** 2 Samuel 20:19. **Parallel theme:** 1 Chronicles 21:1; Psalms 120:5; Isaiah 60:5; Romans 14:15. **References God:** 1 Samuel 18:10

1 Samuel 26:20 **Kingdom:** 1 Samuel 24:14

1 Samuel 26:21

Sin: 1 Samuel 15:24; 15:30; Exodus 9:27; Matthew 27:4. **References David:** 1 Samuel 24:17

1 Samuel 26:23 **References Lord:** Psalms 62:12

1 Samuel 26:24 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 5:7

1 Samuel 26:25 **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 26:25

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