

# 1 Samuel 26:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

---

David articulates three possible ends for Saul, all originating from the LORD rather than human agency. The threefold possibility (divine smiting, natural death, or death in battle) places Saul's fate entirely in God's hands. The Hebrew oath formula 'chai-YHWH' (as the LORD lives) invokes divine witness to David's commitment. This declaration reveals David's mature theology of providence: God controls the timing and means of all things, and human impatience must not preempt divine timing.

## Historical Context

---

The oath 'As the LORD liveth' was the most solemn affirmation available in Israelite culture, invoking God's own life as guarantee. David's willingness to wait for one of three natural outcomes demonstrates his confidence that God's justice would ultimately prevail without his intervention.

## Related Passages

---

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

2

**Romans 12:19** (References Lord): Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

**1 Samuel 25:38** (References Lord): And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.

**1 Samuel 31:6** (Parallel theme): So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

**1 Samuel 25:26** (References Lord): Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

**Deuteronomy 32:35** (Parallel theme): To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.