

1 Samuel 26:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The narrative reveals divine intervention through the 'deep sleep from the LORD' (Hebrew: 'tardemah') that fell upon Saul's camp. This same word describes Adam's sleep during Eve's creation and Abram's during the covenant vision. God's sovereign control ensures David's protection through supernatural means while preserving David's moral integrity. The phrase 'no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked' emphasizes the completeness of divine protection that allowed David to accomplish his mission without bloodshed.

Historical Context

The Hebrew 'tardemah' describes a divinely induced unconsciousness that appears at crucial moments in Israel's history. This supernatural sleep prevented any possibility of David being detected, demonstrating that God Himself orchestrated both the opportunity and the protection.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced God's supernatural protection in dangerous circumstances?
2. What does this account teach about the relationship between human action and divine sovereignty?

Interlinear Text

וָקַח	כִּי דָוִד	אֶת	הַחֶבֶן יָת	וְאֶת	צֶפֶת חַת	הַמַּיִם	יִמְרָאֲשֵׁת י
took	So David	H853	the spear	H853	and the cruse	of water	bolster
H3947	H1732		H2595		H6835	H4325	H7226
מִן שְׂאֵל וּל	וְלֹכֵו	לָהּ מ	וְאֵין	רָאָה	וְאֵין	יָדָעַ	וְאֵין
from Saul's	H1980	H0	H369	and no man saw	H369	it nor knew	H369
H7586				H7200		H3045	
מִן יָץ	כִּי	כָלָם	וְיָשְׁנוּ יָם	כִּי	תַרְדֵּמַת		
it neither awaked	H3588	H3605	for they were all asleep	H3588	because a deep sleep		
H6974			H3463		H8639		
מִן הַ	נָפַל הַ	עֲלֵיהֶם:					
from the LORD	was fallen	H5921					
H3068	H5307						

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 2:21 (References Lord): And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

Genesis 15:12 (Parallel theme): And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.

Isaiah 29:10 (References Lord): For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

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