

1 Samuel 26:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

David's strategic withdrawal to 'the top of an hill afar off' with 'a great space being between them' demonstrates military wisdom combined with moral courage. The distance ensured physical safety while allowing his voice to carry across the valley, a common means of communication in mountainous terrain. This positioning reflects David's consistent pattern: confronting injustice verbally while refusing to execute vengeance personally, leaving judgment to God while proclaiming truth.

Historical Context

The Judean wilderness contains numerous hills and valleys that create natural amphitheaters where sound carries remarkably well. Military communications across such terrain were common in ancient warfare. The distance David maintained prevented any immediate pursuit while enabling dialogue.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain appropriate boundaries while still speaking truth to those who have wronged you?
2. What role does physical or emotional distance play in healthy confrontation?

Interlinear Text

וַעֲבָרָה	אָז	הָעֵבֶר	וַעֲמָדָה	עַל	רֹאשׁ	הַר
went over	Then David	to the other side	and stood	H5921	on the top	of an hill
H5674	H1732	H5676	H5975		H7218	H2022
מָרָחֵק	כִּבְּ	הַמָּקוֹם	בֵּינֵיהֶם:			
afar off	a great	space	H996			
H7350	H7227	H4725				