

1 Samuel 26:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

David's plaintive question exposes the irrationality of Saul's persecution: 'Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant?' The Hebrew construction emphasizes the absurdity: the king of Israel hunting a faithful servant who has done no wrong. David's appeal to evidence ('what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?') challenges Saul to produce any legitimate justification. This defense anticipates the righteous sufferer's cry throughout Scripture, culminating in Christ before His accusers.

Historical Context

The servant-master relationship (Hebrew: 'eved') implied mutual obligations in ancient Israel. Masters owed protection and provision; servants owed loyalty and service. David's faithful service made Saul's persecution a violation of covenantal expectations.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

