

1 Samuel 26:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

David's use of spies demonstrates practical wisdom combined with spiritual trust. The Hebrew 'meraglim' (spies) were essential for military intelligence, and David's employment of them shows he did not presume upon God's protection through passive inaction. The phrase 'understood that Saul was come in very deed' (Hebrew: 'el-nachon') indicates certainty confirmed through careful investigation. This balanced approach models how believers should combine prayer with prudent action.

Historical Context

The use of scouts and spies was standard military practice throughout the ancient Near East. David's experience leading Saul's armies would have trained him in reconnaissance tactics that now served his survival in the wilderness.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you balance trusting God's providence with taking practical precautions?
2. What role does gathering information play in wise decision-making for believers?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁאַלְתָּהּ	נִשְׁלַחַת	בְּנֵי	יִמְשָׁאַל	יְמִינָה	מִבְּנֵי	לְבָנָה	לְבָנָה	לְבָנָה	לְבָנָה	לְבָנָה	לְבָנָה
therefore sent out	David	spies	and understood			H3588	was come	that Saul			
H7971	H1732	H7270		H3045			H935				H7586
אֵל	כִּי										
H413	in very deed										
	H3559										

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:16 (Parallel theme): Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

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