

1 Samuel 26:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him.

Analysis

The nighttime infiltration of Saul's camp reveals the complete vulnerability of Israel's army before God's sovereign protection of David. The detail of Saul's spear 'stuck in the ground at his bolster' (Hebrew: 'me'ushto,' at his head) emphasizes both his defenselessness and the accessibility of the weapon that could end his life. Abner and the army sleeping 'round about him' should have provided protection but instead demonstrate human security systems fail when God ordains otherwise.

Historical Context

Ancient warfare frequently employed night raids and surprise attacks. The ability of David and Abishai to penetrate the camp undetected suggests either remarkable skill or divine intervention, which the narrative will soon confirm. The spear was the weapon of kings and nobles in this period.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. When have you witnessed situations where human security measures proved insufficient?
2. How does recognizing God's control over circumstances affect your view of both danger and safety?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹא	דָּוִד	וְאַבִּי־שָׁיִן	אֶל	וְהָעָם	לַיְלָה	וְהָיָה
came	So David	and Abishai	H413	and the people	by night	H2009
H935	H1732	H52		H5971	H3915	
וַיַּשְׂאוּ	שָׁכְבִים	יָשֹׁן	בַּמַּעְגָּל	וְחִנִּיתוֹ	מְעוֹכָה	
and behold Saul	lay	sleeping	within the trench	and his spear	stuck	
H7586	H7901	H3463	H4570	H2595	H4600	
בָּאָרֶץ	מִרְצָאֲשׁוֹ	וְאַבְנֵר	וְהָעָם	שָׁכְבִים	סָבִיבָתוֹ:	
in the ground	at his bolster	but Abner	and the people	lay	round about	
H776	H4763	H74	H5971	H7901	H5439	