

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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 לִלְיְלָה וַיָּעַם אֶל אַבְישָׁי וְאֶל דָּוִד וְאֶל
came So David and Abishai and the people by night H2009
H935 H1732 H52 H413 H5971 H3915

שָׁאָול שְׁכָבִים נִשְׁתַּחַן בְּמִעְגָּל מַעֲוָךָ תִּמְנִיתָו
and behold Saul lay sleeping within the trench and his spear stuck
H7586 H7901 H3463 H4570 H2595 H4600

בָּאָרֶץ מִרְאָשָׁתוֹ אֶבְנֶר וְאֶלְעָם שְׁכָבִים סְבִיבָתוֹ
in the ground at his bolster but Abner and the people lay round about
H776 H4763 H74 H5971 H7901 H5439