

# 1 Samuel 26:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.

## Analysis

---

Abishai's interpretation that 'God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand' presents David with the same temptation he faced in the cave at En-gedi. The Hebrew 'siggar' (delivered up, shut in) suggests a divinely orchestrated opportunity. Abishai's confidence that one thrust would suffice ('I will not smite him the second time') reveals both his warrior's skill and his failure to understand the theological principle David had internalized: opportunity does not equal divine permission.

## Historical Context

---

The theological concept of viewing military success as divine favor was common throughout the ancient Near East. Warriors routinely attributed battlefield victories to their gods' intervention. Abishai's interpretation reflects this cultural assumption that opportunity indicates divine sanction.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

---

1. How do you distinguish between providential opportunities and temptations that appear as opportunities?
2. When have well-meaning advisors urged you toward actions that violated your convictions?

## Interlinear Text

---

אָתְּ הַיּוֹם	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	סָגַר	דָּוִד	אֶל אֲבִישַׁי	וַיֹּאמֶר
<b>this day</b>	<b>God</b>	<b>hath delivered</b>	<b>to David</b>	<b>Abishai</b>	<b>Then said</b>
H3117	H430	H5462	H1732	H52	H559
וְאֵל	אֲכֹנֶה	וְעַתָּה	בְּיָדְךָ	אֶת־יָדְךָ	
	<b>now therefore let me smite</b>		<b>into thine hand</b>	<b>thine enemy</b>	
	H5221		H3027	H341	
וְלֹא	אֶחָד	פַּעַם	וְבָאָהָרָץ	בְּחֶנֶן יֵת	
	<b>at once</b>		<b>even to the earth</b>	<b>him I pray thee with the spear</b>	
	H259		H776	H2595	
				וְאֶשְׁנֶה	לּוֹ:
				<b>and I will not smite him the second time</b>	
				H8138	H0

## Additional Cross-References

---

**1 Samuel 24:4** (References David): And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.

**1 Samuel 26:23** (Parallel theme): The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.

