

# 1 Samuel 26:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

## Analysis

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David's restraint crystallizes one of Scripture's most important principles regarding authority: the anointed of the LORD must not be destroyed by human hands. The Hebrew 'mashiach YHWH' (the LORD's anointed) establishes a category of sacred protection that transcends personal grievance. David's rhetorical question 'who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?' establishes a precedent that extends beyond this moment to any who would usurp divine prerogatives in removing those God has placed in authority.

## Historical Context

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Anointing with oil was the ritual that formally inducted Israelite kings into office, marking them as God's chosen representatives. This sacred act created an inviolable status that only God Himself could revoke. David's respect for this office, despite Saul's unworthiness, models submission to divine ordering of society.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you maintain respect for God-ordained positions even when the people in them fail?
2. What does David's restraint teach about the limits of human judgment in removing those in authority?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	אֶל	אֲבִישַׁי	אֶל	תַּשְׁחִית הוּא	כִּי	מִי
said	And David	H413	to Abishai	H408	Destroy	H3588	H4310
H559	H1732		H52		H7843		
שֶׁל ח		יָדוֹ	בְּמֶשֶׁחַיִם	יְהוָה			
him not for who can stretch forth		his hand	anointed	against the LORD'S			
H7971		H3027	H4899	H3068			
וְנִקָּה:							
and be guiltless							
H5352							

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 1:14** (References Lord): And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?

**Psalms 105:15** (Parallel theme): Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

**2 Samuel 1:16** (References Lord): And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed.

