

1 Samuel 29:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

Analysis

The Philistines' quotation of the women's song, 'Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands,' demonstrates how David's fame had spread even among enemies. This same song provoked Saul's initial jealousy (18:7); now it saves David from fighting against Israel. The irony is profound: the song that began David's troubles with Saul now prevents his greatest moral compromise. God uses David's reputation as a Philistine-slayer to remove him from the Philistine army.

Historical Context

The song's continued circulation indicates its cultural impact. Popular songs often transmitted historical memory in oral cultures. That Philistine lords knew and quoted it shows how thoroughly David's victories had been celebrated.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How has your reputation, even when it caused problems, also provided unexpected protection?
2. What does this reversal suggest about God's ability to use our history for His purposes?

Interlinear Text

הָלוֹא	זֶה	דָּוִד	אֲשֶׁר	יָעֲנוּ	לֹ
H3808	H2088	Is not this David	H834	of whom they sang	H0
		H1732		H6030	
בְּמַחֵל	וְזֶה	לֵאמֹר	הָכָה	שָׁאוּל	בְּאַלְפֵי יוֹ
one to another in dances		saying	slew	Saul	his thousands
H4246		H559	H5221	H7586	H505
דָּוִד	בְּרִבְבֵּיתוֹ				
Is not this David	his ten thousands				
H1732	H7233				

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 21:11 (References David): And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?