

1 Samuel 30:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

Analysis

David's inquiry and God's response model the prayer-and-guidance pattern Scripture commends. The questions are practical: 'Shall I pursue? Shall I overtake?' The answers are specific and encouraging: 'Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.' The Hebrew emphatic construction 'haseg tasig wehatsel tatsil' (surely overtake, surely recover) guarantees success. This divine assurance transforms the situation from hopeless grief to purposeful action. God's word provides both direction and confidence.

Historical Context

Inquiry of the LORD through the ephod typically involved yes/no questions the Urim and Thummim could answer. David's two questions (should I pursue? will I succeed?) receive emphatic affirmative responses providing both permission and promise.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you seek specific guidance from God in crisis situations?
2. What confidence does divine assurance provide when circumstances seem overwhelming?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁאַל	דָּוִד	בַּיהוָה	וַיֹּאמֶר	כִּדְּךָ	אַחֲרַי	הַגָּדוֹד
enquired	And David	at the LORD	saying	Shall I pursue	after	this troop
H7592	H1732	H3068	H559	H7291	H310	H1416
הֲזֶה	תֶּשׁ יג	וַיֹּאמֶר	לוֹ	כִּדְּךָ	כִּי	
H2088	for thou shalt surely	saying	H0	Shall I pursue	H3588	
	H5381	H559		H7291		
תֶּשׁ יג	תֶּשׁ יג	תִּצִּיל:	תִּצִּיל:			
for thou shalt surely	for thou shalt surely	recover	recover			
H5381	H5381	H5337	H5337			

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 30:18 (References David): And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

1 Samuel 23:2 (References Lord): Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

2 Samuel 5:19 (References Lord): And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

2 Samuel 5:23 (References Lord): And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

1 Samuel 23:4 (References Lord): Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

Judges 20:23 (References Lord): (And the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until even, and asked counsel of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up again to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother? And the LORD said, Go up against him.)

Psalms 91:15 (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Numbers 27:21 (References Lord): And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

1 Samuel 28:6 (References Lord): And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.