

## 1 Samuel 26:1-25 **David Spares Saul a Second Time**

### Ziphites Report David's location to Saul

<sup>1</sup> Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?" <sup>2</sup> Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph. <sup>3</sup> And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon, by the road.

### David investigated the report that Saul had come out after him

But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. <sup>4</sup> David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul had indeed come.

<sup>5</sup> So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Now Saul lay within the camp, with the people encamped all around him. <sup>6</sup> Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruah, brother of Joab, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?"

And Abishai said, "I will go down with you."

<sup>7</sup> So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him. <sup>8</sup> Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

### God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Saul and all his army

### David and Abishai entered Saul's camp and took the spear and water jug from beside Saul's head

<sup>9</sup> But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?" <sup>10</sup> David said furthermore, "As the Lord lives, the Lord shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish. <sup>11</sup> The Lord forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go." <sup>12</sup> So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

### David called out to Abner for failing to guard the king -

<sup>13</sup> Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance being between them. <sup>14</sup> And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Do you not answer, Abner?"

Then Abner answered and said, "Who are you, calling out to the king?"

<sup>15</sup> So David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king. <sup>16</sup> This thing that you have done is not good. As the Lord lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the Lord's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jug of water that was by his head."

### David questioned Saul's reason for coming after him

17 Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is that your voice, my son David?" David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king." 18 And he said, "Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand? 19 Now therefore, please, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If the Lord has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering. But if it is the children of men, may they be cursed before the Lord, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the Lord, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.' 20 So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of the Lord. For the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

### Saul admitted his error and promised to harm David no more

21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly."

### David asked for the same respect as he had demonstrated by saving Saul's life

22 And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it. 23 May the Lord repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed. 24 And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the Lord, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation."

25 Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail."

So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.  
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### Facts Revealed:

✧ Saul had agreed to spare David of his death threat twice before this time. [1 Samuel 19:6, 24:16-22]

### Ziphites Report David's location to Saul [1 Samuel 26:1-3]

✧ As soon as the Ziphites offered to help Saul find David, Saul eagerly accepts the opportunity and marches out in search of David in the Wilderness of Ziph. [1 Samuel 26:1-3]

✧ Saul encamped by the road in the hill of Hachilah across from Jeshimon.

### David investigated the report that Saul had come out after him [1 Samuel 26:3-4]

✧ When David saw that Saul had come out, he sent spies to determine Saul's intent and learned that Saul was indeed seeking David and his men.

✧ David came to Saul's camp and found Saul laying in the center of the camp and the 3,000 man army camped all around him.

✧ Abner son of Ner was the commander of Saul's army.

### God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Saul and all his army [1 Samuel 26:5-12]

### David and Abishai entered Saul's camp and took the spear and water jug from beside Saul's head [1 Samuel 26:5-12]

✧ David asked Ahimelech the Hittite and his nephew Abishai the son of Zeruiah the sister of David who would go with David to Saul in the middle of the camp, Abishai agreed to go with David.

✧ Saul and his army were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

✧ David and Abishai came to Saul asleep in the middle of his camp, and Abishai asked to kill Saul saying, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore,

please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

✧ David restrained Abishai by saying, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless? **As the Lord lives, the Lord shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.** The Lord forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go."

✧ Though The Lord had delivered Saul into David's hands a second time, David still refused to kill Saul because Saul had been anointed king of Israel.

✧ David fully trusted the Lord to remove Saul one way or another, without David taking vengeance with his own hand.

✧ So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. [1 Samuel 26:12]

David called out to Abner for failing to guard the king [1 Samuel 26:13-16]

✧ David used the occasion to once again demonstrate his innocence of malice toward Saul even though Saul hunted for David relentlessly.

✧ Abner was responsible for the security of Saul the king, so David rebuked Abner for his failure as the king's body guard.

✧ David then showed them that he had in his hand the king's spear and water jug so they all would know that David had stood by the head of the sleeping king and could easily have killed him if he so desired.

David questioned Saul's reason for coming after him [1 Samuel 26:17-20]

✧ David publicly, in the hearing of the entire army of Saul, questioned the motive of Saul in his relentless threat to David's life.

Saul admitted his error and promised to harm David no more [1 Samuel 26:21]

David asked for the same respect he had demonstrated by saving Saul's life [1 Samuel 26:22-25]

✧ David called for a young man to come over and get Saul's spear, but he kept Saul's water jug.

✧ David asked Saul to respect the fact that David had spared Saul's life, and David called on the Lord to deliver David out of all tribulation.

✧ Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail."

✧ So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.