

1 Samuel 26

King James Version (KJV)

26 And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon? (This time is not likely to be as the last attempt – there are differences from the first attempt to turn David over to Saul. These Ziphites are repeat offenders in David's eyes)

²Then 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. (5 to 1 numbers against David – But God is with David)

³And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness. (God may have been using these battles to strengthen David for later, when he would rule Israel)

⁴David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul was come in very deed. (Always a good idea to verify the enemy's intent)

⁵And David arose, and came to the place where Saul had pitched: and David beheld the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the captain of his host: and Saul lay in the trench, and the people pitched round about him. (They surrounded Saul to protect him during the night)

⁶Then answered David and said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Abishai the son of Zeruiah, brother to Joab, saying, Who will go down with me to Saul to the camp? And Abishai said, I will go down with thee. (Zeruiah was David's sister; Abishai and Joab were David's nephews)

⁷So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him. (bolster – his pillow)

⁸Then 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. (He'll make the first strike count)

⁹And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless? (Respect the office, if not the man. He is king, after all)

¹⁰David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. (Let God deal with His anointed)

¹¹The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD's anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go. (They did that to let Saul know again, that David could have easily killed him; had David been an evil man)

¹²So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them. (God may have put Saul and his men into a deep sleep to test David. Apparently God didn't want David to kill Saul)

Romans-11:8 (God has put most people in a spirit of slumber today. They live day to day, not understanding God's plan as it unfolds right in front of them. Many of them even go to church to hear sermons written by preachers, instead of learning God's Word chapter by chapter, verse by verse. They have no knowledge, but the traditions of men, that make void the Word of God)

¹³Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space being between them:

¹⁴And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who art thou that criest to the king? (Disturbing the king)

¹⁵And David said to Abner, Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord. (David is telling Abner that he failed to protect the king. David could have easily killed them both)

¹⁶This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD's

anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster.

¹⁷ And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king. (This is twice that David could have killed Saul)

¹⁸ And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand? (David did nothing against the king)

¹⁹ Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods. (May these men be cursed before God, for having turned Saul against David, again. Saul and the Ziphites were forcing David to live with the heathen, but David won't serve other gods)

²⁰ Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains. (Saul is hunting David, who is no threat to him) (Partridges don't live in the mountains, so what hunter would go to pursue one that was that far off? A normal hunter would hunt partridges in the plain, where they normally roost)

²¹ Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly. (This is all talk. Saul has no credibility in David's eyes – with good reason. Never believe a consummate liar)

²² And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it. (Send one man to get your spear back. David isn't going to trust Saul, after all of his treachery)

²³ 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. (God will judge David as righteous because he had mercy on Saul and didn't kill him. God will Judge Saul as evil because he is trying to kill David for no reason)

²⁴ And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation. (David has a clear conscience. He valued Saul's life and didn't kill him. He is telling Saul that he should do the same for him)

²⁵ Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place. (Again – is Saul repentant for attempting murder? Who knows)