

BTC - AUGUST 6, 1989

I SAMUEL 26

WAITING FOR GOD

NOT LONG AFTER DAVID LISTENED TO ABIGAIL'S GOOD ADVICE, SOME ZIPHITE MEN CAME TO SAUL AND TOLD HIM THAT DAVID WAS HIDING IN A HILLSIDE IN THE WILDERNESS OF ZIPH.

WHEN SAUL FOUND OUT WHERE DAVID WAS HIDING, HE GATHERED TOGETHER 3,000 SOLDIERS AND TOOK THEM WITH HIM INTO THE WILDERNESS TO LOOK FOR DAVID.

SAUL AND HIS SOLDIERS CAMPED IN A HILLSIDE, BUT DAVID WAS STAYING IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WILDERNESS. FROM WHERE DAVID WAS STAYING, HE COULD LOOK OUT AND SEE A LONG WAY OFF. DAVID LOOKED OUT AND SAW SAUL AND HIS MEN COMING AFTER HIM.

DAVID SENT OUT SOME SPIES AND FOUND OUT EXACTLY WHERE SAUL AND HIS MEN WERE STAYING.

DAVID, AHIMELECH, AND ABISHAI WENT NEAR TO SAUL'S CAMPING PLACE. DAVID COULD LOOK DOWN AND SEE SAUL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CAMP. ABNER, THE CAPTAIN OF THE ARMY, WAS RIGHT BESIDE SAUL.

DAVID ASKED AHIMELECH AND ABISHAI, "WHO WILL GO WITH ME INTO SAUL'S

CAMP?"

ABISHAI SAID, "I WILL GO WITH YOU."

WHEN NIGHT CAME AND IT WAS DARK, DAVID AND ABISHAI WENT TO SAUL'S CAMP.

GOD MADE SAUL AND HIS SOLDIERS SLEEP IN A VERY SPECIAL KIND OF SLEEP (CALLED A "DEEP SLEEP"). THEY DID NOT HEAR ANY NOISES. THEY KEPT ON SLEEPING AND DID NOT WAKE UP.

SAUL LAY THERE SLEEPING WITH HIS SPEAR STUCK INTO THE GROUND, RIGHT BY HIS HEAD. ABNER AND THE OTHER SOLDIERS LAY RIGHT CLOSE AROUND SAUL.

AS DAVID AND ABISHAI CAME NEAR TO SAUL, ABISHAI SAID, "JUST LOOK, GOD HAS GIVEN YOUR ENEMY TO YOU TODAY. SO LET ME SMITE HIM WITH HIS SPEAR THROUGH TO THE GROUND."

BUT DAVID TOLD ABISHAI, "DO NOT DESTROY HIM. HE IS GOD'S ANOINTED KING STILL. ^{EVEN THOUGH HE HAS BECOME AN ENEMY.} GOD MAY SOMEDAY KILL HIM OR HE MAY DIE IN A BATTLE. IT IS NOT FOR US TO DESTROY HIM. JUST TAKE HIS SPEAR AND HIS WATER JUG, AND LET'S GO."

SO THEY QUICKLY TOOK SAUL'S SPEAR AND WATER JUG AND LEFT. NO ONE IN SAUL'S CAMP WOKE UP THEN, NOT EVEN ONE, BECAUSE OF THE DEEP SLEEP GOD SENT.

THEN DAVID STOOD ON A FAR AWAY HILL AND SHOUTED TO SAUL'S ARMY. DAVID SHOUTED LOUDLY TO ABNER, "WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY, ABNER?"

ABNER WOKE UP AND SAID, "WHO IS IT? WHO IS SHOUTING AT THE KING?"

DAVID SHOUTED AGAIN. DAVID YELLED, "AREN'T YOU A BRAVE MAN, ABNER? AREN'T YOU ONE OF THE BEST SOLDIERS IN ALL OF ISRAEL? WHY DIDN'T YOU PROTECT THE KING THEN? SOMEONE HAS BEEN IN YOUR CAMP. YOU COULD BE KILLED AS PUNISHMENT BECAUSE YOU DID NOT PROTECT THE KING. NOW LOOK AND SEE WHERE HIS SPEAR AND WATER JUG ARE."

SAUL WAS LISTENING AS DAVID SHOUTED TO ABNER. SAUL RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS DAVID SHOUTING. THEN SAUL KNEW THAT SOMEHOW DAVID HAD SLIPPED INTO CAMP AND TAKEN THE SPEAR AND WATER JUG.

THEN SAUL KNEW THAT DAVID HAD BEEN KIND EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE ENEMIES. SAUL KNEW THAT WHEN DAVID CAME TO CAMP AND TOOK THE SPEAR AND WATER JUG, DAVID COULD HAVE KILLED HIM.