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David Again Spares Sha’ul’s Life
First Samuel 26: 1-25

The noteworthy similarities between **Chapters 24** and **26**, already noted briefly (**to see link click Bj – David Spares Sha’ul’s Life**) have led some to assume that the same incident is in view. The differences, however, are equally noteworthy. There really shouldn’t be any difficulty in concluding that there were two separate instances where **David** spared **Sha’ul’s** life. The most fundamental difference between the two chapters is that **Chapter 24** was a study in **David’s** restraint when given an opportunity to kill **Sha’ul**. **Chapter 26** is a demonstration of **David’s** ability to put **himself** in the position to kill **Sha’ul**.[155]

In addition, there are differences in locations (a cave in **En-Gedi** and **Sha’ul’s** camp near **Hakilah**), times (day and night), activities (**Sha’ul** came to the cave, while **David** went to the camp), **David’s** responses (cutting the corner of **Sha’ul’s** robe and taking **Sha’ul’s** spear and water jug), and **David’s** words (spoken only to **Sha’ul** and spoken to **Abner** and **Sha’ul**). This second experience with **Sha’ul** was certainly more daring on **David’s** part since **he** was actually in **Sha’ul’s** camp. **David’s** recent experience with **Nabal** and **Abigail** had reassured **him** of **his** future reign and had taught **him** a valuable lesson about revenge. This chapter recounts the final confrontation between **David** and **Sha’ul**, and the words of the two men demonstrate the irreconcilable nature of **their** relationship.[156]