

1 Chronicles 11:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then all Israel gathered themselves to David unto Hebron, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

Analysis

We are thy bone and thy flesh (עַצְמָב וּבָשָׁרָנוּ)—This covenant formula invokes kinship solidarity, the same phrase Laban used with Jacob (Gen 29:14). The tribal elders at Hebron recognize David as family, not foreign conqueror. This language becomes foundational for understanding the Church as Christ's body (Eph 5:30).

Chronicles omits the seven-year civil war between David and Ish-bosheth (2 Sam 2-4), presenting immediate national unity. This editorial choice emphasizes that David's kingship represents God's ordained plan, not political maneuvering. The Chronicler's idealized portrait encourages post-exilic Israel to seek united worship around God's chosen leader.

Historical Context

Hebron, located in Judah's heartland, was where David reigned seven years over Judah before becoming king over all Israel (c. 1003 BC). As Abraham's burial place, Hebron symbolized covenant continuity and divine promise being fulfilled in David's kingdom.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 – God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing our spiritual kinship as God's family transform our relationships?
2. What does Israel's unity under David teach about the Church's unity under Christ?

Interlinear Text

לְאָמֶר	צָבָר	וְנָהָה	לִקְבָּצָה	כָּל	אֶל	יִשְׁרָאֵל	אֶל	יְהִי יְד	צָבָר	וְנָהָה	לִקְבָּצָה	וְ
gathered	H3605	Then all Israel	H413	themselves to David	unto Hebron	saying						

הִנֵּה עַצְמָב וְשֶׁרֶב אֲנָחָנוּ
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