

1 Samuel 14:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.

Analysis

And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.

Saul's verdict - 'God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan' - invokes divine sanction for executing his own son. The oath formula 'God do so and more also' was a self curse promising divine punishment if the speaker failed to fulfill his vow. Saul compounds original folly with judicial murder. He will execute the battle's hero for eating honey he did not know was forbidden. Religious scrupulosity reaches its absurd extreme: killing the faithful to maintain the form of faithfulness.

Historical Context

The oath formula was a serious self-imprecation. Saul essentially says, 'May God punish me if I do not execute Jonathan.' Ancient Near Eastern kings were bound by their oaths; failure to enforce them brought divine displeasure. Saul is trapped by his own words.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do religious systems sometimes demand injustice in the name of consistency?
2. When does commitment to maintaining vows become greater evil than breaking them?

Interlinear Text

גַּם יְהוָה יְמִינְךָ וְאַתָּה שָׁא לְכָה יְשַׁעַת הָאֱלֹהִים יְמִינְךָ וְאַתָּה
answered And Saul H3541 do so H6213 God H430 and more also H3254 H3588
H559 H7586 H3129

וְיָמִינְךָ וְתָמֵן וְתָמֵן וְתָמֵן וְתָמֵן וְתָמֵן וְתָמֵן וְתָמֵן
die die Jonathan
H4191 H4191 H3129

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 14:39 (Parallel theme): For, as the LORD liveth, which saveth Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die. But there was not a man among all the people that answered him.

Ruth 1:17 (Parallel theme): Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

1 Samuel 25:22 (References God): So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.