

1 Samuel 14:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

Analysis

And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

The people's intervention - 'Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel?' - saves Jonathan through corporate resistance to royal folly. Their oath 'as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground' opposes Saul's oath with counterforce. Their reasoning is theological: 'he hath wrought with God this day.' The people recognize what Saul cannot: God worked through Jonathan to save Israel. Executing him would fight against God. 'So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.'

Historical Context

Popular intervention in royal justice occurred elsewhere in the ancient Near East. The people's oath creates an impasse resolved in Jonathan's favor. Saul's inability to enforce his verdict demonstrates the limits of his authority when opposed by united public opinion.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. When should community resist unjust leadership decisions?
2. How do the people's theological reasoning ('he hath wrought with God') guide their intervention?

Interlinear Text

אָשׁ רַמָּת:	יֹנָתָן	נָשָׂא וּלְ	אֶל	הָעָם	וַיֹּאמֶר
die	Jonathan	unto Saul		And the people	said
H834	H3129	H7586	H413	H5971	H559
חֵל יִלָּה	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל	הַזֹּאת	הַגְּדוֹלָה	הַיְשׁוּעָה	עָשָׂה
God forbid	in Israel		this great	salvation	for he hath wrought
H2486	H3478	H2063	H1419	H3444	H6213
רֹאשׁוֹ	מִשְׁעַבֵּת	תֵּן	יִפֹּל	אִם	יְהוָה
of his head	there shall not one hair		fall		as the LORD
H7218	H8185		H5307	H518	H2416
הַיּוֹם	עָשָׂה	אֵלֶּה יָמַי	עִם	כִּי	אֶרְצָה
this day	for he hath wrought	with God			to the ground
H3117	H6213	H430	H5973	H3588	H776
מָת:	וְלֹא	יֹנָתָן	אֶת	הָעָם	וַיִּפְדֵּהוּ
die		Jonathan		And the people	rescued
H4191	H3808	H3129	H853	H5971	H6299

Additional Cross-References

Acts 27:34 (Parallel theme): Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

Luke 21:18 (Parallel theme): But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

2 Samuel 14:11 (References God): Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

1 Kings 1:52 (Parallel theme): And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

Matthew 10:30 (Parallel theme): But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

2 Corinthians 6:1 (References God): We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

Revelation 19:14 (Parallel theme): And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 17:14 (References Lord): These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Acts 21:19 (References God): And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

Acts 15:12 (References God): Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.