

1 Samuel 16:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

Analysis

Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Beth-lehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

This remarkable description of David encompasses multiple excellencies: musical skill, physical prowess, military capability, wisdom in speech, physical attractiveness, and - most importantly - 'the LORD is with him.' This final phrase (Yahweh 'immo) is the summary assessment that explains all other qualities. Divine presence, not natural talent alone, produced David's exceptional development during his years of faithful shepherding.

Historical Context

Wilderness shepherding had developed David's courage (facing predators), musical skill (passing solitary hours), and leadership (managing flocks). His combat experience against lions and bears prepared him for larger battles. The comprehensive description suggests David was already known in the region.

Related Passages

John 15:13 – Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 – God is love

Study Questions

1. How has faithful service in obscure assignments developed capabilities you now use?
2. What does it mean practically for 'the LORD to be with' someone?

Interlinear Text

בָּא יְהִי	הִנֵּה תֹּאמֶר	מִפְנָעָר יְמִין אַחֲד	וַיַּעֲשֵׂה	וְיִשְׁאָל	וְיִגְבַּר
Then answered	one	of the servants	and said	H2009	Behold I have seen
H6030	H259	H5288	H559		H7200
a son	of Jesse	the Bethlehemite	that is cunning	in playing	and a mighty
H1121	H3448	H1022	H3045	H5059	H1368
valiant man	and a man	of war	and prudent	in matters	and a man
H2428	H376	H4421	H995	H1697	H376
and a comely	and the LORD	עַמּוֹן:	יִהְיֶה הַתְּאַרְיֵן		
H8389	H3068	H5973			

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 3:19 (References Lord): And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

Genesis 39:23 (References Lord): The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

Genesis 39:2 (References Lord): And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

1 Samuel 10:7 (Parallel theme): And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 1:23 (Parallel theme): Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

2 Samuel 17:8 (Parallel theme): For, said Hushai, thou knowest thy father and his men, that they be mighty men, and they be chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people.

2 Samuel 14:20 (References Lord): To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth.

2 Samuel 17:10 (Parallel theme): And he also that is valiant, whose heart is as the heart of a lion, shall utterly melt: for all Israel knoweth that thy father is a mighty man, and they which be with him are valiant men.