

1 Samuel 17:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

Analysis

And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

David's response 'Is there not a cause?' (halo' dabar, literally 'Is it not a word/matter?') may mean 'Is not this a legitimate concern?' or 'Was I not just asking a question?' His brief reply avoided extended conflict while maintaining resolve. Wisdom to turn from detractors without abandoning mission characterizes mature faith. David neither defended himself extensively nor surrendered his conviction.

Historical Context

Ancient Israelite rhetoric valued brevity in conflict situations. David's question preserved family honor by not publicly contradicting his eldest brother while continuing his inquiry. His turning away avoided escalation while maintaining purpose.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain conviction while avoiding unnecessary conflict with critics?
2. What does David's brief response teach about not being derailed by opposition?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	מָה	עָשִׂיתִי	עַתָּה	הֲלֹא
said	And David	H4100	What have I now done	H6258	H3808
H559	H1732		H6213		
הֲבֵרָה	הוּא:				
Is there not a cause	H1931				
H1697					

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 3:9 (Parallel theme): Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.