

1 Samuel 18:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

Analysis

And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

Saul's fear of David arose precisely 'because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.' The Hebrew syntax emphasizes the contrast: divine presence with David, divine absence from Saul. Fear of those God empowers often indicates awareness of one's own spiritual poverty. Saul's condition had become tragically clear: unable to destroy David, unable to ignore his own rejection, unable to repent.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kings typically claimed divine favor as legitimization of their rule. Saul's recognition of God's presence with David implicitly acknowledged his own loss of divine sanction. This awareness made David's success threatening rather than encouraging.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does fearing Spirit-filled people reveal about one's own spiritual condition?
2. How does Saul's sad awareness contrast with those who recognize God's work and rejoice?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּירָא וְשָׁא מִלְפָּנַי דָּוִד כִּי הָיָה יְהוָה עִמּוֹ
was afraid And Saul of David H3588 H1961 because the LORD H5973
H3372 H7586 H6440 H1732 H3068

וְיָמָּה וְשָׁא וְיָמָּה קָרָא
H5973 And Saul was with him and was departed H5493
H7586

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 18:15 (Parallel theme): Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

1 Samuel 18:29 (References David): And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

1 Samuel 28:15 (Parallel theme): And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.

1 Samuel 16:18 (References Lord): 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.

Psalms 51:11 (Parallel theme): Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

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