

1 Samuel 18:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

Analysis

And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

Saul's perpetual enmity ('oyev) toward David had become settled disposition rather than passing emotion. The Hebrew indicates permanent hostile status - 'enemy continually' marks the relationship's sad deterioration. What began as appreciation (16:21) degraded to jealousy, then fear, then murder attempts, finally settling into implacable opposition. Sin's trajectory is ever downward without divine intervention.

Historical Context

The term 'enemy' carried legal and covenant implications in ancient Israel. David would later refuse to harm Saul despite this enmity, demonstrating the higher standard of God's kingdom. Saul's enmity would dominate his remaining years.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does unchecked sin progress from attitude to action to settled disposition?
2. What does Saul's trajectory warn about the importance of early repentance?

Interlinear Text

וְיִאָּסֶף	וְשָׂא וְל	לִרְא	מִפְּנֵי	דָּוִד	עַד	וְיִהְיֶה	וְשָׂא וְל
was yet the more	And Saul	afraid	of	David	H5750	H1961	And Saul
H3254	H7586	H3372	H6440	H1732			H7586

בְּאֵי	אֶת	דָּוִד	כָּל	הַיָּמִים:
enemy	H853	David	H3605	continually
H341		H1732		H3117

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 4:4 (Parallel theme): Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.