

1 Samuel 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

Analysis

And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

Jonathan's covenant with David exemplifies godly friendship that transcends personal ambition and family loyalty. Though Jonathan was heir to Saul's throne, he recognized God's choice of David and submitted to divine purposes. His willingness to risk his father's wrath to protect David demonstrates loyalty rooted in spiritual discernment rather than political advantage. The covenant between Jonathan and David foreshadows Christ's faithful friendship with believers, showing covenant love that sacrificially serves another's good even at personal cost.

Historical Context

The establishment of monarchy around 1050-1010 BCE represented a dramatic political and theological shift for Israel. Unlike surrounding nations where kings were considered divine or semi-divine, Israel's kings were supposed to function under God's ultimate authority as laid out in Deuteronomy 17:14-20. The Benjamite tribe occupied strategic territory between Ephraim and Judah, making

Saul's selection a politically astute choice to balance tribal rivalries. Archaeological remains from this period show increased fortification and centralization of settlements, confirming the transition to state-level organization.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does covenant faithfulness in this passage illuminate God's character and His commitment to His promises despite human unfaithfulness?
2. What specific heart attitudes, thought patterns, or life practices does this passage call you to examine or change?
3. How does the covenant relationship in this passage illuminate the new covenant established through Christ's blood?

Interlinear Text

שָׁאֹל:	וְשָׁלַחַ	כֵּן	אֲשֶׁר	בְּכָל	זֶה	אֲלָא
went out	And David	H3605	H834	sent	and Saul	
H3318	H1732			H7971	H7586	
אֲנָשִׁים	עַל	שָׁאֹל:	עִשְׂתָּם	הִנֵּה	וְשָׁאֹל:	וְשָׁאֹל
him and behaved himself wisely	set	and Saul	H5921	him over the men	H582	
H7919	H7760	H7586		H582		
כָּל	בְּעֵינֵי	וְיִתְּבּוּ	וְמִלְּפָנֵם	הַ	בְּעֵינֵי	כָּל
of war	and he was accepted	and also in the sight	of all the people	H3605		
H4421	H3190	H5869	H5971			
וְגַם	בְּעֵינֵי	עֲבָדָל:	שָׁאֹל:			
and also in the sight	servants	and Saul				
H1571	H5869	H5650	H7586			

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 18:30 (References David): Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

Colossians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

Acts 7:10 (Parallel theme): And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Psalms 1:3 (Parallel theme): And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Ephesians 5:17 (Parallel theme): Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Matthew 10:16 (Parallel theme): Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

1 Samuel 13:2 (Parallel theme): Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Beth-el, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.
