

1 Samuel 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

Analysis

And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

וַיְהִי י	בְּבוֹאָם	בָּשׁוּב	דָּוִד			
H1961	And it came to pass as they came		was returned	when David		
	H935		H7725	H1732		
מִהַכּוֹת	אֶת	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי	וַיָּצֵא אֹנָה	הַנָּשִׁים	מִכָּל	
H5221	H853	of the Philistine	came out	that the women	H3605	
from the slaughter						
		H6430	H3318	H802		
עִיר י	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לִשְׂרֹר	וְהַמַּחֲלֹת	לִקְרַב אֶת	שָׂא וּלְ	הֶמָּלֶךְ
H5892	H3478	H7891	H4246	H7125	H7586	H4428
of all cities	of Israel	singing	and dancing	to meet	Saul	king
בְּתֻפִּים	בְּשִׂמְחָה	וּבִשְׁלֵשִׁים:				
H8596	H8057	H7991				
with tabrets	with joy	and with instruments				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 15:20 (Parallel theme): And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

Judges 11:34 (Parallel theme): And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.

Psalms 68:25 (Sin): The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after; among them were the damsels playing with timbrels.