

1 Samuel 18:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

Analysis

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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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וְלֹא־הָיָה כִּי־יְמִינָה וְלֹא־יְמִינָה
H1961 **And Saul** eyed H853 **David** from that day H1931 and forward
H7586 H5770 H1732 H3117 H1973

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