

1 Samuel 19:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

Analysis

And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

Saul's command to Jonathan 'that they should kill David' elevated private attempts to official policy. The Hebrew muth (death/murder) indicates lethal intent now shared with servants and heir. By including Jonathan, Saul tested his son's loyalty and implicated others in his sin. The conspiracy made David's position critical while forcing Jonathan to choose between father and friend.

Historical Context

Royal commands to execute individuals carried legal authority in ancient monarchies. Involving multiple parties created complicity and reduced likelihood of intervention. Saul's inclusion of Jonathan assumed the heir would share royal interests over personal bonds.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you navigate when authority figures command what conscience forbids?
2. What does Saul's inclusion of Jonathan teach about how sin seeks to involve others in guilt?

Interlinear Text

עָבֹד יְהוָה כָּל וְאֶל שָׁא וְלִידָה ר
spake And Saul H413 to Jonathan his son H413 H3605 and to all his servants H5650

H1696 H7586 H3129 H1121 H5650

לְבָתְמִים יְתַחַת אֶת בְּנֵי דָוִיד וְיְהוֹנָתָן בְּנֵי יְהוָה כָּל וְאֶל שָׁא וְלִידָה
that they should kill H853 David to Jonathan his son And Saul H2654

H4191 H1732 H3129 H1121 H7586 H2654

מְאֹד: בְּנֵי ד
David H3966

H1732

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 18:1 (References David): And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.