

1 Samuel 19:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

Analysis

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Jonathan's delight (chaphets) in David and his warning intervention placed covenant loyalty above filial obedience. The practical wisdom of hiding 'until the morning' and 'abide in a secret place' provided immediate safety while Jonathan worked to change his father's mind. Jonathan's role as intercessor between king and fugitive foreshadows Christ's mediatorial work.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern sons typically identified with paternal interests, especially regarding succession. Jonathan's loyalty to David was extraordinary given the threat David represented to his inheritance. His willingness to intervene risked severe consequences.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What relationships require you to advocate for someone against opposing interests?
2. How does Jonathan's mediation between Saul and David illustrate the need for intercessors?

Interlinear Text

אָבִי שָׁאָל מִבְקֵשׁ לְאַמְתָּר לְזִדְעָה יְהוֹנָתָן בָּתְּךָ
told But Jonathan David saying seeketh Saul my father
H5046 H3083 H1732 H559 H1245 H7586 H1

לְמִתְּחִילָה אַתָּה הַשְׁמָר אֲנָתִי
to kill thee now therefore I pray thee take heed
H4191 H6258 H4994 H8104

בְּבֵבֶר יִשְׁבֶּת בַּסְתָּר אַתָּה בְּנַחֲבָאָתָן
to thyself until the morning and abide in a secret place and hide
H1242 H3427 H5643 H2244

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 17:17 (Parallel theme): A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Acts 9:24 (Parallel theme): But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.

