

1 Samuel 19:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good:

Analysis

And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee-ward very good:

Jonathan's defense of David employs careful rhetoric: David has 'not sinned against thee,' his works 'have been to thee-ward very good,' and the warning 'let not the king sin against his servant.' He appeals to justice, benefit, and Saul's own spiritual welfare. The phrase 'innocent blood' invokes covenant law against murder. Jonathan demonstrates how truth can be spoken to power wisely and courageously.

Historical Context

Defending accused persons before kings required diplomatic skill. Jonathan built his case on observable facts rather than emotional appeals. The covenant concept of 'innocent blood' carried significant weight in Israelite jurisprudence.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you frame truthful advocacy to be heard by those in power?
2. What does Jonathan's appeal to Saul's own spiritual welfare teach about loving confrontation?

Interlinear Text

אָבָּא יְהוָה שָׁא וְלָא
spake And Jonathan against David good unto Saul his father
H1696 H3083 H1732 H2896 H413 H7586 H1

פָּמָל לְךָ אַל אַל לְךָ יְהוָה
and said H413 H408 because he hath not sinned unto him Let not the king
H559 H2398 H4428

לְךָ סְפָא לְךָ יְהוָה בְּעֵבֶד
against his servant against David H3588 H3808 because he hath not sinned H0
H5650 H1732 H2398

לְךָ טֹב מְנַשֵּׁה יְהוָה מְאַד
against thee and because his works good have been to thee-ward very
H3588 H4639 H2896 H3966

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 18:20 (Good): Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, and to turn away thy wrath from them.

Genesis 42:22 (Sin): And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.

Proverbs 17:13 (Good): Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

1 Samuel 20:32 (Parallel theme): And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? what hath he done?

Psalms 35:12 (Good): They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul.

1 Samuel 22:14 (Kingdom): Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?
