

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

וַיִּדְבֹּר	יְהוֹנָתָן	בְּדָוִד	טוֹב	אֶל	שָׁאֵל	אָבִיו
spake	And Jonathan	against David	good	H413	unto Saul	his father
H1696	H3083	H1732	H2896		H7586	H1
וַיֹּאמֶר	אֶל	חָטָא	הֵמָּה	לְךָ	אֵלָיו	וַיֹּאמֶר
and said	H413	H408	because he hath not sinned	unto him	Let not the king	
H559			H2398		H4428	
בְּעַבְדִּי	בְּדָוִד	כִּי	לֹא	חָטָא	לְךָ	
against his servant	against David	H3588	H3808	because he hath not sinned	H0	
H5650	H1732			H2398		
וְכִי	מֵעֵשׂ	טוֹב	לְךָ	מְאֹד:		
H3588	against thee and because his works	good	H0	have been to thee-ward very		
	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?