

1 Samuel 19:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

Analysis

For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistine, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

Jonathan's reminder of David's victory over Goliath - 'thou sawest it, and didst rejoice' - recalled Saul's own past approval. The phrase 'the LORD wrought a great salvation' attributes the victory to divine agency. Jonathan exposed the irrationality of now hating one previously celebrated. 'Slay David without a cause' (chinnam, freely/without reason) indicts Saul's injustice.

Historical Context

Ancient legal advocacy often referenced precedent and previous testimony. Jonathan's reminder functioned like introducing evidence of prior approval. The appeal to shared history (thou sawest...didst rejoice) made Saul's reversal difficult to justify.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do shared positive memories sometimes restore broken relationships?
2. What does 'without a cause' teach about the fundamental injustice of persecuting the innocent?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	אֶת	וַיַּךְ	בְּכַף	וְ	אֶת	הַפְּלִשְׁתִּי	וַיַּעַשׂ
For he did put	H853	his life	in his hand	and slew	H853	the Philistine	wrought
H7760		H5315	H3709	H5221		H6430	H6213

וְהוּא	הַ	תְּשׁוּעָה	הַ	גְּדוֹלָה	לְכָל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לְ	כָּאֵת
and the LORD		salvation		a great	H3605	for all Israel		thou sawest
H3068		H8668		H1419		H3478		H7200

וַתִּשְׂמַח	ח	וְלָמָּה	תִּחָטָא	בְּדָם	נֶגֶן
it and didst rejoice		H4100	wherefore then wilt thou sin		blood
H8055			H2398		H1818
					against innocent
					H5355

לְהַמָּית	אֶת	דָּוִד	חֲנָם:
to slay	H853	David	without a cause
H4191		H1732	H2600

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 11:14 (Salvation): And they set themselves in the midst of that parcel, and delivered it, and slew the Philistines; and the LORD saved them by a great deliverance.

1 Samuel 11:13 (Salvation): And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel.

Matthew 27:4 (Sin): Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

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?

Judges 9:17 (Parallel theme): (For my father fought for you, and adventured his life far, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian:

Acts 20:24 (References Lord): But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Psalms 119:109 (Parallel theme): My soul is continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law.

1 Samuel 28:21 (Parallel theme): And the woman came unto Saul, and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him, Behold, thine handmaid hath obeyed thy voice, and I have put my life in my hand, and have hearkened unto thy words which thou spakest unto me.

Psalms 69:4 (Parallel theme): They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away.

Jeremiah 26:15 (Blood): But know ye for certain, that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof: for of a truth the LORD hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears.