

1 Samuel 19:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul
sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.

Analysis

And Saul hearkened unto the voice of Jonathan: and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain.

Saul's oath 'As the LORD liveth, he shall not be slain' seemed to resolve the crisis. His hearkening to Jonathan's voice suggested repentance. Yet swearing by the LORD while harboring unchanged heart reflects Saul's pattern of religious language without spiritual reality. The temporary reconciliation would prove superficial, revealing that sworn promises without heart change remain unreliable.

Historical Context

Oaths invoking deity were binding in ancient cultures. Violating such oaths risked divine punishment. Saul's oath should have settled the matter definitively. Its later violation compounded his guilt.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How can religious language and practices mask unchanged hearts?
2. What does Saul's eventual violation of his oath teach about the importance of internal transformation?

Interlinear Text

וַשְׁמָעַ ע	וְשָׂא וְל	בְּקוֹל וְל	יְהוֹנָתָן	וַשְׁבַּע ע	וְשָׂא וְל	חִי
hearkened	And Saul	unto the voice	of Jonathan	sware	And Saul	liveth
H8085	H7586	H6963	H3083	H7650	H7586	H2416

יְהוָה ה	אֵם	יִמָּוֵת:
As the LORD	he shall not	be slain
H3068	H518	H4191

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 5:2 (References Lord): And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely.