

1 Samuel 20:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

Analysis

The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

Jonathan's self-imprecation 'The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan' invokes curses upon himself if he fails David. His acknowledgment 'the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father' recognizes divine favor has transferred from Saul to David. Jonathan's extraordinary spiritual perception recognized God's work and submitted to it despite personal loss. Such gracious yielding to divine providence marks mature faith.

Historical Context

Self-imprecation formulas invited divine punishment for oath violation. Jonathan's recognition of God's presence with David echoed what Saul himself perceived (18:28). The heir acknowledging his father's replacement showed remarkable humility.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when God's blessing seems to pass to others, perhaps including your own hoped-for position?
2. What does Jonathan's gracious acceptance of David's destiny teach about submitting to God's surprising choices?

Interlinear Text

כִּי יָפֵרֶךְ וְכִי לִיהוֹנֶת | יְהוָה יְעַשֶּׂה וְכִי
so do The LORD to Jonathan so and much more H3588
H3541 H6213 H3068 H3083 H3541 H3254

בְּאֵל יִטְּבָל אָבִי אָתָּה בְּפָרְעָה
but if it please H413 be with thee as he hath been with my father H853 to do thee evil
H3190 H1 H7451

וְשִׁלְחוּת יְהֹוָה אֶזְעָן בְּאָתָּה אֶגְלָת יְתִי עַל יְהֹוָה
then I will shew H853 H241 it thee and send thee away H7971
H5921 H1540

כִּי הַכָּאשָׁר עַפְתָּה בְּיְהוָה יְהוָה לְשִׁלְוֹם וְקַלְקַת
that thou mayest go in peace H1961 The LORD H834 H1961
H1980 H7965 H3068

אָבִי
be with thee as he hath been with my father
H5973 H1

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 22:16 (References Lord): Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. Arise therefore, and be doing, and the LORD be with thee.

1 Chronicles 22:11 (References Lord): Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee.

Joshua 1:5 (Parallel theme): There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

1 Samuel 17:37 (References Lord): David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

Ruth 1:17 (References Lord): Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

1 Samuel 3:17 (References Lord): And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.