

1 Samuel 20:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:

Analysis

And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:

Jonathan's request for 'the kindness of the LORD' (chesed YHWH) anticipates his own death and David's eventual kingship. He asks David to show covenant faithfulness ('that I die not') - a request David would later honor through Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9). This forward-looking concern for future generations demonstrates how covenant thinking extends beyond individual relationships to enduring commitments.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern succession often involved eliminating the previous dynasty's descendants. Jonathan's request acknowledged this danger while trusting David's character. The covenant extended to 'seed' (descendants) in perpetuity.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do your commitments extend beyond immediate relationships to future generations?
2. What does Jonathan's trust in David's future faithfulness teach about the long-term nature of covenant love?

Interlinear Text

עַד יְמֵשׁ הַלְאָךְ עַד פֵּן יְלֹא אָמַתְּךָ
H3808 And thou shalt not only while yet H5750 I live H3808 shew H5978
H518 H2416 H6213

תְּדַבֵּר אֲמֹתָה אֲמֹתָה
H2617 H3068 H3808 H4191
me the kindness of the LORD that I die

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 9:3 (Parallel theme): And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

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