

1 Samuel 20:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying,
Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies.

Analysis

So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies.

Jonathan's covenant with 'the house of David' extended beyond personal friendship to dynastic commitment. The phrase 'Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies' invokes divine enforcement against covenant violators. Remarkably, the heir to Saul's throne formally covenanted with the house that would replace his own family. Jonathan subordinated family dynasty to God's revealed purposes. Such submission to divine sovereignty over personal ambition represents the highest form of faith - accepting God's choices even when they cost everything.

Historical Context

Covenants between houses established binding obligations across generations. Jonathan's use of dynastic language ('house of David') acknowledged David's future royal succession. The invocation of divine judgment against covenant-breakers provided supernatural enforcement.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. When has submitting to God's purposes required setting aside personal ambitions?
2. How does Jonathan's covenant with David's house model acceptance of God's surprising choices?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּכְרֵת	יְהוֹנָתָן	עִם	בֵּית	דָּוִד	וְבָקִי
made	So Jonathan	H5973	a covenant with the house	of David	even require
H3772	H3083		H1004	H1732	H1245
יְהוָה	מִיָּד	אֹיְבֵי	דָּוִד		
saying Let the LORD	it at the hand	enemies	of David		
H3068	H3027	H341	H1732		

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 25:22 (References David): So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.