

1 Samuel 20:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

Analysis

And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

Jonathan's causing David to swear again 'because he loved him' deepens the covenant's binding force. The phrase 'he loved him as he loved his own soul' repeats 18:1,3, emphasizing the friendship's depth. Mutual oath-taking created reciprocal obligation - Jonathan protected David now; David would protect Jonathan's house later. Such covenant love anticipates the bond between Christ and believers.

Historical Context

Repeated oaths intensified commitment in ancient culture. The mutual nature of the covenant meant both parties held obligations. The soul-level love described transcended political alliance to genuine spiritual bond.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do repeated commitments strengthen relationships through difficult seasons?
2. What does the mutuality of David and Jonathan's covenant teach about genuine friendship's two-way nature?

Interlinear Text

וְיַיְהַגְנָתָן	לְהַשְׁבִּיעַ	אַתָּה	זֶה דָּת	אַתָּה וְ
again	And Jonathan	to swear	H853	caused David
H3254	H3083	H7650		H1732
				because he loved
				H853
פִּ	אַתָּה וְ	נַפְשׁוֹ	אֲהָבָה	
H3588	because he loved	his own soul	him for he loved	
	H160	H5315	H157	

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 18:3 (Love): Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

1 Samuel 18:1 (Love): And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

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