

1 Samuel 20:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass on the morrow, which was the second day of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day?

Analysis

And it came to pass on the morrow, which was the second day of the month, that David's place was empty: and Saul said unto Jonathan his son, Wherefore cometh not the son of Jesse to meat, neither yesterday, nor to day?

The second day's empty seat forced Saul to speak. His reference to 'the son of Jesse' rather than 'David' deliberately distanced and diminished - reducing David to his father's offspring rather than acknowledging him by name or relationship. The question 'neither yesterday, nor to day' revealed growing agitation. Saul's inability to maintain silence exposed what he had tried to hide from Jonathan. The test was working; Saul's concern about David's whereabouts betrayed his sinister interest.

Historical Context

Referring to someone by patronymic ('son of Jesse') rather than personal name could indicate distance or disdain. The two-day absence exceeded ceremonial uncleanness excuses. Saul's question marked the turning point where his hidden agenda began emerging.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the language people use to describe others reveal about their true feelings?
2. How does time pressure often force hidden agendas to surface?

Interlinear Text

וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
H1961	And it came to pass on the morrow	day of the month	which was the second
	H4283	H2320	H8145
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
was empty	place	that David's	said
H6485	H4725	H1732	H559
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
and Saul	and	Shall	Al
H7586	H413	H3083	
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
unto Jonathan			
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
his son	place	that David's	said
H1121	H4069	H3808	H559
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
Wherefore cometh	and	Shall	Al
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
his son	place	that David's	said
H1121	H4069	H3808	H559
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
of Jesse	and	Shall	Al
H3448	H413	H3083	
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
to meat			
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
neither yesterday	place	that David's	said
H8543	H1571	H3117	H559
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
nor to day	and	Shall	Al
וְיָמָיְנָה	מִמְּחֹבֶת	בְּחַדְשָׁה	בְּשַׁנְתַּי
to meat			