

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

Psalms 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

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| וַיְהִי י | מָחָר ת | הַחַדָּשׁ | הַשֵּׁנִי י | | | |
| H1961 | And it came to pass on the morrow | day of the month | which was the second | | | |
| | H4283 | H2320 | H8145 | | | |
| וַיִּהְיֶה ד | מָקוֹם וּמ | דָּוִד ד | וַיֹּאמֶר י | שָׂאוּל | אֶל | יְהוֹנָתָן י |
| was empty | place | that David's | said | and Saul | H413 | unto Jonathan |
| H6485 | H4725 | H1732 | H559 | H7586 | | H3083 |
| בְּנֵי | מִדָּוִד וַיֵּ | לֹא | בָּא | בְּנֵי | יֵשׁ י | גַּם |
| his son | H4069 | H3808 | Wherefore cometh | his son | of Jesse | H1571 |
| H1121 | | H935 | | H1121 | H3448 | |
| תָּמָּ וּל | גַּם | הַיּוֹם | אֶל | הַלֶּחֶם: | | |
| neither yesterday | H1571 | nor to day | H413 | to meat | | |
| H8543 | | H3117 | | H3899 | | |