

1 Samuel 20:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

Analysis

For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

Saul's demand to 'send and fetch' David 'for he shall surely die' makes Jonathan choose between obedience to father and covenant with friend. The phrase 'thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom' reveals Saul's true concern - dynasty preservation. Ironically, Jonathan's covenant faithfulness to David would ensure his descendants' survival (2 Samuel 9), while Saul's violent methods would destroy his own house.

Historical Context

Dynastic succession was paramount concern for ancient kings. Saul's fear that David would eliminate Jonathan's line reflected standard succession practice. His inability to see beyond political calculation blinded him to spiritual realities.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does anxiety about legacy sometimes lead to actions that ensure its loss?
2. What does Jonathan's choice of covenant over inheritance teach about eternal values versus temporal security?

Interlinear Text

כִּי כִּי יְמִינְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
H3588 H3605 For as long as H3117 H834 him unto me for he shall surely die H1121 of Jesse H3448

עַל כִּי הַאֲדָמָה לֹא תִּפְאַרְתָּה אָתָּה
H2416 H5921 upon the ground H127 H3808 thou shalt not be established H3559 H859

בְּכִי אַל אַתָּה וְמַלְכָותְךָ
nor thy kingdom H4438 H6258 Wherefore now send H7971 H3947 and fetch H853 H413 H3588

בְּנֵי קְרָא אֲתָּה שְׁלֹח
him unto me for he shall surely die H1121 H4194 H1931

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