

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	כָּל	הַיָּמִים	אֲשֶׁר	בֶּן	יֵשׁוּעַ
H3588	H3605	For as long as	H834	him unto me for he shall surely die	of Jesse
		H3117		H1121	H3448
חַי	עַל	הָאָדָמָה	לֹא	תִּכּוֹן	אֶתְּ
H2416	H5921	upon the ground	H3808	thou shalt not be established	H859
		H127		H3559	
וּמַלְכוּתְךָ	יַעַתְּ	שְׁלַח	וְקַח	אֹתוֹ	כִּי
nor thy kingdom	H6258	Wherefore now send	and fetch	H853	H413
H4438		H7971	H3947		H3588
בֶּן	הוּא:	מִיָּת			
him unto me for he shall surely die	H4194	H1931			
H1121					

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