

1 Samuel 20:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.

Analysis

And it came to pass in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad with him.

Jonathan fulfilled his commitment: 'in the morning...at the time appointed' - precise obedience to the agreed plan. The 'little lad' (na'ar qaton) served as unwitting instrument. His youth and small size emphasized his innocence about the momentous communication he would help convey. The field that had been designated for meeting now became site of farewell. Faithful friends keep appointments even when the news to be delivered is painful. Jonathan came prepared to deliver whatever message the events required.

Historical Context

Morning timing allowed normal activity as cover. Young servants were commonly used for menial tasks like retrieving arrows. The specific appointment time demonstrates the precision of their planning despite emotional turmoil.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How important is keeping commitments even when circumstances become painful?
2. What does Jonathan's punctual arrival teach about reliability in friendship?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּהִי י' H1961	בַּבֹּקֶר H1242	וַיֵּצֵא א' H3318	יְהוֹנָתָן י' H3083	הַשָּׂדֶה ה' H7704
And it came to pass in the morning	went out	that Jonathan	into the field	
לְמוֹעֵד ד' H4150	יְדֹן ד' H1732	וְנַעַר H5288	קָטָן י' H6996	עִמּוֹ: H5973
at the time appointed	with David	lad	and a little	

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