

# 1 Samuel 20:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee: for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?

## Analysis

**And Jonathan said, Far be it from thee: for if I knew certainly that evil were determined by my father to come upon thee, then would not I tell it thee?**

Jonathan's rhetorical question - 'would not I tell it thee?' - affirms absolute commitment to David's safety over loyalty to his father. The phrase 'Far be it from thee' (chalilah) expresses horror at the thought of concealing danger. Jonathan's integrity meant he would warn David even of his own father's murderous plans. Such commitment tested the limits of family loyalty, choosing righteousness over blood ties. The answer Jonathan expected was obvious: of course he would warn David. Genuine friendship includes uncomfortable truth-telling.

## Historical Context

Sons were expected to protect family secrets and interests. Jonathan's commitment to warn David against his father reversed normal expectations. This pledge placed him in potential conflict with both filial duty and royal obligation.

## Related Passages

[Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory](#)

[Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth](#)

## Study Questions

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1. What loyalties might you need to subordinate to higher commitments to truth and righteousness?
2. How does Jonathan's willingness to warn David against his own father challenge conventional family loyalty?

## Interlinear Text

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אֵלֹעַ אַמְּתָה יְהוָה כִּי לֹא יְהִי אַחֲרֵי

**said**

**And Jonathan**

**Far be it from thee**

H1980

H3588

H518

**certainly**

H559

H3083

H2486

לֹבֶן וְאָבִי מִעַם בְּרַעַת כָּלָת הַבְּרַעַת אֵלֹעַ

**certainly**

H3588

**were determined**

**that evil**

H5973

**by my father**

**to come**

H1

H935

לֹבֶן אָתָּה וְלֹא שָׁלַּו יְהִי

H5921

H3808

H853

**upon thee then would not I tell**

H5046

H0

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