

1 Samuel 21:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me?

Analysis

Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me?

Achish's response indicates David's ruse succeeded. The Hebrew 'hinneh' (behold/lo) introduces his observation with dramatic emphasis. His irritated question to the servants deflects responsibility for David's presence onto them. The king's annoyance reveals he considered dealing with a madman beneath his dignity. Ancient kings surrounded themselves with skilled advisors and warriors, not deranged individuals. God used the cultural assumptions about madness to deliver David from certain death. This demonstrates divine providence working through human customs and beliefs to accomplish His purposes—even when His servant's methods are questionable.

Historical Context

Philistine kings (seranim) maintained courts similar to other ancient Near Eastern monarchs. Bringing a seemingly mad person before the king wasted royal time and risked supernatural contamination of the court.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How have you seen God use cultural assumptions or circumstances to provide unexpected deliverance?
2. What does Achish's dismissive response teach about how God blinds enemies to truth?

Interlinear Text

אָ יֵשׁ Then said H559	אָכִי יֵשׁ Achish H397	אֶל H413	עֲבָדָיו unto his servants H5650	הֵן הֵם H2009	תִּרְאוּ Lo ye see H7200	אֶת הָאִישׁ the man H376
מְשֻׁתָּה is mad H7696	לָמָּה H4100	וְעַתָּה wherefore then have ye brought H935	תָּבִיא H853	אֶת H413	אֵלַי H853	