

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

Then said	Achish	H413	unto his servants	H2009	Lo ye see	the man
H559	H397		H5650		H7200	H376
is mad	H4100		wherfore then have ye brought	H935	H853	H413
H7696						

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