

1 Samuel 21:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore what is under thine hand? give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present.

Analysis

Now therefore what is under thine hand? give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present.

David's request for 'five loaves' reveals his desperate circumstances—he fled with nothing. The Hebrew 'mah yesh' (what is there) indicates he would accept whatever was available. Five loaves would sustain a small group for several days. This humble petition from the anointed future king illustrates the principle that God's chosen servants often experience seasons of lack before elevation. The phrase 'under thine hand' employs Hebrew idiom for available resources, showing David's deference to priestly authority even while fleeing for his life. Christ would later multiply five loaves to feed thousands, transforming scarcity into abundance through divine power.

Historical Context

Bread was the staple food of ancient Israel, and five loaves represented a modest but adequate provision. The request demonstrates the informal hospitality expected at religious centers, where travelers could seek sustenance from the priests who received tithes and offerings.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you approach God and others when you have nothing to offer but your need?
2. What does David's willingness to accept 'whatever is present' teach about contentment in scarcity?

Interlinear Text

בְּמִשְׁהָ	בַּיָּדِ	בַּיָּדִים	פֶּתַח	וְשָׁ	מָה	וְעַתָּה	ה
H2568	H3027	H2568	H8478	H3426	H4100	H6258	
me five	H3027	H2568	in mine hand	Now therefore what is			

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