

1 Samuel 22:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.

Analysis

Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.

Saul's summons of the entire priestly community signals ominous intent. The Hebrew 'vayishlach...liqro' (sent to call) conveys royal command that demanded obedience. The specification 'all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob' extends culpability from one man to an entire priestly clan. Their compliance —'they came all of them'—demonstrates their innocence; guilty conspirators would have fled. The priests' trust in royal justice would prove fatal. This summoning of God's servants before a corrupt king foreshadows Christ before Pilate, and countless martyrs before hostile authorities. The institutional church appeared before the corrupted state, believing truth would prevail.

Historical Context

Nob had become the center of the Elide priesthood after Shiloh's destruction. 'All his father's house' indicates the priests were organized by family lineage. The priestly community's obedient response reflects their expectation of royal protection, not persecution.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do the innocent often walk into traps set by the powerful, trusting in justice that will not come?
2. What does the priests' obedience to Saul's summons teach about the tension between civil authority and divine protection?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁלַח	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	לְקַרְא	אֶת	אֲחִימֶלֶךְ	בֶּן	אֲחִיטוֹב
sent	Then the king	to call	H853	Ahimelech	the son	of Ahitub
H7971	H4428	H7121		H288	H1121	H285
הַכֹּהֵן יֵם	וְאֵת	כָּל	בֵּית	אָבִיו	הַכֹּהֵן יֵם	אֲשֶׁר
the priest	H853	H3605	house	and all his father's	the priest	H834
H3548		H1004		H1	H3548	
בְּנֵי ב	וַיָּבֹאוּ	כָּל	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ:		
that were in Nob	and they came	H3605	H413	Then the king		
H5011	H935			H4428		