

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

אַחִיטָב בֶּן אַחִימֶלֶךְ לְקֹרֵא אֶת נָשָׁל חַמְלָה: וְשָׁלַח
Ahitub son of Ahimelech to call the assembly: and sent

sent

H7971

Then the king

H4428

לְקֹרֵא אֶת נָשָׁל חַמְלָה: וְשָׁלַח
to call the assembly: and sent

H853

Ahimelech

H288

the son

H1121

אַחִיטָב בֶּן אַחִימֶלֶךְ
of Ahitub

H285

אֲשֶׁר פְּקַדְתִּי יְמֵינֵךְ יְמֵינֵךְ אָבִיךְ
the priest and all his father's house

the priest

H3548

H853

H3605

בֵּית אָבִיךְ
house and all his father's

H1

אֲשֶׁר פְּקַדְתִּי יְמֵינֵךְ יְמֵינֵךְ אָבִיךְ
the priest and all his father's house

H834

H3548

פְּמַלְאָה: אֶל כָּל מִינְבָּר אָוֹן בָּנְבָנָה
Then the king and they came

that were in Nob

H5011

and they came

H935

H3605

H413

Then the king

H4428

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