

1 Samuel 22:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord.

Analysis

And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord.

The brief exchange reveals devastating contrasts. Saul's address 'son of Ahitub' refuses to use Ahimelech's name, reducing him to a lineage marker—dehumanizing prelude to murder. The Hebrew 'shema-na' (hear now) echoes his earlier address to the Benjamites (v. 7), treating the priest as another subordinate to interrogate. Ahimelech's response 'hinneni adoni' (Here I am, my lord) expresses complete availability and respect—the same words Abraham used in response to God (Genesis 22:1). The priest's humble submission to royal authority makes the coming slaughter more horrific. Innocence stands before corrupt power, ready to serve, about to die.

Historical Context

The formula 'Here I am' (hinneni) was a standard response indicating readiness to obey. Its use by Ahimelech demonstrates proper respect for the king while unknowingly echoing sacred covenant language used in encounters with God.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does Ahimelech's respectful response teach about maintaining dignity before hostile authorities?
2. How does innocent trust in corrupt institutions parallel Christ standing before His accusers?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	וְשָׂא וְלֹא	שָׁמַע	נָא	בֶּן	אֲחִיטּוֹב
And he answered	And Saul	Hear	H4994	now thou son	of Ahitub
H559	H7586	H8085		H1121	H285
וַיֹּאמֶר	הִנֵּנִי	אֲדֹנָי:			
And he answered	H2005	Here I am my lord			
H559		H113			
