

1 Samuel 22:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests.

Analysis

And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests.

Abiathar's report brings devastating news to David. The Hebrew 'vayagged' (showed/reported) conveys more than mere telling—it revealed the full horror of the massacre. The designation 'LORD's priests' emphasizes the sacrilege: these were not merely men but God's consecrated servants. David now learned the catastrophic consequences of his deception at Nob. The information connected cause and effect across the narrative: David's lie (21:2), Doeg's presence (21:7), and now this slaughter. The report forced David to confront how his survival tactics had contributed to innocent deaths—a weight he would carry as a man who understood that his sins had consequences beyond himself.

Historical Context

Abiathar's role as sole witness to the massacre made him invaluable for David's understanding of events. His report would have included details about Doeg's role, Saul's accusations, and the soldiers' initial refusal—information crucial for the historical record.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do we process news that reveals unintended consequences of our actions?
2. What does the phrase 'the LORD's priests' emphasize about the gravity of Saul's crime?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁמַע	וְאַבִּיָּתָר	לְדָוִד	כִּי	הָרַג	שָׂא וְ	אֶת	כֹּהֲנֵי יְ
shewed	And Abiathar	David	H3588	had slain	that Saul	H853	priests
H5046	H54	H1732		H2026	H7586		H3548

יְהוָה:
the LORD'S
H3068

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