

1 Samuel 22:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

Analysis

Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

David's offer of protection transforms guilt into redemptive action. The Hebrew imperatives 'shevah' (abide/stay) and 'al-tira' (fear not) provide comfort and command. The shared danger—'he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life'—creates solidarity between fugitive king and surviving priest. David's promise 'with me thou shalt be in safeguard' (Hebrew 'mishmeret') pledges guardianship. Having caused Abiathar's loss, David now commits to his protection. This union of future king and surviving priest establishes a partnership that would serve David throughout his reign. The one whose deception caused the massacre now becomes the protector of the one who survived it—grace working through human failure.

Historical Context

David's acceptance of Abiathar created a lasting alliance between the Davidic monarchy and the Levitical priesthood. Abiathar served as David's priest until Solomon's reign, providing crucial spiritual guidance through the ephod's divine consultation.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can we transform guilt over past failures into present redemptive action?
2. What does David's protection of Abiathar teach about taking responsibility for those harmed by our choices?

Interlinear Text

שָׁבֵה	אֶתִּי	אֶל	יָתִיב־אֵ	כִּי	אֲשֶׁר	יִבְקֵה־שׁ
Abide	H854	H408	thou with me fear	H3588	H834	not for he that seeketh
H3427			H3372			H1245
אֶת	נַפְשִׁי	יִבְקֵה־שׁ	אֶת	נַפְשִׁי	כִּי	
H853	my life	not for he that seeketh	H853	my life	H3588	
	H5315	H1245		H5315		
מִשְׁמֶרֶת	אֶת־הָ	עֲמֻדָּה				
but with me thou shalt be in safeguard	H859	H5978				
H4931						

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 2:26 (Parallel theme): And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou art worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted.

John 18:9 (Parallel theme): That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.

John 15:20 (Parallel theme): Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your's also.

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