

1 Samuel 22:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

Analysis

And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

The successful arrangement for David's parents indicates divine favor extending beyond Israel's borders. The Hebrew 'matsud' (hold/stronghold) refers to David's various wilderness refuges. That Jesse and his wife 'dwelt' (yashab—settled) with the Moabite king suggests a semi-permanent arrangement during David's fugitive years. This international protection of David's parents while he led an outlaw band demonstrates God's comprehensive care. The absence of further mention of David's parents in Samuel may indicate they died in Moab. David later showed harshness toward Moab (2 Samuel 8:2), possibly connected to unknown events involving his family.

Historical Context

The king of Moab's acceptance of David's parents may reflect anti-Saul sentiment, as Saul had fought against Moab (1 Samuel 14:47). Ancient Near Eastern hospitality customs protected those who sought refuge, especially those with kinship ties.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How has God provided protection for your loved ones through unexpected sources?
2. What does this international cooperation teach about God's sovereignty over all nations?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֵר ה'	אֶת	פָּנֵי י	מֶלֶךְ	מוֹאָב	וַיֵּשְׁבוּ ו	עַמּוֹ
And he brought	H854	them before	the king	of Moab	and they dwelt	H5973
H5148		H6440	H4428	H4124	H3427	
כָּל	יְמֵי	הַיּוֹם	דָּוִד	בְּמַצֹּדָה:		
H3605	with him all the while	H1961	that David	was in the hold		
	H3117		H1732	H4686		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 11:1 (Parallel theme): In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?