

1 Samuel 23:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up.

Analysis

Then said David, Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul? And the LORD said, They will deliver thee up.

God's second answer reveals the painful truth: the town David saved would betray him. The Hebrew 'yasgiru' (they will deliver up) confirms that gratitude would not overcome fear of Saul. This divine knowledge of contingent futures—what would happen if David stayed—demonstrates God's comprehensive understanding. The men of Keilah would choose self-preservation over protecting their deliverer. This foreknowledge allowed David to act preemptively, avoiding betrayal through departure. The passage illustrates how divine guidance protects the faithful from misplaced trust, revealing human hearts that circumstances would eventually expose anyway.

Historical Context

God's answer represents 'middle knowledge'—knowing what free agents would do in specific circumstances. Keilah's projected betrayal reflects the political reality that small towns could not resist royal pressure regardless of gratitude.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when God reveals that those you helped would betray you?
2. What does Keilah's potential betrayal teach about the limits of human gratitude?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	יִסְגְּרוּ:	בְּעַל י	קַעִיל ה	אֶת י	וְאֶת
Then said	David	They will deliver thee up	Will the men	of Keilah	H853	H853
H559	H1732	H5462	H1167	H7084		
אֶנְשֵׁי י	בְּיָד	שָׂא וּל	וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה ה	יִסְגְּרוּ:	
H376	into the hand	of Saul	Then said	And the LORD	They will deliver thee up	
	H3027	H7586	H559	H3068	H5462	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 31:8 (Parallel theme): And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room.

1 Samuel 23:20 (Parallel theme): Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of thy soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand.

Psalms 62:1 (Parallel theme): Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.