

1 Samuel 24:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed.

Analysis

Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed.

David's refusal to harm Saul despite opportunity and justification demonstrates respect for God's authority structures even when those in authority act wickedly. His conviction that he cannot 'stretch forth my hand against the LORD's anointed' teaches the principle of leaving vengeance to God rather than taking matters into one's own hands. David's restraint shows mature faith that trusts God to vindicate and promote in His timing. This passage warns against using apparent opportunities to advance personal interests when doing so requires violating godly principles.

Historical Context

The establishment of monarchy around 1050-1010 BCE represented a dramatic political and theological shift for Israel. Unlike surrounding nations where kings were considered divine or semi-divine, Israel's kings were supposed to function

under God's ultimate authority as laid out in Deuteronomy 17:14-20. The Benjamite tribe occupied strategic territory between Ephraim and Judah, making Saul's selection a politically astute choice to balance tribal rivalries. Archaeological remains from this period show increased fortification and centralization of settlements, confirming the transition to state-level organization.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this passage deepen our understanding of God's character, purposes, and ways of working in human history?
2. What specific heart attitudes, thought patterns, or life practices does this passage call you to examine or change?
3. How does this passage connect to the larger biblical narrative of redemption and point toward Christ and the gospel?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה H2009	הִי וּמִן Behold this day H3117	הִזָּה H2088	כָּא ו have seen H7200	עֵינֶי יְכָ thine eyes H5869	אֵת H853	אֲשֶׁר H834
נִתְּנָךְ H5414	יְהוָה הִוא for he is the LORD'S H3068	הִי וּמִן Behold this day H3117	יָדִי into mine hand H3027	בְּמַעַבְהָ in the cave H4631		
וְאִמְרָה and some bade H559	לְהַרְגֶךָ me kill H2026	וְתִסָּר thee but mine eye spared H2347	עַל יְכָ H5921	וְאִמְרָה and some bade H559		לֹא H3808
אֲשַׁלְּחֶנּוּ I will not put forth H7971	יָדִי into mine hand H3027	בְּאֹדְנִי against my lord H113	כִּי H3588	מָשַׁח יְהוָה anointed H4899		
יְהוָה הִוא for he is the LORD'S H3068						

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 24:4 (References Lord): And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily.

Psalms 105:15 (Parallel theme): Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.