

1 Samuel 24:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

Analysis

Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it.

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

וְאָבִי י	וְרָאָה	גַּם	וְרָאָה	אֶת	כְּנִי	מִעִלָּבִי
Moreover my father	see	H1571	see	H853	the skirt	of thy robe
H1	H7200		H7200		H3671	H4598
בְּיָדִי י	כִּי י	בְּכַרְתִּי	אֶת	כְּנִי	מִעִלָּבִי	וְלֹא
in mine hand	H3588	for in that I cut off	H853	the skirt	of thy robe	H3808
H3027		H3772		H3671	H4598	
וַהֲרַגְתִּי יָרֵךְ	יָדְךָ	וְרָאָה	כִּי	אֵין	בְּיָדִי י	
and killed	thee not know	see	H3588	H369	in mine hand	
H2026	H3045	H7200			H3027	
כִּי הָיָה	וְלֹא	וְאֵין	וְרָאָה	וְאֵין	וְאֵין	וְאֵין
that there is neither evil	nor transgression	H3808	and I have not sinned	H0		
H7451	H6588		H2398			
וְאֵתְּהָה	וְאֵתְּהָה	וְאֵתְּהָה	וְאֵתְּהָה	וְאֵתְּהָה	וְאֵתְּהָה	וְאֵתְּהָה
H859	against thee yet thou huntest	H853	my soul	to take		
	H6658		H5315	H3947		

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 26:20 (Parallel theme): Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains.

1 Samuel 23:23 (Parallel theme): See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hideth himself, and come ye again to me with the certainty, and I will go with you: and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land, that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Judah.

1 Samuel 23:14 (Parallel theme): And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

John 15:25 (Parallel theme): But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

2 Kings 5:13 (Parallel theme): And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

1 Samuel 26:18 (Evil): And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?

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