

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 Benjaminite 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

מֵעִילָב	כְּנֶר	אֶת	וְרָאָה	גַּם	וְרָאָה	אֶת	וְרָאָה	וְרָאָה	וְרָאָה
Moreover my father	see	H1571	see	H853	the skirt	H3671	of thy robe	H4598	
H1	H7200		H7200		H3671		H4598		
in mine hand	for in that I cut off	H3583	the skirt	H3671	of thy robe	H4598			
H3027	H3772		H3671		H4598				
and killed	thee not know	H3588	see	H369	in mine hand	H3027			
H2026	H3045		H7200		H3027				
that there is neither evil	nor transgression	H3808	אֵלָא	H3808	and I have not sinned	H2398			
H7451	H6588				H2398				
against thee yet thou huntest	צָאֵת הָ	H853	אֶת	H853	לִקְחַתְהָ	נֶפֶשׁ	יְ		
H859	H6658		my soul	H5315	to take	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?

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org