

1 Samuel 24:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

Analysis

The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

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 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through 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

וְהִי הַ	יְהוָה	לִבִּי	וְיִשְׁפֹּט נִי	בֵּין י	וְבֵין גַּ
H1961	The LORD	therefore be judge	and deliver	H996	H996
	H3068	H1781	H8199		
	וְיִרְאֵה	וְיִפְדֵּה בְּ	אֶת	רִיבִי י	וְיִשְׁפֹּט נִי
	between me and thee and see	and plead	H853	my cause	and deliver
	H7200	H7378		H7379	H8199
	מִדָּבָרִי				
	me out of thine hand				
	H3027				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:154 (Parallel theme): Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.

Psalms 35:1 (References Lord): Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

Psalms 43:1 (Judgment): Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

1 Samuel 24:12 (Judgment): The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

Micah 7:9 (Judgment): I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

2 Chronicles 24:22 (References Lord): Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it.

Micah 1:2 (References Lord): Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is: and let the Lord GOD be witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.