

1 Samuel 24:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

Analysis

And thou hast shewed this day how that thou hast dealt well with me: forasmuch as when the LORD had delivered me into thine hand, thou killedst me not.

Saul correctly interprets David's restraint as divine test passed. The Hebrew 'higadta' (you have declared/shown) suggests David's actions spoke louder than words. Saul's acknowledgment that 'the LORD had delivered me into thine hand' admits divine providence favored David—a stunning concession from a king pursuing supposed conspiracy. The phrase 'thou killedst me not' (velo heragattani) states the obvious but significant: David had opportunity and motive yet chose mercy. Saul's reasoning demonstrates that even spiritually blind persons can sometimes recognize God's hand in circumstances, though recognition alone does not produce transformation.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern succession often involved assassination of rivals. David's restraint was culturally remarkable—most pretenders to a throne would have seized such an opportunity. Saul's recognition of this demonstrated understanding of what David's action cost him.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. When has God 'delivered' someone into your power, and how did you respond?
2. What does Saul's accurate perception of providence teach about knowledge without obedience?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה הַגְּדוֹלָה בַּיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה בְּעֵשׂ וְיַתֵּה
H859 **And thou hast shewed** this day H853 **how that thou hast dealt**
H5046 H3117 H6213

סְגָבֵבְנִי אֲשֶׁר טוֹבֵב הַאֲתָת
H854 **well** H853 **had delivered**
H2896 H5462

בְּכֶגֶת נִיְהַי הַבְּיִדְעָה אַל בְּכֶגֶת נִיְהַי הַבְּיִדְעָה
with me forasmuch as when the LORD me into thine hand H3808 **thou killedst**
H3068 H3027 H2026

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 26:23 (References Lord): The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.

