

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	הֵגִדְתָּ	הַיּוֹם	אֵת	אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה יְהוָה
H859	And thou hast shewed	this day	H853	H834	how that thou hast dealt
	H5046	H3117			H6213
טוֹבָה	אֶת	אֲשֶׁר	רָאִיתִי	סָגַרְתָּ	
H854	well	H853	H834	had delivered	
	H2896			H5462	
יְהוָה	כַּמֶּלֶךְ	בְּיָדְךָ	וְלֹא	הִכֵּיתָנִי	
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.

