

1 Samuel 24:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand.

Analysis

And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand.

Saul's declaration confirms what Jonathan earlier stated (23:17)—even David's persecutor knew his kingship was inevitable. The Hebrew emphatic construction 'yado'a yadati' (knowing I know/I know well) expresses certainty beyond doubt. The phrase 'shall be established' (Hebrew 'qum') indicates lasting dynasty, not merely David's personal reign. This public acknowledgment before Saul's army effectively conceded the succession dispute. Yet Saul's knowledge did not produce submission—he would resume pursuit despite this confession. His statement fulfilled Samuel's earlier prophecy while demonstrating that theological knowledge without heart transformation produces only more culpable rejection.

Historical Context

Saul's public acknowledgment of David's future kingship created significant political implications. His soldiers heard their king admit the succession would not follow normal dynastic patterns. This confession became part of the public record validating David's later reign.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What truths do you 'know well' that your behavior contradicts?
2. How does Saul's knowledge of David's destiny while opposing it illustrate hardened hearts?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה הִנֵּה

H6258

H2009

יָדַעְתִּי

And now behold I know well

H3045

כִּי

H3588

תִּמְלֹךְ וְ

be king

H4427

תִּמְלֹךְ וְ

be king

H4427

וְקָמָה

shall be established

H6965

בְּיָדְךָ

in thine hand

H3027

וְכִתְּ

and that the kingdom

H4467

יִשְׂרָאֵל:

of Israel

H3478

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 23:17 (Kingdom): And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.