

1 Samuel 24:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.

Analysis

And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD.

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

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

אָמַר יְהוָה אֶל־אַנְשֵׁי־יִהְעָן
And he said unto his men
H559 H582 H2486 H0 H3068 H518 H6213

אֶת־רְאֵת הַבְּדָבָר לְאַדְנִי מֵשׁ יְמִין
this thing unto my master against him seeing he is the anointed
H853 H1697 H2088 H113 H4899

יְהוָה יְהִי רְשָׁלָט יְדִי לְשֹׁלְחָנִי
The LORD to stretch forth mine hand
H3068 H7971 H3027 H0 H3588

מֵשׁ יְמִין הַוְאָן יְהוָה
against him seeing he is the anointed The LORD H1931
H4899 H3068

