

1 Samuel 24:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

Analysis

David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself.

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 15:13 – Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

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

בְּמִעֵד	הַמִּעֵד	מִ	יְהוָה	וְיָצָא	יְצָא	וְיָצָא	וְיָצָא
also arose	David	after	H3651	afterward and went out	H4480	of the cave	
H6965	H1732	H310		H3318		H4631	

בְּעֵת אָדָם וְלֵאמֹר שָׂאֹל אֶתְכֶּם וְיַקְרֵב אֶלְכֶּם וְאָדָם וְבְּעֵת
and cried after And when Saul saying My lord the king looked

שָׁאֹל	רְצָחָה	וְשִׁפְחוֹת	אֶתְּנָאָה	יְהִי דָּבָר	יְהִי דָּבָר	אֶתְּנָאָה	אֶתְּנָאָה	אֶתְּנָאָה	אֶתְּנָאָה	אֶתְּנָאָה	אֶתְּנָאָה
And when Saul	after	stooped	David	with his face	to the earth	and bowed					
H7586	H310	H6915	H1732	H639	H776	H7812					