

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

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|---------------|----------|---------------|--------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| וַיָּקָם | דָּוִד | אַחֲרָיו | כִּי | וַיֵּצֵא | מִן | הַמַּעַר הַ |
| also arose | David | after | H3651 | afterward and went out | H4480 | of the cave |
| H6965 | H1732 | H310 | | H3318 | | H4631 |
| וַיִּקְרָא | אַחֲרָיו | שָׁאוּל | לֵאמֹר | אֲדֹנָי | הִמָּלֵךְ | וַיַּבֵּט |
| and cried | after | And when Saul | saying | My lord | the king | looked |
| H7121 | H310 | H7586 | H559 | H113 | H4428 | H5027 |
| שָׁאוּל | אַחֲרָיו | וַיִּקְדָּ | דָּוִד | אֶפְרָם | אֶרֶץ | וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ: |
| And when Saul | after | stooped | David | with his face | to the earth | and bowed |
| H7586 | H310 | H6915 | H1732 | H639 | H776 | H7812 |