

1 Samuel 24:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?

Analysis

And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt?

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and 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

דָּבַר י' אֶת	תִּשְׁמַע	לְמָה	לְשָׁא וּל	דָּוִד	לֵאמֹר
words H1697	Wherefore hearest H8085	H4100	to Saul H7586	And David H1732	said H559
קָשְׁתְּךָ:	מִבֶּקֶשׁ	דָּוִד	הִנֵּה	לֵאמֹר	אֲדָם
thy hurt H7451	seeketh H1245	And David H1732	H2009	said H559	thou men's H120

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 29:12 (Parallel theme): If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.