

1 Samuel 25:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them.

Analysis

And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her; and she met them.

The meeting occurs at a divinely orchestrated moment. The Hebrew 'beseter hahar' (covert/secret place of the hill) describes a hidden approach providing mutual surprise. The phrase 'came down against her' (Hebrew 'yordim liqratah') uses military language—David's force descending with hostile intent. The word 'met' (pagash) suggests sudden encounter. Abigail intercepted David at the critical moment—later and his oath would have been fulfilled. This providential timing demonstrates God's orchestration: Abigail's wisdom and haste, combined with David's delayed arrival, created space for intervention. Human wisdom and divine providence cooperated to prevent bloodshed.

Historical Context

The terrain of the Judean hill country contained many hidden valleys and passes. Abigail's route brought her to intercept David's force before they reached Nabal's household. The timing was precise—moments later might have been too late.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does this providential meeting demonstrate God's timing in crisis situations?
2. What role does human initiative play in conjunction with divine providence?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּרְדֵּן יְמִינָה וַיַּפְנִיחַ הַבָּתָן בְּתַכְתַּבְתָּחַת הַבָּתָן וְעַל
H1961 H1931 And it was so as she rode H7392 H5921 on the ass H2543 H3381 came down

וַיַּרְדֵּן יְמִינָה וַיַּפְנִיחַ הַבָּתָן בְּתַכְתַּבְתָּחַת הַבָּתָן וְעַל
H1961 H1931 And it was so as she rode H7392 H5921 on the ass H2543 H3381 came down
בְּעֵבֶר אֶת הַר בְּעֵבֶר אֶת הַר בְּעֵבֶר אֶת הַר בְּעֵבֶר אֶת הַר
H5643 H2022 H2009 H1732 H376 H3381 came down

וְעַתָּה לְקַרְאָתָה
against her and she met
H7125 H6298 H853

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org