

1 Samuel 25:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

Analysis

So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

David's oath reveals how far anger has carried him. The self-curse formula 'so and more also do God' (Hebrew 'koh ya'aseh elohim') invokes divine punishment on himself if he fails to execute vengeance. The crude phrase 'any that pisseth against the wall' is a Hebrew idiom for males—David swore to kill every male in Nabal's household. This total destruction oath echoes cherem warfare against Canaanites. The phrase 'by the morning light' establishes deadline for completed massacre. David, who spared Saul when God delivered him into his hand, now swore to slaughter an entire household over insults. Anger had transformed the man after God's heart into potential mass murderer. Only Abigail's intervention would prevent this disaster.

Historical Context

Self-curse oaths were binding commitments invoking divine punishment for failure to fulfill. The idiom about males was crude but common in Hebrew texts. David's oath to kill all males represented total household destruction, since women and children without male protection faced severe consequences.

1 Samuel 20:13 (Parallel theme): The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

1 Kings 21:21 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel,

Ruth 1:17 (Parallel theme): Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.