

1 Samuel 25:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

Analysis

Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal.

Abigail's oath invokes both divine and human life. The double formula 'as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth' solemnly witnesses her declaration. Her assertion that 'the LORD hath withholden thee' interprets their meeting as divine intervention—God Himself prevented David's sin. The phrase 'avenging thyself with thine own hand' identifies David's intended action as self-help vengeance rather than divine justice. Her curse upon David's enemies—'let them be as Nabal'—subtly suggests divine judgment will handle Nabal without David's involvement. This prophetic insight proved accurate: God would indeed strike Nabal.

Historical Context

The oath formula invoking both Yahweh's life and David's life was among the strongest possible affirmations. Abigail's theological interpretation of their

meeting as divine prevention revealed prophetic insight. Her curse on David's enemies proved remarkably prescient.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How did Abigail recognize divine providence in their meeting?
2. What does 'avenging thyself with thine own hand' teach about the difference between personal vengeance and trusting God's justice?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה	אֲדֹנָי	וְחִי	יְהוָה	וְחִי	נַפְשְׁךָ
H6258	Now therefore my lord	liveth	as the LORD	liveth	and as thy soul
	H113	H2416	H3068	H2416	H5315
אֲשֶׁר	מְנַעַךְ	יְהוָה	מִבּוֹא	בְּדַמִּי	
H834	hath withholden	as the LORD	thee from coming	to shed blood	
	H4513	H3068	H935	H1818	
וְהוֹשֵׁעַ	יָדְךָ	לִי	וְעַתָּה	יְהִי וְ	כְּנָבָל
and from avenging	thyself with thine own hand				be as Nabal
H3467	H3027	H0	H6258	H1961	H5037
אֵיְבֹיךָ	וְהַמְבַקֵּשׁ	אֵל	אֲדֹנָי	כָּעֵה:	
now let thine enemies	and they that seek		Now therefore my lord	evil	
H341	H1245	H413	H113	H7451	

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 18:32 (References Lord): And the king said unto Cushie, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushie answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is.

Genesis 20:6 (Parallel theme): And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.

Hebrews 10:30 (References Lord): For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

Daniel 4:19 (References Lord): Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

Psalms 44:3 (Parallel theme): For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them.