

1 Samuel 25:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

Analysis

That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

Abigail's argument reaches its practical conclusion. The Hebrew 'puqah' (grief/stumbling block) and 'mikhshol' (offense/obstacle) describe the psychological and spiritual burden David would carry. 'Shed blood causeless' (Hebrew 'shaphak dam chinnam') identifies the action as murder rather than justice. Her warning: don't stain your future reign with present violence. The final request—'remember thine handmaid'—may anticipate marriage, or simply ask for future favor. This verse reveals Abigail's ultimate concern: David's conscience and legacy, not merely immediate survival. She wanted him to reign without regret over actions taken in anger.

Historical Context

Future kings were expected to maintain unstained reputations. Abigail's warning about 'grief' anticipated the psychological burden of unnecessary bloodshed. Her

request to be 'remembered' was standard petition language, though events proved it meant more.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does anticipating future regret help us avoid present mistakes?
2. What does Abigail's concern for David's conscience teach about true advocacy?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| א | תְּהִי הַ | זֶאת | לְךָ | לְפִיָּקָה | וּלְמַכָּשׁ וְלֹ |
| H3808 | H1961 | H2063 | H0 | H6330 | H4383 |
| | | | | That this shall be no grief | unto thee nor offence |
| בִּ | לְאֲדֹנִי י | וְלִשְׁפָּךְ | דָּם | חִנָּם | וַיִּהְיֶה יַעַ |
| H3820 | H113 | H8210 | H1818 | H2600 | H3467 |
| of heart | or that my lord | either that thou hast shed | blood | causeless | hath avenged |
| לְאֲדֹנִי י | לֹ | וַיְהִיט בִּ | יְהוָה | | |
| H113 | H0 | H3190 | H3068 | | |
| or that my lord | | shall have dealt well | himself but when the LORD | | |
| לְאֲדֹנִי י | וְזָכַרְתָּ | אֶת | אֲמָתְךָ: | | |
| H113 | H2142 | H853 | H519 | | |
| or that my lord | then remember | thine | handmaid | | |

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 40:14 (Parallel theme): But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:

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