

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

וְלֹמַכֵּשׁ	וְلֹ	לִפְקָה	לְבָ	זֶתֶן	תְּהִ	הַ	וְלֹ אָ	H3808	H1961	H2063	H0	That this shall be no grief	unto thee nor offence	H6330	H4383
וְלֹהֹשׁ	וְעַ	צְבָ	צְבָ	לְאַדְנִ	לְאַדְנִ	יְלַשְּׁפָג	יְלַשְּׁפָג	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	or that my lord	either that thou hast shed	H1818	H2600
or that my lord	H113	H0	shall have dealt well	H3190	himself but when the LORD	H3068	of heart	H3820	H113	H8210	H2600	hath avenged	H3467		
וְלֹאַדְנִ	וְלֹאַדְנִ	אַתְּ	אַתְּ	אַתְּ	אַתְּ	אַתְּ	אַתְּ	אַתְּ	אַתְּ	אַתְּ	אַתְּ	then remember	thine handmaid	H519	H853

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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