

1 Samuel 25:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

Analysis

For in very deed, as the LORD God of Israel liveth, which hath kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Nabal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

David's oath confirms how close disaster came. The formula 'as the LORD God of Israel liveth' solemnizes his acknowledgment. His attribution—'which hath kept me back'—again credits God working through Abigail. The conditional 'except thou hadst hasted' recognizes Abigail's urgency as essential. David repeats his original crude oath about killing all males, not to renew but to reveal what would have happened. The phrase 'by the morning light' maintains the original timeline. This honest acknowledgment of his intended violence demonstrates David's recovered moral clarity. He now sees his own planned action as sin prevented, not justice delayed.

Historical Context

David's repetition of his crude oath showed complete honesty about his intentions before meeting Abigail. Such frank acknowledgment of prevented sin was unusual

among ancient rulers. His attribution of deliverance to God through Abigail modeled proper response to divine intervention.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does David's frank acknowledgment of his intentions reveal about authentic confession?
2. How does recognizing 'what almost happened' deepen gratitude for divine prevention?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁכָּא לְאַלְהָיִם יְהוָה וְאֶלְעָם
For in very deed liveth as the LORD God of Israel H834
H199 H2416 H3068 H430 H3478

לֹל	כִּי	אָתָּה	מִבְּעָד	מִנְעָד	בִּי	which hath kept me back	from hurting	H853	H3588	thee except	H3884
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מִתְּמֻמָּה	לִקְרָאת	וְתִּבָּאתִי	כִּי	אָמֵן
thou hadst hasted	and come	to meet	H3588	H518
H4116	H935	H7125		

נָזַת רָא	לְתַבֵּל	עַד	וְא	בְּקָר
me surely there had not been left	unto Nabal	H5704	light	by the morning

מִשְׁתֵּן בְּקִיר: any that pisseth against the wall H8366 H7023

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