

1 Samuel 25:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone.

Analysis

But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone.

Nabal's reaction to belated information proves fatal. The Hebrew 'vayetse hayyayin' (the wine went out) describes sobering up. When Abigail 'told him these things' (et-haddevarim ha'elleh), apparently including both his danger and her intervention, his response was catastrophic. 'His heart died within him' (vayyamot libbo beqirbo) suggests cardiac event or stroke. 'Became as a stone' (vayhi le'aven) describes paralysis or catatonia. Medical and theological interpretations merge: Nabal's physical collapse reflects judgment on his folly. The man whose name meant 'fool' died foolishly—learning only when sober how close he came to destruction through his drunken arrogance.

Historical Context

Ancient descriptions of sudden death often described symptoms we might identify as stroke or heart attack. The phrase 'heart died within him' suggests sudden cardiac failure. His stone-like state may indicate paralysis or coma preceding death.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does Nabal's reaction to belated news reveal about the burden of realized folly?
2. How might his physical collapse reflect spiritual and moral condition?

Interlinear Text

מִבְּנֵי	לִבְנֵי	בְּבֵבְנֵי	בְּצֵאתְנֵי	בְּזֵאֵת	בְּבֵבְנֵי	לִבְנֵי
H1961	But it came to pass in the morning	H1242	H3318	H3196	when the wine	H5037
had told	H0	and his wife	H853	him these things	H428	died
H5046	H802	H1697			H4191	
לִבְנֵי	בְּבֵבְנֵי	בְּצֵאתְנֵי	בְּזֵאֵת	בְּבֵבְנֵי	לִבְנֵי	מִבְּנֵי
that his heart	within	H1931	H1961	him and he became as a stone	H68	
H3820	H7130					

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