

1 Samuel 25:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep.

Analysis

And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep.

David's awareness of Nabal's shearing indicates his intelligence network remained active. The Hebrew 'vayishma' (heard) suggests information reached him through his contacts. Sheep shearing as a time of abundance and generosity was well known; David recognized an opportunity for legitimate provision. His band's protection of Nabal's shepherds (mentioned later) gave moral grounds for requesting assistance. The wilderness location emphasizes David's marginalized status—he heard of festivity while surviving in harsh conditions. This brief verse sets in motion a confrontation between the wealthy fool and the impoverished future king.

Historical Context

Shearing season was widely announced as it required additional labor and marked the agricultural calendar. David's network of informants in the region kept him aware of local events. The timing of his request during this festive season was culturally appropriate.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How did David maintain awareness of opportunities while surviving in the wilderness?
2. What does timing reveal about wisdom in making requests?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁמַע	וְדָוִד	בַּמִּדְבָּר	כִּי	גִזַּז	נָבָל	אֵת
heard	And David	in the wilderness	H3588	did shear	that Nabal	H853
H8085	H1732	H4057		H1494	H5037	
צֹאֲנוֹ:						
his sheep						
H6629						

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