

1 Samuel 25:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast.

Analysis

And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast.

David's threefold peace blessing expresses comprehensive goodwill. The Hebrew 'lechai' (to him who lives/to the living one) addresses Nabal's prosperity. The tripartite blessing—'peace to thee, peace to thine house, peace to all that thou hast'—covers person, family, and possessions. The Hebrew 'shalom' connotes wholeness and flourishing, not merely absence of conflict. This generous blessing preceded any request, establishing David's goodwill. The irony deepens when Nabal responds to blessing with cursing. David's blessing formula resembles priestly benedictions, positioning his request within covenant relationship rather than mere transaction.

Historical Context

Blessing formulas were taken seriously in ancient Israel as potentially efficacious words. The threefold pattern echoes priestly blessing structures. Such elaborate greetings established relational context before business discussions began.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you bless others before making requests of them?
2. What does this greeting pattern teach about establishing relational context for business dealings?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַרְתָּ ׀	כֹּה	לְהַיְי	וְאָתָּה	שְׁלוֹמִים:	
And thus shall ye say	H3541	to him that liveth	H859	and peace	
H559		H2416		H7965	
וּבֵיתְךָ	שְׁלוֹמִים:	וְכֹל לְ	אֲשֶׁר	לְךָ	שְׁלוֹמִים:
be to thine house	and peace	H3605	H834	H0	and peace
H1004	H7965				H7965

Additional Cross-References

1 Chronicles 12:18 (Peace): Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band.

Luke 10:5 (Peace): And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house.

Psalms 122:7 (Peace): Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

1 Timothy 5:6 (Parallel theme): But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

John 14:27 (Peace): Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (Peace): Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

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