

1 Samuel 25:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

Analysis

And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

David states his case: his band protected rather than plundered Nabal's shepherds. The Hebrew 'lo hechlamnum' (we did not hurt/shame them) emphasizes non-aggression. The phrase 'neither was there ought missing' (velo nifqad lahem me'umah) indicates David's men prevented theft by others. 'All the while they were in Carmel' establishes extended protection over the entire grazing season. This was significant service—wilderness regions harbored bandits and wild animals threatening flocks. David's men could have demanded protection payments or simply taken what they wanted; instead, they provided security expecting eventual reciprocity. His request was reasonable compensation for real service rendered.

Historical Context

Protection of flocks from bandits and predators was valuable service in wilderness regions. David's band functioning as protective force rather than raiders demonstrated honorable conduct. Ancient Near Eastern custom expected reciprocity for such protection.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How did David's treatment of Nabal's shepherds demonstrate integrity despite his outlaw status?
2. What expectations accompany providing genuine service to others?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה לְגִזְזֵי יָמִים כִּי שָׁמַעְתִּי
H6258 H8085 H3588 H1494 H0 H6258
And now I have heard that thou hast shearers

לֹא אֶעֱמֶנּוּ הֵיוּ לְךָ אֲשֶׁר הָרְעוּ יָמִים
H7462 H834 H0 H1961 H5973 H3808
now thy shepherds

לָהֶם נִפְקָד וְלֹא הִכְלַמְנוּ וְעִמָּה
H3808 H6485 H0
which were with us we hurt missing

הָיְתָה יָמֵי כָל יָמֵי יְמֵיהֶם
H3972 H3605 H3117 H1961
them not neither was there ought unto them all the while

בְּכַרְמֶל:
H3760
they were in Carmel

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 25:21 (Parallel theme): Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good.

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