

1 Samuel 26:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king.

Analysis

Saul's recognition of David's voice triggers an emotional address: 'Is this thy voice, my son David?' The term 'my son' (Hebrew: 'beni') carries profound pathos, revealing lingering paternal affection twisted by jealousy and madness. David's respectful reply ('It is my voice, my lord, O king') maintains proper honorifics even after years of unjust persecution. This exchange captures the tragic complexity of their relationship: genuine affection corrupted by Saul's spiritual decline.

Historical Context

The father-son language reflects both David's former position as Saul's son-in-law (married to Michal) and the mentoring relationship that existed before Saul's jealousy emerged. Ancient Near Eastern kings often referred to loyal subjects as 'sons,' making David's former status doubly significant.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain respect for those who have deeply wounded you?

2. What relationships in your life contain this painful mixture of affection and conflict?

Interlinear Text

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| רִאֵת | שָׁאֹל | אַתָּה | קֹל | קֹל | אָמַר | וְאָמַר |
| knew H5234 | And Saul H7586 | H853 | Is this thy voice H6963 | And David H1732 | and said H559 | Is this thy voice H6963 |

המלה:

O king

H4428

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 24:16 (Kingdom): And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

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