

1 Samuel 26:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods.

Analysis

David's theological analysis presents two possibilities for Saul's persecution: divine instigation requiring sacrifice, or human incitement deserving curse. The Hebrew structure reveals sophisticated reasoning about the sources of conflict. Most significantly, David protests being 'driven out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD' with the implication that exile forces him toward foreign gods. This concern for covenant faithfulness amid persecution reveals David's primary anxiety: spiritual, not physical.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern religion was intensely territorial; each nation's gods were thought to rule their respective lands. David's concern about being driven from Israel's 'inheritance' (Hebrew: 'nachalah') reflects the fear that exile might compromise his relationship with YHWH, though he would later learn God's presence transcends geography.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What spiritual concerns arise when circumstances seem to force you from your place of worship and community?
2. How do you maintain faith when persecution threatens to separate you from spiritual resources?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה	וְשָׁמַע	נָא	אֲדֹנָי	הִמָּלֶךְ	אֵת
H6258	hear	H4994	Now therefore I pray thee let my lord	the king	H853
	H8085		H113	H4428	
דְּבָרַי	עֶבְדִּי	אִם	יְהוָה	הִסִּיתְךָ	בִּי
the words	of his servant	H518	If the LORD	have stirred thee up	H0
H1697	H5650		H3068	H5496	
יָבֹחַ	מִנְחָה	וְאִם	בְּנֵי	הָאָדָם	
against me let him accept	an offering	H518	but if they be the children	of men	
H7306	H4503		H1121	H120	
אָרוּרִים	הֵם	לִפְנֵי	יְהוָה	כִּי	גָרְשׁוּ וְנִי
cursed	H1992	be they before	If the LORD	H3588	for they have driven
H779		H6440	H3068		H1644
הַיּוֹם	מִהִסְתַּפֵּחַ	בְּנִחְלָת	יְהוָה	לֵאמֹר	לֵךְ
me out this day	from abiding	in the inheritance	If the LORD	saying	H1980
H3117	H5596	H5159	H3068	H559	
עֲבֹד	אֱלֹהִים	אֲחֵרִים:			
serve	gods	other			
H5647	H430	H312			

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 14:16 (Kingdom): For the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man that would destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God.

2 Samuel 16:11 (Curse): And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him.

2 Samuel 20:19 (References Lord): I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel: thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?

Psalms 120:5 (Parallel theme): Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!

1 Chronicles 21:1 (Parallel theme): And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

Genesis 8:21 (Curse): And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

1 Samuel 18:10 (References God): And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

Isaiah 60:5 (Parallel theme): Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

Proverbs 30:10 (Curse): Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.

Romans 14:15 (Parallel theme): But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.