

1 Samuel 26:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.

Analysis

David's closing declaration establishes the theological framework for the entire encounter: 'The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness.' The Hebrew verbs emphasize divine reciprocity in moral judgment. David explicitly states that 'the LORD delivered thee into my hand' while simultaneously affirming his refusal to 'stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed.' This theological tension reveals mature faith: recognizing divine providence while rejecting sinful response to providential opportunity.

Historical Context

The concept of God rendering according to righteousness appears throughout Israel's wisdom literature and finds fullest expression in the prophets' vision of final judgment. David's appeal anticipates the eschatological hope that sustained Israel through centuries of apparent injustice.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you trust God to render justice when you could take matters into your own hands?
2. What does it mean to leave vengeance to God while still acting with wisdom and integrity?

Interlinear Text

יְהֹוָה	יבֵּשׁ	עַל	לَا	עֲשֵׂה	אַתָּה	צִדְקָתְךָ	וְאַתָּה
The LORD	render	to every man		H853	his righteousness		H853
H3068	H7725	H376			H6666		
וְאַמְנַתְּךָ	אָשֵׁר	נָתַתְךָ	יְהֹוָה	הַיּוֹם	וְאַתָּה	יְמִינְךָ	אַל
and his faithfulness	H834	delivered	The LORD	to day	mine hand		H3808
H530		H5414	H3068	H3117	H3027		
אָבִיתִי	לֹשֶׁלֶת	מִן	יְמִינְךָ	בָּחֵשׁ	יְמִינְךָ	יְהֹוָה	
but I would	not stretch forth	mine hand	anointed	The LORD			
H14	H7971	H3027	H4899	H3068			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 62:12 (References Lord): Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.
