

1 Samuel 26:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes,
so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let
him deliver me out of all tribulation.

Analysis

David's prayer establishes a principle of reciprocity: as he valued Saul's life, may the LORD value his. The Hebrew construction creates a direct correspondence between David's treatment of his enemy and his appeal for divine treatment. This anticipates Jesus' teaching: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy' (Matthew 5:7). David's plea to be delivered from 'all tribulation' (Hebrew: 'tsarah') acknowledges his ongoing vulnerability while expressing confidence in divine protection.

Historical Context

The reciprocity principle in prayer reflects ancient Near Eastern covenant thinking where actions toward others established expectations for how one would be treated. David's mercy toward Saul becomes the ground for his appeal to divine mercy.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does your treatment of others shape your confidence in approaching God?
2. What connection exists between extending mercy and receiving mercy in your experience?

Interlinear Text

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Additional Cross-References

Matthew 5:7 (Parallel theme): Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

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