

1 Samuel 27:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites.

Analysis

David's deception of Achish represents the moral nadir of his Philistine sojourn. When asked 'Whither have ye made a road today?' (Hebrew: 'al-mi peshatetem,' against whom did you raid), David lies, claiming to have attacked Judah, the Jerahmeelites (a southern Judean clan), and the Kenites (allies of Israel). This falsehood preserved his alliance with Achish while concealing his true activities. The narrative presents this deception without explicit moral commentary, leaving readers to wrestle with the ethics of survival-driven dishonesty.

Historical Context

The Negev regions mentioned (south of Judah, Jerahmeelites, Kenites) were precisely the areas where David should have been raiding if he had truly defected from Israel. David's lies were believable because they matched what Achish expected to hear.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you evaluate the ethics of deception in life-threatening situations?
2. What does David's example teach about the spiritual costs of prolonged moral compromise?

Interlinear Text

לֵאמֹר אַתָּה שְׁאֵל פְּשֻׁתָּתִךְ וְיְמֵר
said And Achish Whither have ye made a road to day said
H559 H397 H408 H6584 H3117 H559

נִגְבָּה עַל יְהוּדָה עַל נִגְבָּה
And David Against the south of Judah Against the south
H1732 H5921 H5045 H3063 H5921 H5045

בְּקִינִּים וְאֶל נִגְבָּה
of the Jerahmeelites Against the south of the Kenites
H3397 H413 H5045 H7017

Additional Cross-References

Judges 1:16 (Parallel theme): And the children of the Kenite, Moses' father in law, went up out of the city of palm trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which lieth in the south of Arad; and they went and dwelt among the people.

1 Chronicles 2:9 (Parallel theme): The sons also of Hezron, that were born unto him; Jerahmeel, and Ram, and Chelubai.

1 Chronicles 2:25 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Jerahmeel the firstborn of Hezron were, Ram the firstborn, and Bunah, and Oren, and Ozem, and Ahijah.

1 Samuel 30:29 (Parallel theme): And to them which were in Rachal, and to them which were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to them which were in the cities of the Kenites,

Judges 4:11 (Parallel theme): Now Heber the Kenite, which was of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim, which is by Kedesh.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org