

1 Samuel 27:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines.

Analysis

The grim explanation for David's thorough destruction reveals the practical necessity driving his brutality: 'Lest they should tell on us.' The Hebrew 'pen-yaggidu' (lest they report) exposes fear as the motivation. David's entire position depended on maintaining two incompatible personas: loyal vassal to Achish and faithful Israelite. Dead witnesses could not expose this contradiction. This verse reveals how one compromise necessitates others, creating a web of deception and violence from which extrication becomes increasingly difficult.

Historical Context

The phrase 'so will be his manner' (Hebrew: 'ken mishpato') indicates this became David's regular practice throughout his time in Ziklag. The systematic elimination of witnesses over sixteen months represents a sustained campaign of deception.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does one deception often necessitate others to maintain it?
2. What 'webs' of compromise have you experienced that became increasingly difficult to escape?

Interlinear Text

נִתְבְּבָבָה	לְקַבְּבָבָה	לְקַבְּבָבָה	לְקַבְּבָבָה	לְקַבְּבָבָה	לְקַבְּבָבָה	לְקַבְּבָבָה
neither man	nor woman	H3808	alive	And David	to bring	tidings to Gath
H376	H802		H2421	H1732	H935	H1661
לְאָמֵר	לְאָמֵר	לְאָמֵר	לְאָמֵר	לְאָמֵר	לְאָמֵר	לְאָמֵר
on us saying	H6435	Lest they should tell	H5046	H5921	on us saying	H3541
H559					H559	So did
אֲשֶׁר	כִּי	מִשְׁפָּט	וְ	כָּל	כִּי	אֲשֶׁר
And David	H3541	and so will be his manner	H4941	H3605	all the while	H834
H1732					H3117	
בָּשָׁדַׁה	בָּשָׁדַׁה	פָּלָשָׁתִים:				
he dwelleth	in the country	of the Philistines				
H3427	H7704	H6430				

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org