

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

וְאִישׁ	וְאִשָּׁה	חַיִּים	וְדָוִד	לָבִיא	גַּת
neither man	nor woman	alive	And David	to bring	tidings to Gath
H376	H802	H2421	H1732	H935	H1661
לָאֲמָר	פֶּן	יִגְדוּ	עַל יָדוֹ	לָאֲמָר	כֹּה עָשָׂה
on us saying		Lest they should tell		on us saying	So did
H559	H6435	H5046	H5921	H559	H6213
וְדָוִד	וְכֵן	מִשְׁפָּט וְ	כָּל	הַיָּמִים	אֲשֶׁר
And David		and so will be his manner		all the while	
H1732	H3541	H4941	H3605	H3117	H834
יֹשֵׁב	בְּשֵׂדֵה	פְּלִשְׁתִּים:			
he dwelleth	in the country	of the Philistines			
H3427	H7704	H6430			