

1 Samuel 27:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.

Analysis

Achish's complete deception represents the success of David's strategy and its spiritual cost. The Philistine lord concludes that David 'hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him' (Hebrew: 'hivish hivish,' an emphatic double verb meaning thoroughly stink). His confidence that David 'shall be my servant for ever' reveals how completely the deception succeeded. Yet this moment of apparent triumph marks David's deepest spiritual compromise: a pagan king believes God's anointed has permanently betrayed his own people.

Historical Context

Achish's trust in David led him to appoint David as his bodyguard for the upcoming battle against Israel (chapter 28). This level of confidence indicates David's deception was complete and sustained over the entire period of his service.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. When has apparent success in deception troubled your conscience more than the struggle it avoided?
2. What does it cost when others believe lies about your loyalties or character?

Interlinear Text

הַבָּאֵשׁ הַבָּאֵשׁ לְאַמֵּר בְּדַיִד אֲכַשׁ תְּאַמֵּן |
believed **And Achish** **David** **saying** **to abhor** **to abhor**
H539 H397 H1732 H559 H887 H887

לְעַמּוֹן בְּעַמּוֹן וְיָהּ בְּיִשְׁבָּא לֹ
He hath made his people **Israel** H1961 H0
H5971 H3478

עִזְלָמָה לְעַד בְּדַיִד
him therefore he shall be my servant **for ever**
H5650 H5769

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