

1 Samuel 29:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Achish called David, and said unto him, Surely, as the LORD liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host is good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not.

Analysis

Achish's personal summons to David communicates the decision with remarkable diplomacy. His oath 'as the LORD liveth' (using YHWH, Israel's covenant name) may indicate genuine respect for David's faith or diplomatic courtesy. The assessment that David has been 'upright' (Hebrew: 'yashar') throughout his service is accurate as far as Achish knows. The phrase 'the lords favour thee not' (Hebrew: 'lo-tov attah be'eney seranim') places blame on others while expressing personal confidence. Achish genuinely believed David was loyal.

Historical Context

Achish's use of YHWH's name suggests familiarity with Israelite religion, perhaps from his relationship with David or broader cultural awareness. His personal favor toward David would prove advantageous when David later became king and maintained peace with Gath.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when allies' actions, though limiting, are actually protective?
2. What relationships with those outside your faith community has God used for your benefit?

Interlinear Text

חַי	אֵלַי	וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	אֶל	אָכִישׁ	וַיִּקְרָא
	H413		H413		H397	H7121
liveth		and said	David		Then Achish	called
H2416		H559	H1732			
טוֹב	אֶתְּ	יָשָׁר	כִּי	יְהוָה		
	H859		H3588			
favour		thou hast been upright		unto him Surely as the LORD		
H2896		H3477		H3068		
כִּי	בְּמַחֲנֵה	אִתִּי	בָּאֵךְ	צֹאתְךָ	וּבְעֵינַי	
	H4264	H854		H3318	H5869	
	with me in the host		and thy coming in	and thy going out	in my sight	
			H935			
בָּאֵךְ	הֵי	כַּעַשׂ	בְּךָ	לֹמַד	אִתִּי	לֹא
	H3117		H0			H3808
and thy coming in	in thee since the day	evil		for I have not found		
H935		H7451		H4672		
לֹא	הַסִּכְנֵי	וּבְעֵינַי	הֵן	הֵי	עַד	אֵלַי
	H5633	H5869	H2088		H5704	H413
	nevertheless the lords	in my sight		in thee since the day		
H3808				H3117		
אֶתְּ:	טוֹב					
	H859					
	favour					
	H2896					

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 19:27 (Parallel theme): But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me.

2 Samuel 3:25 (Parallel theme): Thou knowest Abner the son of Ner, that he came to deceive thee, and to know thy going out and thy coming in, and to know all that thou doest.

Psalms 121:8 (References Lord): The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

1 Samuel 20:3 (References Lord): And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death.