

1 Samuel 29:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines.

Analysis

Achish's dismissal, 'return, and go in peace,' releases David from the impossible obligation with honor intact. The phrase 'that thou displease not the lords' (Hebrew: 'al-ta'aseh ra' be'eney seraney pelishtim') acknowledges the political reality that Achish cannot override the coalition's decision. David's departure 'in peace' (Hebrew: 'lech beshalom') preserves his relationship with Gath while freeing him from fighting Israel. What appeared as rejection becomes deliverance, demonstrating God's providential orchestration of political circumstances.

Historical Context

The dismissal with honor meant David retained his base at Ziklag and his relationship with Achish. This would prove valuable when David needed refuge after the Amalekite raid (chapter 30) and when he later became king and needed non-aggression from Gath.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. When has being excluded from something turned out to be divine protection?
2. How do you recognize God's hand in doors that close unexpectedly?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה	שׁוּבוּ	וְלִי	בְּשָׁלֹוֹם	וְלֹא	תַעֲשֶׂה
H6258	Wherefore now return	H1980	in peace	H3808	that thou displease
	H7725		H7965		H6213
עַל	בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה	סִרְיָה	פְּלִשְׁתִּים:		
H7451	H5869	not the lords	of the Philistines		
		H5633	H6430		