

1 Samuel 30:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water;

Analysis

The discovery of the Egyptian servant introduces providential guidance through unexpected means. Finding a starving foreigner 'in the field' (Hebrew: 'basadeh') and providing bread and water demonstrates the humanitarian impulse that will later characterize David's reign. The care shown to this abandoned slave contrasts with the Amalekites' cruelty that left him to die. David's compassion will prove strategically valuable, but the narrative presents it as genuine human kindness.

Historical Context

Abandoned servants were common casualties of ancient warfare and raiding. Illness made slaves economic liabilities, and masters often left sick slaves to die rather than slow their movement. This Egyptian was three days from death when found.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How has compassion for the marginalized led to unexpected provision or guidance?
2. What does caring for the abandoned reveal about character?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּמְצְאוּ	אִישׁ	מִצְרִי	בַּשָּׂדֶה	וַיִּקְחוּ	אֹתוֹ	אֶל
And they found	an Egyptian	H4713	in the field	and brought	H853	H413
H4672	H376		H7704	H3947		
דָּוִד	וַתֵּנוּ	לּוֹ	לֶחֶם	וַיֹּאכַל	וַיַּשְׁקוּ	הוּא
him to David	and gave	H0	him bread	and he did eat	and they made him drink	
H1732	H5414		H3899	H398	H8248	
מַיִם:						
water						
H4325						

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 23:7 (References Egypt): Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother: thou shalt not abhor an Egyptian; because thou wast a stranger in his land.