

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

אֶל אֶת זֶה יִקְרֹב וְיִמְצָא אֶל
And they found an Egyptian H4713 in the field and brought H853 H413

לֵאמֹר לְבָנָה לְבָנָה לְבָנָה
him to David and gave H5414 him bread and he did eat H398 and they made him drink H8248

מִים

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.