

# 1 Samuel 30:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto him, To whom belongeth thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days agone I fell sick.

## Analysis

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The interrogation reveals essential intelligence: the man was Egyptian, servant to an Amalekite, abandoned when ill. His nationality connects to Israel's historic experience of Egyptian bondage, creating subtle ironic resonance. The master's cruelty in abandoning him ('my master left me') mirrors Pharaoh's cruel treatment of Israel's sick and weak. This discarded servant holds the key to David's rescue mission.

## Historical Context

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Slaves in the ancient world often came from defeated populations or were purchased in markets. An Egyptian serving an Amalekite suggests the complexity of ancient slave trade networks that moved people across ethnic and national boundaries.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do the marginalized sometimes possess crucial knowledge the powerful lack?
2. What connections exist between how masters treat servants and how God treats masters?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר אֶתְתָּה מִן־הַזֹּאת לֹא־יָאֵר אֶתְרָא

**said** H0 **And David** H4310 **לֹא־יָאֵר** H859 **אֶתְרָא** H335 **מִן־הַזֹּאת** H2088 **אֶתְתָּה** H859 **וַיֹּאמֶר** H559

H559 H1732 H859 H335 H2088 H859 H559

עַמְלָקִי לֹא־יָשַׁע עַבְדָּנִי מִצְרָיִם עַרְעָם

**I am a young man** H5288 **of Egypt** H4713 **servant** H595 **to an Amalekite** H5650 **to** H376 **הַעֲמָלָקִי** H6003

H5288 H4713 H595 H5650 H376 H6003

שָׁלַשָּׁה: בַּיּוֹם עָלָיִתִי אָדָןִי עָלָזָבִנִי

**left** H5800 **and my master** H113 **agone** H3588 **I fell sick** H2470 **days** H3117 **me because three** H7969

H5800 H113 H3588 H2470 H3117 H7969

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 12:10** (Parallel theme): A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

**James 2:13** (Parallel theme): For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.