

1 Samuel 30:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company.

Analysis

David's request for guidance and the Egyptian's condition for compliance reveal mutual vulnerability. The slave, having been abandoned to die, fears being returned to his master or killed. His demand for an oath 'by God' shows he understood the binding nature of Israelite religious commitment. David's willingness to swear demonstrates his integrity; he will not exploit this vulnerable person even when urgency demands quick action. Trust must be established even in crisis.

Historical Context

Oaths invoking deity were the strongest guarantees available in ancient society. The Egyptian's knowledge that Israelites honored oaths to their God reflects cultural awareness of Israel's religious distinctives.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you build trust with vulnerable people who have reason to fear exploitation?
2. What role do binding commitments play in relationships with those who have been betrayed?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	וְאַל	בְּגַד	וְלֹא	בְּגַד	וְלֹא
And he said	H413	And David	and I will bring thee down	H413	to this company
H559		H1732	H3381		H1416
וַיֹּאמֶר	בְּאַלְמָנָה	לְ	בְּאַלְמָנָה	לְ	בְּאַלְמָנָה
H2088	And he said	Swear	H0	unto me by God	me nor
H559		H7650	H430		H518
תִּמְמִית	נִ	וְאַם	תִּמְמִית	נִ	אַדְנִ
that thou wilt neither kill		me nor	deliver	me into the hands	of my master
H4191		H518	H5462	H3027	H113
וְאַזְנָב	בְּגַד	וְלֹא	בְּגַד	וְלֹא	בְּגַד
and I will bring thee down	H413	to this company	H2088		
H3381					

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