

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

Psalms 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 And he said H559	אֵלָיו H413	וְדָוִד And David H1732	וְאֶנְכִּי and I will bring thee down H3381	אֶל H413	הַגָּדוֹד to this company H1416
הִנֵּה ה H2088	וַיֹּאמֶר And he said H559	הַשְּׁבַעָה Swear H7650	לִי H0	בְּאֵלֵהֶם unto me by God H430	וְאֵם me nor H518
תִּמְיִיתִי that thou wilt neither kill H4191	וְאֵם me nor H518	תִּסְגֶּרֶנִּי deliver H5462	בְּיָד me into the hands H3027	אֶדְנִי of my master H113	
וְאֶנְכִּי and I will bring thee down H3381	אֶל H413	הַגָּדוֹד to this company H1416	הִנֵּה H2088		

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