

1 Samuel 30:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand.

Analysis

David's correction grounds spoil distribution in theology, not merit: 'that which the LORD hath given us.' The Hebrew 'asher natan YHWH lanu' (which the LORD gave to us) reframes the victory as divine gift, not human achievement. By invoking God's preservation and deliverance, David reminds the warriors that they are recipients, not earners, of victory. This theological foundation removes grounds for boasting and establishes grace-based sharing. What God gives freely should be distributed generously.

Historical Context

David's theological reasoning reflects covenant understanding that all Israel shared in divine promises. His argument anticipates his later psalms attributing victory to God rather than military prowess.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as the source of success change how you distribute rewards?
2. What happens when grace rather than merit governs community economics?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה אָמַר
Then said David H3808 Ye shall not do so H3651 my brethren H854 H834
H559 H1732 H6213 H251

אָתָּה נָנוֹתֵן לְנוּ יְשָׁמֹת רְשָׁמָן
hath given with that which the LORD H0 us who hath preserved H853
H5414 H3068 H8104

בְּיָדֵינוּ עַל יְכוֹנֵן אֲתָּה בְּפֶדֶד אֲתָּה
hath given H853 the company H1416 that came H935 against us into our hand H3027
H5414

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 8:18 (References Lord): But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

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