

1 Samuel 30:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.

Analysis

David establishes an enduring principle: 'as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff.' The Hebrew uses identical terminology ('chelqo... kechelqo') to emphasize equality. Those who guard supplies serve the same cause as those who fight. This statute recognizes that complex operations require varied roles, all essential to success. David's ruling becomes precedent ('unto this day'), shaping Israelite practice for generations.

Historical Context

The principle established here continued as policy in Israel. Numbers 31:27 shows similar distribution after the Midianite campaign. This statute recognized that support roles were essential to military success.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you value those whose contribution happens behind the scenes?

2. What principle of equal sharing applies to your community's distribution of resources?

Interlinear Text

וְמִ	יִשְׁמַע	עַ	לְכָ	רַ	לְדַבָּרַ	כִּי	בְּזַהֲ
H4310	For who will hearken	H0	unto you in this matter	H2088	H3588		
	H8085		H1697				
בְּזַהֲ	בְּמִלְחָמָה	הַ	לְקָ	בְּמִלְחָמָה	הַ	לְקָ	בְּ
but as his part	is that goeth down	H3381	to the battle	H4421	but as his part	be that tarrieth	H3427
H2506			H2506				
עַל	יְמִ	יְמִ	בְּכָל	יְמִ	יְמִ	בְּכָל	יְמִ
H5921	by the stuff	alike	they shall part	H2505			
H3627		H3162					

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 22:8 (Parallel theme): And he spake unto them, saying, Return with much riches unto your tents, and with very much cattle, with silver, and with gold, and with brass, and with iron, and with very much raiment: divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren.

Numbers 31:27 (Parallel theme): And divide the prey into two parts; between them that took the war upon them, who went out to battle, and between all the congregation:

Psalms 68:12 (Parallel theme): Kings of armies did flee apace: and she that tarried at home divided the spoil.