

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

Psalms 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

וְיָמִי H4310	יִשְׁמַע H8085	לָכֶם H0	לְדָבָר H1697	הַזֶּה H2088	כִּי H3588
	For who will hearken		unto you in this matter		
אֲבָל H2506	הַיֵּד H3381	בַּמִּלְחָמָה H4421	אֲבָל H2506	הַיֵּשׁ H3427	
but as his part	is that goeth down	to the battle	but as his part	be that tarrieth	
עַל H5921	בְּכֵל יָם H3627	וְיִחָדּוּ H3162	יִחָלְקוּ H2505		
	by the stuff	alike	they shall part		

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.