

1 Samuel 30:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

Analysis

The crisis intensifies as David's men contemplate stoning him, blaming his leadership for their disaster. The Hebrew 'kiy-mar nephesh kol-ha'am' (because the soul of all the people was bitter) explains the danger through the vocabulary of bitterness. David is 'greatly distressed' (Hebrew: 'tsarar... me'od'), using language suggesting constriction and anguish. Yet in this darkest moment comes the pivotal response: 'David encouraged himself in the LORD his God' (Hebrew: 'wayyithchazzeq David baYHWH elohav'). This self-strengthening in God becomes the turning point.

Historical Context

Stoning was the prescribed Israelite punishment for serious offenses. The men's consideration of stoning David indicates they held him responsible as leader. His response demonstrates the spiritual discipline that distinguished his leadership.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Where do you turn when those closest to you turn against you?
2. What does it mean to encourage yourself in the LORD when all human support fails?

Interlinear Text

לִסְלָל וְלִתְצָר
of stoning and distress
H3588 H3334

בַּפְשָׁע מִבְּהָר
because the soul grieved him
H3605 H4843

עַל אֲישׁ בְּפָעָם
every man for the people
H5921 H376

בְּנָתָיו וְבָנָיו
and for his daughters his sons
H1323 H5921

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 56:11 (References God): In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

Psalms 62:5 (References God): My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.

Psalms 18:6 (References God): In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

Psalms 25:17 (Parallel theme): The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses.

Hebrews 13:6 (References Lord): So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Psalms 116:10 (Parallel theme): I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted:

Romans 4:18 (Parallel theme): Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Psalms 27:14 (References Lord): Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Exodus 17:4 (References Lord): And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

Psalms 42:11 (References God): Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.