

1 Samuel 31:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

Analysis

The armor-bearer's suicide following Saul's death reveals the depth of loyalty Saul commanded from his immediate attendant. The Hebrew 'wayyamot immo' (died with him) emphasizes their shared fate. This servant's faithfulness unto death contrasts with those who fled and survived. His act, while not endorsed, demonstrates that Saul retained the devotion of those nearest him. Even failed leaders may inspire profound loyalty.

Historical Context

The custom of retainers dying with their king appears across ancient cultures. This armor-bearer's suicide represented the ultimate expression of personal loyalty to his master.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the armor-bearer's loyalty suggest about Saul's personal relationships?

2. How do we evaluate such extreme loyalty in light of Scripture's values?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּרָא	נִשָּׂא	כֹּל יוֹ	כִּי	וַיָּמָת	שָׂא וְלֹ	וַיִּפֹּל
saw	And when his armourbearer			and died	that Saul	he fell
H7200	H5375	H3627	H3588	H4191	H7586	H5307

גַּם	הָוָא	עַל	חֶרֶב וְ	וַיָּמָת	עָמּוֹ:
			likewise upon his sword	and died	
H1571	H1931	H5921	H2719	H4191	H5973

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