

1 Chronicles 10:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

Analysis

The theological center of Saul's failure was his failure to 'enquire of the LORD' (darash YHWH). This Hebrew phrase denotes more than casual prayer - it implies seeking divine guidance through proper covenantal channels. Saul consulted a medium instead (1 Samuel 28), violating Deuteronomy 18:10-12. The phrase 'therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David' reveals God's dual action: negative judgment and positive providence. Reformed theology sees here the doctrine of divine reprobation and election working in tandem. David's rise wasn't mere political fortune but God's ordained plan, pointing ultimately to Christ, the Son of David.

Historical Context

The Chronicler deliberately contrasts Saul's failure to seek God with David's consistent pattern of inquiry (see 1 Chronicles 14:10, 14). This served as a pointed lesson for post-exilic leaders facing decisions about rebuilding Jerusalem and temple worship - seek God's will through proper means.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. In what ways might you be tempted to seek guidance from sources other than God's revealed Word?
2. How does David's pattern of seeking God's will through prayer and Scripture inform your decision-making process?

Interlinear Text

וְיִצְחַק	שָׁבַע	בֵּית	הָיָה	לִימִתְתֵּחַת	הָיָה	לִפְנֵי	אֶת
H3808	And enquired	not of the LORD	therefore he slew	him and turned			H853
	H1875	H3068	H4191	H5437			
הַמֶּלֶךְ	לְדִין	בֶּן	יְשִׁים				
the kingdom	unto David	the son	of Jesse				
H4410	H1732	H1121	H3448				

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 15:28 (Kingdom): And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

1 Samuel 13:14 (Kingdom): But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

1 Chronicles 12:23 (Kingdom): And these are the numbers of the bands that were ready armed to the war, and came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD.

1 Samuel 16:1 (Kingdom): And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1 Samuel 28:6 (References Lord): And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

1 Samuel 28:17 (Kingdom): And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David: