

1 Samuel 10:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place.

Analysis

And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place.

This brief transitional verse carries subtle significance. The prophesying 'made an end' (kalah) - it was a discrete experience, not a permanent state. Saul's charismatic encounter with the Spirit concluded, and normal life resumed. This pattern characterizes Old Testament Spirit empowerment: powerful but episodic, enabling specific tasks rather than producing permanent transformation. The 'high place' (bamah) was likely Gibeah's worship site where the prophetic company had descended from. Saul's proceeding there suggests he joined in proper worship following his prophetic experience, an appropriate response. High places were legitimate worship sites before the temple's construction, though they later became associated with syncretism. That Saul moved from ecstatic experience to ordered worship models the proper sequence: spiritual encounters should lead to regular discipleship, not replace it.

Historical Context

High places (bamot) were elevated worship sites common throughout Canaan and adopted by Israel for Yahweh worship before temple centralization. Their legitimacy depended on exclusive Yahweh worship; later prophets condemned them when used for syncretistic practices.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you integrate powerful spiritual experiences into everyday faithful discipleship?
2. What is the danger of seeking dramatic experiences while neglecting regular worship and obedience?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּכֶל	מִהִתְנַבֵּא	וַיָּבֹא	הַבִּמָּה:
And when he had made an end	of prophesying	he came	to the high place
H3615	H5012	H935	H1116

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