

1 Samuel 10:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.

Analysis

Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff.

The assembly's response to Saul's absence was to seek the LORD further (sha'al od ba-YHWH), demonstrating proper dependence on divine guidance. The verb 'sha'al' (inquired) puns on Saul's name (Sha'ul, 'asked for'), creating wordplay throughout his narrative. God's answer is startlingly specific: 'Behold, he hath hid himself among the stuff' (kelim, baggage or equipment). This divine omniscience - knowing precisely where a hiding man conceals himself - displays God's exhaustive knowledge. Whether Saul's hiding reflected genuine humility (a farmer overwhelmed by kingship), fear of responsibility, or early signs of emotional instability remains debated. The contrast with later Saul is sharp: here he hides from honor; later he relentlessly pursues David to protect his honor. God's answer is neither condemnatory nor commendatory; it simply locates His chosen servant.

Historical Context

Large assemblies required substantial equipment and supplies. The 'stuff' or 'baggage' (kelim) would have formed a considerable collection at Mizpah. Saul's hiding among these items showed intimate knowledge of the assembly grounds, perhaps from helping arrange the gathering.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does God's precise knowledge of Saul's hiding place teach about divine omniscience?
2. When have you hidden from responsibilities God was calling you to embrace?

Interlinear Text

וַשְׁאַלּוּ	עוֹד	יְהוָה	הֲבָא	עוֹד	הֵלָם
Therefore they enquired	H5750	And the LORD	should yet come	H5750	thither
H7592		H3068	H935		H1988

אִישׁ	וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	הִנֵּה	הוּא	נִחֵב־א
further if the man	answered	And the LORD	H2009	H1931	Behold he hath hid
H376	H559	H3068			H2244

אֵל	הַכִּלִּים:
H413	himself among the stuff
	H3627

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 27:21 (References Lord): And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation.

Judges 20:18 (References Lord): And the children of Israel arose, and went up to the house of God, and asked counsel of God, and said, Which of us shall go up first

to the battle against the children of Benjamin? And the LORD said, Judah shall go up first.

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