

1 Samuel 10:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

Analysis

And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

Saul returns to Gibeah, his hometown and future capital, accompanied by divinely motivated supporters. The phrase 'whose hearts God had touched' (nega elohim belibam) indicates supernatural influence producing loyalty. The verb 'touched' (nega) implies a gentle contact - God did not compel but inclined these hearts toward Saul. This 'band of men' (chayil, also meaning army or force) formed the nucleus of Saul's administration. God's provision of loyal supporters demonstrates His genuine investment in Saul's success; the king was not set up for failure but supplied with every resource for faithful rule. The reference to 'hearts' creates thematic resonance with verse 9 (Saul's changed heart) and the later contrast with David, a man after God's own heart. Hearts feature prominently in Saul's narrative, tracking the inner dimension of his tragic decline.

Historical Context

Gibeah (Tell el-Ful), about three miles north of Jerusalem, served as Saul's capital throughout his reign. Archaeological excavations revealed a fortress-like structure from this period. The town's association with the horrific crime of Judges 19-21 gives it a troubled history that Saul's kingship attempted to redeem.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How has God provided loyal supporters to help you fulfill your calling?
2. What does God 'touching hearts' teach about the balance between divine sovereignty and human choice?

Interlinear Text

עִם	וְ	צָלָק	וְ	גִּבְעָה	תֵּהֶה	לְבִתְּהָ	צָלָק	וְ	צָלָק	וְ	עִם
H1571	And Saul	also went	home	to Gibeah	also went						H5973
H7586		H1980	H1004	H1390							H1980
בְּלִבְדֵּם:	אֶלְהָ	יִם	תְּגַעַם	אֲשֶׁר	בְּפָנָי						
with him a band of men	H834	had touched	God	whose hearts							
H2428		H5060	H430	H3820							

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 11:4 (Parallel theme): Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.

Joshua 18:28 (Parallel theme): And Zelah, Eleph, and Jebusi, which is Jerusalem, Gibeath, and Kirjath; fourteen cities with their villages. This is the inheritance of the children of Benjamin according to their families.

1 Samuel 15:34 (Parallel theme): Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.