

1 Samuel 10:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.

Analysis

And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.

The pilgrims' spontaneous gift to Saul carries multiple layers of significance. The Hebrew 'sha'al leshalom' (salute) literally means 'ask concerning your peace/welfare,' a formal greeting recognizing dignity. Their offering of two loaves from their three demonstrates generous hospitality despite being en route to worship. Saul is instructed to 'receive' (laqach) this gift - an act of humility for one newly anointed as leader. This moment prefigures how God's chosen leaders should receive provision from God's people. The bread also echoes the showbread in the tabernacle, sacred bread that would later figure significantly when David took the showbread from Ahimelech (1 Samuel 21). This small act of sharing prepared Saul for understanding that leadership involves receiving from others, not merely commanding them.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern hospitality customs included sharing provisions with travelers. The gift of bread to a stranger was considered a sacred obligation. This encounter would have been unremarkable to observers but profoundly confirming to Saul, who knew Samuel's prophecy.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do small acts of generosity from others serve as reminders of God's providential care?
2. What does Saul's instruction to receive (rather than demand) teach about godly leadership?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁאַלְתָּא	לְבָבְךָ	לְשָׁלֹם	וְמִתְּנַתֶּן	לְבָבְךָ	לְבָבְךָ	שְׁתִּים	לְבָבְךָ
And they will	H0	salute	H7965	thee and give	H5414	thee two	loaves of bread
H7592						H8147	H3899

וְלִקְרָבָךְ	מִתְּמַנְּנָךְ
which thou shalt receive	of their hands
H3947	H3027

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